



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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January 25, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

"When Morning Gilds the Sky" – Hobson

"When Morning Gilds the Sky" - Johnson

Choral Call to Worship

"Come, We That Love the Lord" – arr. Schrader

Call to Worship (from Isaiah 35:1-4)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory and majesty of green mountains shall be bestowed upon it.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God will come and save you!"

Invocation

Opening

"We Are People of God's Peace" – HWB #407

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Confession of Sin (in unison)

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love, stumbling off the path of your Kingdom. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we regret all we have done to displease you, and yearn to live as members of your Kingdom. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Anthem

"Majesty" – Hayford/Schrader

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 35:5-10 (ESV); 2 Timothy 4:1-8 (ESV)

Matthew 11:2-19 (ESV)

Sermon

"Signs of the Kingdom"

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

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** MWC Global Sharing Fund
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Freeman Academy
- **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

"Lord you Give the Great Commission" – STJ #63

Benediction

Go out in the way of holiness, nourished by living waters;

Go as the redeemed of the LORD with singing, with gladness and joy,

With everlasting joy upon your heads. Amen.

Postlude

"Rejoice the Lord is King" - Deasley

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Gregg Waltner; **Greeters:** Brad & Kris Carlson; **Musicians:** Sharla Unruh (organist); Men's Choir (special music)
Coffee: Young Adult SS Class

THE CHURCH AT WORK

TODAY

10:45-11:00 a.m. – Ushers and Pastor meet in the sanctuary

10:45 a.m. – Final photo session for church directory

11:00 a.m. – Church Conversation on Rural Church Vitality in Fellowship Hall

Pizza lunch following

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, January 27, 8:00 p.m. – Rural Revival at Freeman Public Library

Wednesday, January 28, 6:30 p.m. – Handbells

7:30 p.m. – Chancel Choir

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

Saturday, January 31, 3:00 p.m. – Fellowship Hall Reserved

NEXT SUNDAY, February 1, 2026

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Brooklyn Ries; **Greeters:** Brian & Wendy Miller; **Musicians:** Deb Schmeichel (organist); Handbells (special music); **Coffee:** Classroom #10

Worship Offering: Central Plains Mennonite Conference

Sunday School Offering: Salem Sunday School

Children's Offering: Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 1, 4:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall - "The Mission," an Oscar-winning movie about Jesuits in 18th-century Paraguay seeking to be faithful evangelists and disciples, protecting their indigenous community from enslavement. Attendees are welcome to bring comfy lawn seats and snacks

Tuesday, February 3, 7:30 p.m. – Prayer & Fasting

Tuesday, February 10, 7:00 p.m. – Christian Formation Meeting

Thursday, February 12 – Serving at the Yankton Banquet

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS AND NOTES

The Mission and Service Team invites you to look at the signup sheet on the narthex table for serving or making food at the Yankton Banquet on Thursday, February 12. Monetary donations for groceries can be given to Lee Brockmueller, earmarked "The Banquet". Thank you!

Four Way Mission (formerly Ecuador Two Way Mission) – Please stop by the display in the narthex to view and read about the new Four Way Mission in Ecuador. This is a collaboration between two new nonprofit organizations working together to strengthen connections between people, communities, the earth and God. The US partner is the newly formed 501(c)(3) tax- deductible nonprofit organization with a board who raises money for the work in Ecuador. They collaborate with the newly formed nonprofit in Ecuador known as Fundacion Four Way Mission who disperses the funds to further the work that the Ross-Richers did among the Cofan people.

The display lists the board members of both non-profits, shows the finances, lists where the funds are going and gives testimonials from 4 of the university level students who are being supported to earn degrees in education and nursing. In addition to training young people in 3 different levels of education, funding is going for seminars on Anabaptist leadership, and preparation of teaching materials written by indigenous church leaders. This is the organization that our congregation supports through the department of Mission & Service.

Additional help is being sought to help make coffee for our church's Sunday morning coffee time. There are currently three Sunday School classes taking turns. It takes about 10-15 minutes before church and again after church or Sunday School. It can be done by an individual or as many people as you want to help you! There are written instructions to make the coffee, but any of the current volunteers would be happy to work with you until you are comfortable. If you would be willing to occasionally take a turn, please write your name on the signup sheet in the narthex. If you have questions, please talk to Donna Ries, Kris Carlson, or Brent Brockmueller or any member of the Conference Room Class, Class 10 or the Young Adult Class.

Ryan Brockmueller will cover household treasurer duties in February during Lee's absence. He will be monitoring Lee's mailbox so you may continue to put bills and donations there or give them directly to Ryan. Either way will work.

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

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.

FA Noodle-Making Day Planned

All are welcome to make 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)

On Jan. 25, the worship offering for the first time will go to the Mennonite World Conference Global Church Sharing Fund's Jubilee account. Through the Jubilee account of the Global Church Sharing Fund, MWC member and associate member churches in Africa, Asia and Latin America/Caribbean may receive a grant of up to \$10 000 for ministries that advance the life and mission of their churches. Inspired by the biblical teaching of Sabbath and Jubilee year sharing (in Leviticus 25 and 2 Cor. 8:13-15, for example), Mennonite World Conference set up the Global Church Sharing Fund. Sharing Fund Jubilee grants have been used for: translation and publication of materials; scholarships for students; upgrading computer systems; church supplies; bicycles for evangelists; vehicles for church organizing; evangelism and leadership training; construction and repair of church facilities; promotion of Anabaptist identity and belonging. The fund has also been used for supporting the churches with relief actions when there is a natural disaster in their region.