



# Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

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January 11, 2026

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## I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

### Prelude

**Call to Worship (Psalm 29:2-4)**

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
**worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;  
**the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.**  
The voice of the LORD is powerful;  
**the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

### Invocation

**Opening**

*“Let All Together” – HWB #213*

### Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

### Confession of Sin (in unison)

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess we have remained preoccupied with ourselves, separated from sisters and brothers in Christ. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to bear graciously with one another, allowing priorities of this age to hold us hostage. In your loving-kindness, show us your mercy and free us from sin. Remind us of your covenant promises in baptism, so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace. Amen.

## II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

### Scripture Readings

Isaiah 42:1-9 (ESV); Hebrews 3:1-6 (NIV)  
Matthew 3:13-17 (ESV)

### Sermon

*“Callouses to Fulfill Righteousness”*

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

#### **The Nicene Creed (in unison)**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he was incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again, in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

#### **Announcements and Offerings**

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

#### **Congregational Sharing & Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer (to be sung using music on insert)**

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

#### **Closing Hymn**

*"O Worship the Lord"* – HWB # 124

#### **Benediction**

Go now as God's beloved children,

In the name of the Father who created and called you,

And of the Son who died and rose again to redeem you,

And of the Spirit, who unites you, empowers you, and gives you peace. Amen.

## Postlude

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**Speaker:** Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Cal Graber; **Greeters:** Brad & Kris Carlson; **Musicians:** Barb Yoder (pianist); **Coffee:** Young Adult SS Class

### THE CHURCH AT WORK

#### TODAY

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

#### THIS WEEK'

**Monday, January 12** – Fellowship Hall Reserved Evening

**Tuesday, January 13, 7:30 p.m.** – Deacons Meeting

**Wednesday, January 14, 11:30 .M.** – Freeman Network for Justice & Peace  
At Freeman Public Library

**Wednesday, January 14, 6:45 p.m.** – Handbells

8:00 p.m. – Men's Choir

**Thursday, January 15, 7:00 p.m.** – Mission & Service Team Meeting

#### NEXT SUNDAY, January 18, 2026

**Speaker:** Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Brian & Wendy Miller; **Greeters:** Brad & Kris Carlson; **Musicians:** Heather Haggerty (organist); Ladies Ensemble (special music); **Coffee:** Young Adult Class

**Worship Offering:** Freeman Academy

**Sunday School Offering:** Bethany Food Pantry

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

#### COMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, January 20, 3:30 p.m.** – Freezer Meal Assembly for FA Dorm

**Sunday, January 25, 10:45 a.m.** – Final photo session for church directory

**Sunday, January 25** – Church Conversations during Sunday school & Potluck

**Thursday, February 12** – Serving at the Yankton Banquet

#### SOUTH CHURCH NEWS AND NOTES

The Mission & Service Team invites you to participate in a monthly conversation and intercessory prayer time with our Ecuador Two Way Mission support group, including the Ross Richers. You can join on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm (our time)** by entering the Waterford Mennonite Church website, [waterfrdchurch.org](http://waterfrdchurch.org). Then click on Worship, the Online Resources, then scroll to Prayers for Two-Way Mission and click on video or dial in – or in the Zoom app, put in the meeting ID: 853 3848 4428, Password: 274788

**All Church Departments** need to choose a Church Council Representative ASAP! This is needed for Council organization and for the 2026 Church Directory. Send information to Norm Kaufman and Rachel Waltner.

## **COMMUNITY & BEYOND**

**The Iowa Mennonite Disaster Service** is currently requesting and organizing workers to help with the ongoing flood recovery efforts at Spencer, Iowa. Work could include hanging sheetrock, finishing sheetrock, painting and possible flooring, trim, and door installation. They welcome either single-day or multi-day volunteers, with housing and food being provided for multi-day volunteers. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Leroy Pullman (SD disaster coordinator) at 605-660-1014.

## **FA Noodle-Making Day Planned**

You are invited to join the volunteer crew in making noodles for the 2026 Schmeckfest meal and Country Kitchen on Saturday, January 31 in the Pioneer Hall dining hall. Plans are to begin at 9:00 a.m. This is a great time of work and fellowship for folks of all ages! A pizza lunch will be provided. If necessary, a weather make-up date will be February 7.

(Cheesepocket-making dates will be March 6-7 and March 13-14 to help you plan ahead!)

**Schmeckfest sign-up sheets** are in the fellowship hall; please sign up to bring food and also to work one or more shifts at the Schmeckfest meal on April 10 & 11, 2026. Questions? See Alison Neufeld or Jenelle Miller

**Swan Lake Christian Camp 2026 Winter Retreats** are just around the corner. Make plans now to attend. Dates are as follows 5<sup>th</sup>-8th Grade Retreat/January 16-18, 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat/January 9-11. Sign up online at [www.myslcc.com](http://www.myslcc.com)

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

## The Lord's Prayer

1. Our Fa - ther, God, who art in heav'n, all hal - lowed be thy name!  
2. Give us this day our dai - ly bread; and as we those for - give  
3. In - to temp - ta - tion lead us not; from e - vil set us free;

Thy king-dom come; thy will be done, in earth and heav'n the same!  
who sin a - gainst us, so may we for - giv - ing grace re - ceive.  
for thine the king-dom, thine the pow'r and glo - ry ev - er be! A - men.

Adoniram Judson, 1825

Dundee C.M.  
Scottish Psalter 1615

## Prayer Seeds for January 2026

*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. (Matt 9: 37-38)*

Thank you, Lord, for

- the joy of family gatherings over the holidays
- the mild weather recently
- the opportunities to visit with each other at Spencer and Renee's open house and for their hospitality
- the connections in the larger community that we all have that allows the Freeman community to live in peace with each other
- our Sunday School classes that provide opportunities to learn together around Scripture
- Spencer's sermons connecting the OT and the NT
- the good reports on health issues that several of us have experienced
- the opportunities to participate in service projects

We are mindful of and need for Your participating power

- in the illness of our members and friends here and elsewhere
- at the Freeman Academy Corporation meeting
- in MDS work and Swan Lake winter retreats
- in the transitions of our church committees
- in the clarifying vision of our congregation
- in areas of our country and world touched by violence
- in our relationship to and with government officials when policies disturb us

--Duane, Peggy, Derrold, Gregg, Lois