



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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May 24, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

Holy Spirit, Come with Power – Held

Choral Call to Worship

Sonntagsmorgen – F. Mendelssohn

Translation: This is the Lord's day. I am alone out in the field.
One distant morning bell has pealed, it's still here and far away.
Both near and far away, heaven seems to be solemn and still,
as if my soul with wonder to fill. This is the Lord's day.

Call to Worship

Heavenly Sovereign, O Comforter, Spirit of Truth,

Who is everywhere and fills all things,

Treasure of blessings, Source of all good, Giver of life,

Come and abide in us.

Cleanse us from all impurity, and of your goodness, heal our souls.

Invocation Prayer

Opening Hymn

Fire of God, Undying Flame – STS # 103

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Special Music

Poor Man Lazrus – arr. Hairston

Hymn of Confession

Move in Our Midst – HWB #418

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings

Numbers 11:16-30(NIV); Zephaniah 3:9-13(NIV)
James 1:19-25(NIV); Matthew 7:15-27(ESV)

Sermon

Heard in Translation

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

Offertory Doxology – HWB #119

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** Mennonite Mission Network
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Salem 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

Come Gracious Spirit – HWB #303

Benediction

HWB #762

Postlude

Spread, O Spread, Thou Mighty Word – Gesangbuch

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Cal Graber; **Musicians:** Heather Haggerty (organist); Estelle Waltner, Armando Miller, Jax Kaufman, Christian Ortman, Solomon Ortman (special music) Sherilyn Ortman (accompanist); **Greeters:** Kris and Brad Carlson; **Coffee:** Class #10

THE CHURCH AT WORK

TODAY

Congregation Conversation in the Fellowship Hall during Sunday School with Potluck Lunch following.

NEXT SUNDAY, May 31, 2026 – Communion Sunday

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Brian & Wendy Miller; **Greeters:** Brad & Kris Carlson; **Musicians:** Deb Schmeichel (organist); **Coffee:** Class #10; **Scriptures:** Isaiah 6:1-8; Isaiah 44:1-8; Titus 3:1-8; Matthew 28:16-20

Worship Offering: Ecuador Project

Sunday School Offering: AMBS/EMS

Children's Offering: Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

THIS WEEK

Monday, May 25, 6:30 p.m. – SLCC Worship Center Dedication

Tuesday, May 26, 8:00 p.m. – Rural Revival at the Freeman Public Library

COMING EVENTS

Monday-Friday, June 1-5, 9-1:15 – Daily Vacation Bible School

Wednesday, June 6, 9:00 a.m. – Church Work Day

Thursday-Sunday, June 25-28 – Central Plains Conference/Mt. Lake, MN

SOUTH CHURCH NOTES

On 5/31/26 there will be a short congregational meeting after the worship service to approve the slate of delegates to Central Plains Mennonite Conference. Delegates that are being presented by the council are as follows.

Gregg Waltner, Brent Mutchelknaus and Pastor Bradford.

Nominations from the floor will be allowed, but people nominating individuals should have their approval before doing so.

The Trustees are planning a Church Work Day, June 6 starting at 9:00 AM. We are asking for the congregations help. Tasks will be general spring cleanup around the church and parsonage as well as a fresh coat of paint on the cemetery arch.

From Renee: Everyone is still welcome to harvest asparagus and rhubarb by the back fence. **Thank you** to South Church for the get well flowers! It's a beautiful arrangement.

Worship music scheduling underway: With choir season coming to an end, the music team will now be scheduling special music for our Sunday worship services. This is the time to offer your musical talents and share your gifts with the congregation. If you are willing to provide a solo, duet or organize a small group, either vocal or instrumental, please contact Kathy Kleinsasser or any of the music team members. Any suggestions of musicians to contact would be appreciated. We will have occasional congregational singing to fill in on Sundays as needed.

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

SLCC Worship Center Dedication with Eli Gable will take place on Monday, May 25. The doors will open at 6:00 p.m. with the worship and dedication beginning at 6:30. At 7:30 p.m. Eli Gable will perform. Tickets are free! However, we are asking that you register for this event at the following link.

<https://ticketbud.com/events/0d445242-2c8c-11f1-a4c6-42010a71700b>

2026 Peace Mug Nominations – Please think about people in your congregations who have demonstrated Jesus’s way of love and peacemaking. The Peace and Justice Task Group is seeking nominations for the annual Peace Mug Award. This can be anyone you have seen doing small acts of kindness or someone who has spoken out in the face of injustice. Who do you see as a peacemaker in your congregation and your community? Send names and a brief description of why you are nominating them to Luke Hertzler (luke.hertzler43@gmail.com). We need them by Monday, May 11.

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

Speaking and Listening in the Spirit – from Tim Muehlhoff's "I Beg to Differ"

When calling Christians in the church at Ephesus to put away powerful emotions such as rage, bitterness and anger and to form healthy relationships, the apostle Paul didn't tell them to work harder. Rather, he encouraged them to "be filled with the Spirit" (Eph 5:18). What sets apart Christian communicators is their reliance on a spiritual power outside of them. How can that power be appropriated to manage emotions, address the antecedents of conflict, and bring healing to fractured relationships?

Once we find ourselves in the midst of a tense conversation, our self-talk will need to be closely monitored. If we encounter accusations or sarcasm, no doubt our intrapersonal perceptions will turn negative, which if unchecked will sabotage the conversation. We need to fall back on the habit of countering each thought, as soon as it materializes, with prayer. This can take the form of the Jesus Prayer or passages we've memorized in advance. One passage I like to dwell on during a difficult conversation is Paul's admonition: "You who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently" (Gal 6:1). This verse reminds me of two key questions to ask during the conversation: Am I relying on the Spirit's power and leading? Am I correcting this person gently as I disagree?

If during the conversation I start to tell myself that this person is beyond hope or we'll never find resolution, I need to continue the habit of worship where I focus on God's ability to move hearts. God's power is so vast that not even a king's heart is beyond his reach: "The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes" (Prov 21:1). Often God will use us—as we communicate grace and compassion and offer blessing instead of insult—to touch the hearts of those with whom we disagree. If during the conversation we withhold grace, are hardhearted, or match insult with insult, we need to immediately practice the habit of confession and move on.

During the entire interaction we'll be having multiple conversations. As we speak to the other person we'll also be speaking to ourselves addressing our self-talk and speaking to God asking that he give us power to do what the Spirit leads us to do. As we engage in a difficult conversation we can be assured that God is present and active. The prophet Nehemiah not only acknowledges God's presence but speaks to him as he addresses King Artaxerxes: "The king said to me, 'What is it you want?' Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king" (Neh 2:4-5). Like Nehemiah, we would be wise to talk to God as we talk to others.