

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

January 25, 2009

Prelude Welcome

*Call to Worship (Psalm 67)

L: God, show your faithfulness, bless us, and make your face smile on us!

P: For then the earth will acknowledge your ways, and all the nations will know of your power to save.

L: May all the nations praise you, O God;
May all the nations praise you!

P: Let the nations shout and sing for joy since you dispense true justice to the world. You grant strict justice to the peoples; on earth you guide the nations.

L: Let the nations praise you, God; let all the nations praise you!

P: The soil has given its harvest; God, our God, has blessed us.

All: May God continue to bless us; and let God be feared to the very ends of the earth.

*Hymns: "Hallelujah! We sing your praises!" #88 STJ
"Christ's is the world in which we move" #62 STJ

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 56:1-5

Children's Gathering Hymn: "Come and See" #20 HWB

Children's Time: Braided Together ~ Cynthia Miller & Darrell Martin

Hymn: "God sends us the Spirit" #293 HWB

New Testament Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Sermon: "Who is We?"

Hymn: "In Christ there is no east or west" #306 HWB

Congregational Sharing

Congregational Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. AMEN

Offering and Offertory

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book STJ: Sing the Journey

**Please stand if you are able*

Announcements (please give in writing to the pastor or worship leader) Introduction of Guests

*Sung Benediction "May God send you a blessing" #422 HWB

*Passing the Peace / Postlude

Community Time

- Fellowship time - 10:45-11:15 a.m. – basement fellowship hall

- Children's music – 11 a.m., Room 201, education wing

- Education for all ages – 11:15-noon

Today we begin two elective classes that will run through April:

- The Spirituality of Imperfection – Room 201, education wing
- Spirituality and Health – Basement fellowship hall

This evening from 5:30 – 6:30 pm, some of us from FMC will lead a discussion at a Community of St. Martin Adult Education session about how FMC and CSM might work together on some of the new community projects we are beginning, and some things they have already started. If you are interested, please join us for that conversation. *Michael Bischoff*

TODAY: World Fellowship Sunday

Sermon: Hermann Weinlick **Worship Leader:** Kathleen Harder

Song leader: Pierre Gingerich-Boberg **Piano:** Melissa Falb

Nursery volunteers: Laurie Kaufman and Susan Weinlick

Fellowship: Beth Richardson

NEXT SUNDAY: Dedication and blessing of parents and children

Worship leader: Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Pierre Gingerich--Boberg **Piano:** Sandra Westby

Nursery volunteers: Rachel Hoskins and Arlene Geissing

Fellowship: Cori Skogerboe and Tom Johnson

Let us remember the families who will be taking part in the parent/child dedication service next Sunday: Andy and Alisa Bardo-Martinson, Nicole Fitch and Adam Nafziger, Matthew and Shelly Hendricks, Ruth Johnston and Shuji Moriichi. During our **fellowship time next Sunday we will have a reception for these families and a shower for the two "first" babies** – Micah Jeeho Johnston Moriichi and Phoebe Maria Martinson

A staffed nursery for toddlers and children up to age 5 is located in the education wing. Please ask an usher if you wish to be guided to the nursery.

Faith Mennonite Church

Pastor: Joetta Schlabach

Ministry Staff Person: Michael Bischoff

Deacons: Clela Roth Gingerich, Candace Lautt,
Mike Okerstrom, Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick

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FMC OFFICE HOURS: January 26-30

Pastor: Joetta is in Elkhart, IN, this week for Pastors' Week at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. She returns home on Friday evening. Please contact a deacon for pastoral care needs or in case of an emergency.

Michael Bischoff: will not be in the office this week

Office Assistant: Wednesday & Friday 8:30-1:30

Email all bulletin items before Thursday evening to:

faithmc@faithmennonite.org

January 18: Attendance: **89** Offering: \$1379

Church Meetings and Events

January 27 – No lectionary discussion group this week

February 1 – Parent/Child Dedication Sunday

February 8 – Church Membership and Annual Meeting Sunday; Potluck

February 9 – Church Council, 7 p.m., FMC

February 13-14 – “Common Root 2009: Creating our Future in the
Shadow of the Empire,” FMC

February 13-15 – Men’s Retreat

February 20-21 – Families Moving Forward

February 25 – Ash Wednesday

February 26 – Goshen College Choir Performance, 7:30 p.m., Messiah
Lutheran Church

March 14 – Council & Commission Retreat, 9-noon, FMC

March 21 – Musician workshop, led by Jane Ramseyer Miller, 9-noon, FMC

Isaiah 56:1-5

Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

Happy is the mortal who does this, the one who holds it fast, who keeps the sabbath, not profaning it, and refrains from doing any evil.

