

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

March 8, 2009

Lent 2: Our Lives Are In Your Hands

Prelude

Welcome

*Call to Worship

L: Hear the call, God's people: barrenness is not the end.

P: Through God, what was impossible comes true.

L: Trust God to keep promises, and commit yourselves to God's vision.

P: We accept God's call.

L: With God there is new purpose and vision for the future:

P: God blesses us for service.

Hymns: "You are all we have" #29 STJ
"Lord I am fondly, earnestly" #514 HWB

Readers' theatre (Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38)

Prayer of Confession

God of Abraham and Sarah, we admit that the more we hold on to things the less we have to offer.

We too are barren. Help us to let go, help us to give – for as we die we come to life, and as we give we are filled.

You alone are the hope for our barrenness, the transformation of our despair.

We pray these things in Christ the Lord. Amen

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

Children's Time: Family trees ~ Shelly Hendricks

Hymn: "What wondrous love is this" #530 HWB

Sharing: "The Quandry of Denial"

Hymn: "I bind my heart this tide" #411 HWB

Congregational Sharing ~ Hermann Weinlick

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.

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

Announcements (*please give in writing to the pastor or worship leader*)

Introduction of Guests

***Sending hymn:** "Be thou my vision" #545 HWB

*Benediction

L: Lord and Christ, we hear your call to follow you and take up our cross.

P: Our lives are in your hands.

Though barren we are not despairing.

L: Faith Mennonite Church, may the Lord speak your name, make your life fruitful and bless you with the joy of serving in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Passing the Peace / Postlude

Community Time

- Fellowship time - 10:45-11:10 a.m.

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

- Christian Education –11:15 – noon

Adult classes:

- The Spirituality of Imperfection - Room 201, education wing
- Spirituality and Health – Library

TODAY: Lent 2: God blesses for service

Worship leader: Deedee Stevens Neal **Sharing:** Pat Eliason

Song leader: Phil Stoltzfus **Piano:** Melissa Falb

Readers: Wendy Bruner, Joan Kreider, Bob Mack

Nursery volunteers: Laurie Kaufman & One Volunteer

Fellowship: Joan Kreider & Karen Zeug

NEXT SUNDAY: Lent 3: God overturns human wisdom

Worship leader: Deedee Stevens Neal **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Donna Stucky **Piano:** Cathy Smetana

Nursery volunteers: Jennifer Wandersee & One Volunteer Needed

Fellowship: Volunteers Needed

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book STJ: Sing the Journey

**Please stand if you are able*

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: Kami Blackwell Kinney, Cleta Roth Gingerich,
Neil Okerlund, Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick

2720 East 22nd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406 Ph: 612-375-9483

E: faithmc@faithmennonite.org Web: www.faimennonite.org

FMC OFFICE HOURS: March 9-13

Pastor: Joetta is in New Orleans working with Mennonite Disaster Service this week. She will return on Friday evening. Please contact a deacon for pastoral care needs or in case of an emergency

Michael Bischoff: Thursday 9-noon

Office Assistant: Wednesday & Friday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Email all bulletin items before Thursday evening to:

faithmc@faithmennonite.org

March 1: Attendance: 98 Offering: \$4,628

Church Meetings and Events

March 10 – Lectionary Discussion Group (Jer. 31:31-34; Ps 51:1-12;

Jn 12:20-33) 8:30 a.m., Trotters, Corner of Marshall & Cleveland, SP

March 12 – Soup & Silence, 6 p.m., FMC chapel

March 14 – Council & Commission Retreat, 9-11:30 a.m., FMC

March 15 – Supportive Housing Forum with Community of St. Martin,
5:30-6:25 p.m., FMC sanctuary

March 16 – Women's Retreat planning group, 5 p.m., FMC chapel

March 18 – Deacon's Commission, 9:30 a.m., Richardsons

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

March 29 – Immigration and Food Justice: A Multi-Faith Dialogue,
2:30 -4:30 pm FMC sanctuary

