Salem Mennonite Church
A Congregation of Mennonite Church USA

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November 8, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

Musical Call to Worship *Spirit of the Living God* – arr. Helman

Call to Worship HWB #664

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn *Sleepers Wake* – HWB #188

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Confession of Sin (from Leviticus 26)
Righteous God, we confess that we not listened to you and followed your commands as we should. We walk contrary to your ways in the pride of our own power. Yet our strength is spent in vain, for apart from you the heavens are hard as iron and the earth as bronze; bread does not satisfy us, we stumble and fall, and death stalks our anxious lives. Our hearts ache while your face is against us, and we repent of our iniquities.
If they confess their iniquities in the betrayals that they committed against me, for spurning my commands and rejecting my instruction in their soul, walking contrary to me, so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into exile—if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity, then I will remember my covenant and I will remember the land, that it may enjoy its Sabbaths while it lies empty, and they shall make amends for their iniquity. I will not spurn them, neither will I abhor them so as to destroy them utterly and break my covenant with them, for I am the LORD their God. But I will for their sake remember the covenant with their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the LORD.

Anthem *Keep Your Lamps* – arr. B. Tucker

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings Leviticus 26:1-13 (NIV); 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12 (NIV)
Matthew 25:1-13 (CEB)

Sermon *Staying Lit*

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

Hymn of Response *They That Wait Upon the Lord* (2x) – HWB #584

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** General Fund
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Swan Lake Christian Camp
- **Children's Offering:** Oyate Hope Academy

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

IV. RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn *This Little Light of Mine* – HWB #401

Benediction HWB #767

Postlude

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Lois Janzen Preheim; **Musicians:** Barb Yoder (pianist); Handbell Choir (special music); **Greeters:** Angie Brockmueller and Cindee Mutchelknaus; **Coffee:** "Young Married" Class

TODAY

12:30 p.m. – Bible Study (after lunch) How Scripture Interprets Scripture

THE CHURCH AT WORK

NEXT SUNDAY, November 15, 2026

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Brad Carlson; **Greeters:** Angie Brockmueller and Cindee Mutchelknaus; **Musicians:** Heather Haggerty (organist); Chancel Choir (special music); **Coffee:** "Young Married" Class

Worship Offering: Mennonite Mission Network
Sunday School Offering: South Church Library
Children's Offering: Oyate Hope Academy

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, November 11, 7:30 p.m. – Chancel
8:30 p.m. – Ladies Ensemble

COMING EVENTS

Sundays, November 15, 22 – Bible Study/Interpreting Scripture Wisely and Well
Thursday, November 26, 10:30 a.m. – South Church hosts North Church for our Annual Joint Thanksgiving Day Service. Bring canned goods for the food pantry. The offering will go to MCC Food Relief Work.
Friday, November 27, 7:30 p.m. – Swiss Choral program at Salem-Zion Church
Saturday, November 28 – Christmas Decorating at South Church
Sunday, December 6 – Annual Meeting w/noon potluck

SOUTH CHURCH NOTES

South Church's Fall Bible study - Participants are welcome to bring a brown-bag lunch to eat together after Sunday School, or to return for the study which begins at 12:30 p.m. The theme is "Interpreting Scripture Wisely and Well," and will focus on the topics: "How Scripture Interprets Scripture," "Senses Plain and Spiritual," and "Applying Scripture in Ethics."

The combined North/South Church men's choir will rehearse for the Thanksgiving Day service at South Church. We will have a shortened rehearsal on Wednesday, November 18 at 9:00 p.m. and a full rehearsal Tuesday, November 24 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome whether or not you are able to make it to rehearsals. Please invite your family and other Thanksgiving guests to join us. If you have questions or would like advanced copies of the music, please contact Janet Balzer.

Salem Mennonite Church Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 6 following a noon potluck meal. The Annual Meeting Booklet will need to be printed soon, so if you have any outstanding reports, please submit them to Rachel in the next day or two, preferably no later than Tuesday, Nov. 10. Reports can be emailed to Rachel at rachelwaltner@yahoo.com. THANK YOU!!

Trustees Note: The middle and north security lights are presently not working. In a separate issue, the Bell tower lights are also not working.
The trustees are working to resolve these issues.

Oren Preheim, age 75, of Windom, MN, passed away on October 31, 2026 of natural causes. Burial will be at Windom, MN. in the near future. Lois Lepp of Dodge Center, MN., is the remaining immediate family member of the Reinhardt and Susanna Lehmann Preheim family. Our heritage comes out of the East Freeman Community and South Church, and we are grateful!

COMMUNITY NOTES

Swan Lake Christian Camp Dinner and Worship Fundraiser, Sunday, Nov. 8, 6:00 p.m. A wonderful, awesome, really excellent dinner served with classical piano music followed by a time of worship in song in our new facility. Free-will donations received from this event will go toward the completion of the worship center/dining hall. To reserve your seat: Call Judi at 605-326-5690, email campoffice@myslcc.com

MCC's 'Seek Peace' poster contest - MCC invites participants of all ages to design a poster interpreting the theme "Seek peace" through one of three scripture verses. The purpose of the contest is to motivate our communities to continue to strive for peace and to have hope in the daily actions each person can take to make their corners of the world more peaceful. MCC will print and distribute the winning poster! Visit mcc.org/seek-peace for full contest details.

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!

Prayer Seeds for November 2026

When you heard the true teaching—the Good News about your salvation—you believed in Christ. And in Christ, God put his special mark of ownership on you by giving you the Holy Spirit that he had promised. Ephesians 1: 13.

Thanksgivings: We are thankful for

- Salvation and the grace given through Jesus Christ
- Freedom to practice our faith
- Rains that re-plenish subsoil moisture and for a good harvest
- Hutterthal's vote to call a new pastor at the end of the month
- All the churches in the community, for the Freeman Ministerium and for plans for a community wide hymn sing next year
- Churches around the world, especially for those in places of dire need
- Central Plains congregations and especially for the unity of service in Mtn. Lake, MN as reported in Scattered Seeds
- Healing for Paul, Karen, Derrold and others suffering ongoing health challenges
- The catechism class, their contemplation of salvation, Pastor's Spencer's teaching of the class
- Bible study in our congregation and in the community
- Add yours_____

Concerns and Requests

- Those grieving losses during this holiday season, especially Lavonne and her family, Gregg's friend Bud Arbeiter who lost his wife in a crash
- Those who need continued healing
- Strength and vision for our congregational leaders: Pastor Spencer, deacons, church council, committees; annual meeting preparations
- For churches around the world responding to the needs of their communities
- Add yours_____

Praying for you and with you—Gregg, Spencer, Peggy and Derrold, Lois, Duane

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