Do not let the foreigner joined to the Lord say, 'The Lord will surely separate me from his people'; and do not let the eunuch say, 'I am just a dry tree.' For thus says the Lord: To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give, in my house and within my walls, a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.

Philippians 2:1-11

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

L: For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Two new elective Adult Education classes begin today:

- **Our Bodies, Our Souls - Spirituality and Health** facilitated by Heather Wengerd and Cynthia Miller
Is health merely the absence of disease? How do we live fully in the body we have, not the body we wish we had, or hope to have? How can we create a community that supports the health of everyone? In this 10-week class we will be looking at issues of personal health as well as our systems of healthcare and how these are informed and influenced by our Christian faith. Come with your own questions and a willingness to join the discussion.
- **The Spirituality of Imperfection** facilitated by Glenn Geissinger
This 10-week class will read and discuss the book of the same title by Kurtz & Ketcham, 1994 & 2002. The book contains over 100 stories that will help us understand aspects of our spiritual lives that we tend to minimize or ignore. The book is written in 3 sections: Roots of Wisdom, A.A. Discoveries, & Experiencing Spirituality. It is not about addiction but provides deep insight into spirituality and its meanings for our lives. Copies of the book are available for purchase.

February 8 – Church Membership & Annual Meeting Day

- **An agenda for the February 8 Congregational Meeting, the 2008 Annual Reports, and draft sections of a new Faith Mennonite Church Handbook are in your mailboxes.** Please read these in advance of the annual meeting and bring them with you on Feb. 8.
- We will welcome 5 people as they make commitments of **church membership**: Scott & Deedee Stevens Neal, Rhonda Martin, Greg Renstrom, and Donna Stucky.
- We will celebrate the year past, the year ahead, and the joy of new members at an **all-church potluck**.

Advocating for affordable housing in Seward: MICAHA, a local non-profit which advocates for affordable housing, has contacted FMC to ask for help in advocating for a proposed affordable housing project in Seward. The proposed affordable housing would be managed by Project for Pride in Living and be a part of the redevelopment of the "Bystrom Site" next to the Franklin Light Rail station. MICAHA is asking for members of FMC to attend a community meeting on January 27th from 5:30 - 6:30 pm at Seward Redesign (2619 E Franklin). If you are thinking of attending, please let Michael Bischoff know.

Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request:

Mennonite Voluntary Service convenes its orientation for new workers this week in San Antonio. Please pray for participants as they follow God's call to serve.

House sitter needed, June 1-July 15 Yeshe Lemu is looking for someone to live in her house the first half of this summer while she travels to Ethiopia. If you know of anyone in need of housing during that time, or who would be willing to house sit, please contact Yeshe: 651-208-5839 or yeshilemu@hotmail.com

Faith will host Families Moving Forward on Friday, February 20 and Saturday, February 21. We are looking for volunteers to cook the evening meals, provide a couple hours of childcare after dinner, and provide overnight hosting. Hosting takes place at Union United Church of Christ, in St. Louis Park. If you have any questions call Karen Wiebe 612-276-1217. A sign-up sheet is at the back of the sanctuary.

Join MCC response to Gaza crisis: Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and its partner organizations in Gaza are providing aid to families suffering from a punishing war and the misery of an ongoing economic blockade. MCC believes that peace and security can only be gained through peaceful means and is increasing its call for all parties to engage in political negotiations to address the issues that divide them. MCC has worked alongside Palestinians for nearly six decades and Israelis for nearly 40 years. MCC's partners in Palestine/Israel are committed to nonviolence and a future of peace, justice and reconciliation for both peoples. Visit mcc.org for more information, including regularly updated posts from MCC workers in the region. MCC encourages your prayers for peace, your gifts to help meet human need and your letters to government representatives, urging them to use their influence to end the violence in Palestine/Israel. Much more information is available on our Web site, mcc.org

Flowering Plants – As you leave today, you may take plants from any boxes in the basement fellowship hall that are designated “FMC.”

Redecorating of the Sanctuary and Narthex

The Trustees have formed an ad hoc interior committee that is exploring the redecorating of the sanctuary, narthex, & balcony. We want your input as well. Please answer any or all of these questions and drop this half sheet in the offering plate this Sunday or next Sunday. The committee will take your thoughts and suggestions into consideration in our deliberations. We hope to have an initial proposal to the congregation by the annual meeting on Feb. 8. Thank you for your input!
Committee members: Nikki Fitch, Bob Mack, Cleta Roth Gingerich, Arlene Geissing, Mike Okerstrom Trustee: Glenn Geissing

At our first meeting, we looked at the **sanctuary** and discussed these (3) questions:

1. What existing element(s) do you wish to retain?
2. Are there one or more element(s) you'd like to see highlighted?
3. What element(s) would you like to get rid of permanently?