



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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November 9, 2025

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude *“Let All Things Now Living”* (Ash Grove) – arr. Christine **Schulz**

Call to Worship (Psalm 96:10-13)

Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.”

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it!

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

Invocation

Opening Hymn

“How Blest are They” – HWB #525

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Hymn of Confession

“God Whose Purpose is To Kindle” – HWB #135

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 8:8-13 (ESV); James 5:7-11 (NIV)

Anthem

“For the Beauty of the Earth” – Schram

Scripture Reading

Luke 13:1-9

Sermon

“Judgment at the Door”

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

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today’s Worship offering:** General Fund
- **Today’s Sunday school offering:** Camper Scholarships
- **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 "Awake, Awake" – HWB #448

Benediction HWB #766

Postlude "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" – Neil Harmon

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Crystal Nelson; **Greeters:** Angie Brockmueller and Cindee Mutchelknaus; **Musicians:** Debra Schmeichel (organist); Ladies Ensemble (special music); **Coffee:** Classroom #10

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.

1:00 p.m. – Fall Book Study, "Reclaiming Rural" at South Church

2:00 p.m. – "Are You Smarter than an Eighth Grader" at Community Center
Sponsored by Heritage Hall Museum & Archives

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, November 11, 6:00 p.m. – Monthly update Ecuador Two-Way Mission via Zoom link on waterfordchurch.org then Worship, Online Resources, Prayers.

Wednesday, November 12, 1:30 p.m. – Freeman Network for Justice and Peace at Freeman Public Library

Wednesday, November 12, 6:30 p.m. – Bell Choir

7:30 p.m. – Chancel Choir

8:30 p.m. – Men's Choir

Thursday, November 13 – 2:00 p.m. – Assemble Freezer Meals for FA Dorm

NEXT SUNDAY, November 16, 2025

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Brad Carlson; **Greeters:** Angie Brockmueller and Cindee Mutchelknaus; **Musicians:** Heather Haggerty (organist);

Coffee: Classroom #10

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

1:00 p.m. – Fall Book Study

Worship Offering: Mennonite Mission Network

Sunday School Offering: Church Library

Children's Offering: Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 23 – Church Christmas Decorating

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

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

Reports for the Annual Meeting Booklet were due on November 1! If you are responsible for one, please email them to Rachel no later than **November 12.**

Thanks to those who submitted applications for SMC endowment funding by the September 28 deadline. Six applications were submitted for a total request amount of \$9,600. There were not enough funds available to fulfill all the grant fund requests. Guidelines in the Endowment Fund Policy were followed to provide some level of award for all the grant requests. The grant awards totaled \$6,500. This is the list of grant applications:

- SMC Trustees for bathroom improvements in the church building
- SMC Bible study materials
- Expenses related to support for SMC members who are sick, grieving, etc.
- Bangladesh Arsenic Awareness and Alleviation Program (SIM).
- Family First Worldwide support for Matt and Kelly Erdman
- Bethany Mennonite Church WRAP program for Freeman Area Foster Parents Support

As a point of information, the Endowment Fund Policy has these guidelines for distributions:

- 30% to SMC building and property
- 20% to mission and outreach for the larger community
- 50% unrestricted: “any purpose to further the work of our church”

Depending on the status of the SMC Endowment Fund Everence account, we expect to solicit the next round of Endowment Fund grant applications in April 2026. From the Endowment Team

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 - If you have a recent photo of your family unit - whether individuals, couples or families - you are welcome to submit that to Vernetta in

the church office. **An electronic file in jpg format would be easiest for us** to work with as we will be making the directory ourselves.

If you prefer, **Jeremy Waltner will be present on Sunday, November 16** from 10:45-12 noon in the Fellowship Hall to take your photo. We want to compensate him for his time. There will be a box in Vernetta's office to place a donation to defray these costs. Jeremy will return on Sunday, November 30 for anyone who is unable to be present on the first Sunday.

The sign-up sheet is on the Narthex table for those **WHO NEED A PHOTO TAKEN**. We would like to have all photos submitted by November 30. Questions may be directed to Vernetta or Carolyn Preheim.

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

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 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.

Greetings from Bethesda Mennonite Church. We have heard that the MCC Meat Canner is not going to be making a stop this year in South Dakota. In response to that, we at Bethesda would be happy to invite you to come down and lend a hand at our canner this year. **Dates are November 21-22, 24-25.** You can come as an individual or a group. As far as housing is concerned, York is nearby with plenty of hotels as well as the many family connections that exist between our communities. Contact person for the Canner is Jay Dee Janzen. Phone number 402-362-0512 (cell). You may call or text. Please leave a message if no answer. You could also contact the Bethesda Church Office 402-723-4562 and leave a message there and they can relay the information to Jay Dee.

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

Prayer Seeds for November

We are thankful for

- an abundant harvest
- family and the love and intimacy that healthy families offer
- the music our congregation can offer the community
- the coming of Brice Kauffman and the leadership he is bringing to the Freeman Academy community
- any pauses in violence at home and around the world
- daily health and strength
- helpers of all sorts (name people who helped you in the last month)
- the times when people are adaptable to the needs and preferences of others

We are mindful of and have concern for

- church members who are dealing with mental and physical health issues
- families in our community who have lost loved ones in recent months
- families around the world losing loved ones to natural disasters
- people who have moved in recent months
- the book study in November
- the future and peace of schools here and around the country
- the hungry and food insecure people in this country and around the world