



# Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

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**November 16, 2025**

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## **I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE**

**Prelude**

*“Come, Ye Thankful People”* – Rogers

**Call to Worship** (Psalm 10:16-18)

The LORD is king forever and ever;

**the nations perish from his earth.**

O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart;  
**you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,  
so that earthly mortals may strike terror no more.**

**Invocation**

**Opening Hymn**

*“Awake My Soul”* – HWB #609

**Greeting and Welcoming Each Other**

**Anthem**

*“Now Thank We All Our God”* – arr. Callahan

**Confession of Sin – In Unison**

Gracious God, we have sins too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

## **II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD**

**Anthem**

*“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”* – arr. Larson

**Scripture Readings**

Psalm 10:1-15; 2 Peter 3:8-13; Luke 19:11-27 (ESV)

**Sermon**

*“Persevering Hope”*

### III. RECEIVING THE SPIRIT, JOINED IN CHRIST'S BODY

#### Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** Mennonite Mission Network
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Church Library
- **Children's Offering:** Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

#### Congregational Sharing & Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

### IV. RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

#### Closing Hymn

*"Christ is Coming"* – HWB #295

#### **Benediction** (from James 5:7-11)

Have patience, beloved, until the Lord's coming, like farmers for the rain. Be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Blessed are those who persevere. Go with the Lord, full of compassion and mercy.

#### Postlude

*"Old Hundredth"* – Bourgeois

**Speaker:** Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Renee Bradford; **Greeters:** Angie Brockmueller and Cindee Mutchelknaus; **Musicians:** Heather Haggerty (organist); Handbells (special music); **Coffee:** Classroom #10

### THE CHURCH AT WORK

#### TODAY

**We welcome all** who are worshipping with us this morning! Coffee is available following the worship service in the Fellowship Hall.

**10:45 a.m.-12:00 noon** – Church Directory Photos in Fellowship Hall

**12:30 p.m.** – Fall Book Study, "Reclaiming Rural" at South Church

#### THIS WEEK

**Tuesday, November 18, 7:30 p.m.** – Deacons Meeting

**Wednesday, November 19, 6:30 p.m.** – Handbells

**7:30 p.m.** – Chancel Choir

**8:30 p.m.** – Men's Choir & Ladies Ensemble

## **NEXT SUNDAY, November 23, 2025**

**Speaker:** Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Norm Kaufman; **Greeters:** Angie Brockmueller and Cindee Mutchelknaus; **Musicians:** Phillip Balzer (pianist); Men's Choir (special music); **Coffee:** Classroom #10

**12:00 noon** – Pizza Lunch & Church Christmas Decorating

**12:30 p.m.** – Fall Book Study

**Worship Offering:** Swan Lake Christian Camp

**Sunday School Offering:** Heritage Hall Museum & Archives

**Children's Offering:** Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

## **COMING EVENTS**

**November 21-22, 24-25** – MCC Meat Canner in Henderson, NE (info below)

**Tuesday, November 25, 8:00 p.m.** – Rural Revival at Freeman Public Library

**Thursday, November 27, 10:30 a.m.** – Thanksgiving Worship Service, Salem-Zion

**Friday, November 28, 7:30 p.m.** – Swiss Choral Society, "*Mass in G*" @Salem-Zion

**Sunday, December 7, following a noon potluck meal** – Annual Business Meeting

## **SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES**

**We rejoice** in the upcoming marriage of Ben Brockmueller and Amy White on Friday, November 21! Salem Mennonite sends prayers and blessings to them as they build a new home.

**The Harvest Mission** offering for Mennonite Mission Network on November 2<sup>nd</sup> was \$3,245!

**We will "deck the halls"** (put up the Christmas decorations!) following Sunday School on November 23! The entire congregation is invited to participate, and a pizza lunch will be provided for anyone who stays and helps. If we have enough helpers, it really doesn't take much over an hour - and it's fun! There is a sign-up sheet on the narthex table for you to indicate your willingness to help, and for us to know how much pizza to order. Thanks! -the Worship Planning Team

**Church Photo Directory** – Anyone who was unable to be here for the first photo session, will have an opportunity to take a photo on Sunday, November 30 during the same time frame. **We are asking \$5 per photo to defray costs.** There will be a box by the photo area in Fellowship Hall. We also welcome photos **in jpg format** to be emailed to Vernetta in the church office anytime in the next couple of weeks.

## **COMMUNITY & BEYOND**

**Thank you very much** for all who participated in the Church Drive for Freeman Academy this fall. Church Drive gifts from Salem Mennonite Church members totaled \$16,273.87. Thank you for these gifts and the many other ways you support students and the mission of Freeman Academy!

Brice Kauffman, Head of School

**Estelle Waltner** extends her thanks for a bountiful response to her project of Thanksgiving meals through the Bethany Food Pantry! She was overwhelmed by the generosity shown as she received over \$4000!

**The calendar has turned to November!** It's time once again to invite our local bakers to bake peppernut (pfferrnuesse) cookies for the Et Cetera Shoppe to sell. Every year this is a huge boost to our end-of-year giving to the work of Mennonite Central Committee. Peppernuts can be baked using your favorite recipe and brought to the shop in pails or ziploc bags, anytime between now and Thanksgiving - we take it from there! Consider ushering in the holiday season by having a peppernut bee with your family, Sunday School class, grandchildren, book club or pickleball team!

**Piano Night at the Lake** will be held November 23 at 6:00 pm at Swan Lake Christian Camp. Join us for music and dinner. Reservations are required and can be made by email at [campoffice@myslcc.com](mailto:campoffice@myslcc.com) or calling 605-326-5690. There is no charge, but a free will offering will be taken and will go towards completion of our Worship Center/Dining Hall project. A Christmas quilt is also available for silent auction at the event.

**MCC Meat Canning in Henderson, NE/Bethesda Church:** Set-up is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 20. Workers for the canner truck will be needed starting Friday, Nov. 21 at 6 a.m. and then throughout the day for Friday and Saturday, Sunday we will be off, and then Monday and Tuesday. We also need people to grind meat, make boxes, dry cans, and move cans to the truck. We have jobs for people of all ages, and you can come and go as you please. Please join us for this rewarding and fun project.

Questions to Jay Dee Janzen, 402-362-0512 or Jason Lewis 402-363-9745.

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Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30am/Sunday School – Following Worship  
Vernetta Waltner, Administrative Assistant (southchurch@goldenwest.net) 925-4553  
Spencer Bradford, Pastor 919-808-2024/spencerbradford42@gmail.com