April 6 – Missions & Service, Commission, 9 a.m., FMC

May 8-9 – Women's Retreat, Carondelet Center

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Announcements

Soup & Silence —During the weeks of Lent we will offer a simple soup supper one night each week, followed by a time of centering prayer. This will be an opportunity to pause in the midst of our busy schedules, break bread with brothers and sisters, and to pray for ourselves, our church, our neighborhood, and our world. Location: FMC Chapel

6:00-6:30 p.m. – Soup & Bread, **6:30-7:00 p.m.** – Prayer
Thursday, March 12, Tuesday, March 17, Wednesday, March 25,
Monday, March 30

Kristin Green and John Ratigan are hoping to find someone who can pick Nicole up in Andover and bring her to visit at the hospital when the baby is born for a visit, and then return her to Andover. The drive is about 45 minutes from South Mpls. If you may be willing to do this in approximately mid-April, please contact Kristin and John at ratigangreen@yahoo.com

Calling all women who love to sing: The Faith Mennonite Women's Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, Mar. 15 at noon. Under Neil Okerlund's direction, the group will prepare to sing either Palm Sunday or Easter and again in the coming Spring season. Other rehearsals are scheduled for Mar. 22 and Mar. 29th. For more information, contact Neil Okerlund or Sandra Westby.

A Bible Study Group (BSG) has organized to study the Acts of the Apostles. ALL are welcome each **Sunday morning from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the library at FMC.** We will use the *Believer's Church Bible Commentary*, which has an Anabaptist twist to the understandings of the Scripture. Questions can be directed to Donna Minter, Joan Kreider, Leslie Minkler, Greg Renstrom, and Dick Westby.

Council & Commission Members Retreat: All commission members and church council officers are encouraged to participate in a morning retreat, Saturday, March 14, 9-11:30 a.m. We will consider our shared tasks in our congregation's work, ways to facilitate consensus, areas of commission overlap, and the effectiveness of our communication. This will replace the March Council meeting. Beverages and snacks provided!

Women – Save the Date! Spring women's retreat, Friday, May 8, 7 p.m. to Saturday, May 9, 5 p.m. (with optional dinner out). Carondelet Center. More details to follow from planning group: Erin Geiser, Rhonda Martin, Leslie Minkler, and Joetta Schlabach

All are invited to St. Albert's for the BEST FISH DINNERS during Lent. Starting Friday, Feb. 27 through Friday, April 3rd from 4:30 until 7:30 P.M. St. Albert the Great, 2836 33rd Ave S Mpls. (612) 724-3643

Forum on Affordable, Supportive Housing in Seward, Sunday, March 15, 5:30 -6:25 pm FMC sanctuary. Faith is collaborating with the Community of St. Martin to offer an Adult Education session about a new affordable housing project that is proposed in the Seward neighborhood. The developers of this project have asked Faith Mennonite for our moral and public support as they work with the neighborhood, the city, and funders. Please come join this discussion to learn more about this project. MICAH, the Metropolitan Interfaith Council for Affordable Housing, will present a program on the impact of the housing crisis on our neighborhoods along with a brief legislative update on housing and foreclosure bills. This presentation will be tied to the Bystrom site Franklin LRT Redevelopment planned by Seward Redesign. Currently, a partnership of Project for Pride in Living and Touchstone is proposing 40 units of permanent supportive housing in the first phase of this four-acre parcel redevelopment. Come to discuss current housing issues and the great potential in this critical transit oriented development right in the Seward neighborhood.

Volunteers Needed –The Spring Forum Committee is looking for volunteers to **bring snacks** for our upcoming forum, “*Immigration and Food Justice: A Multi-Faith Dialogue.*” The forum will be Sunday, March 29, 2:30 – 4:30 pm. Please contact Melissa Hochstetler if you can help out.

Immigration and Food Justice: A Multi-Faith Dialogue – Sunday, March 29, 2:30 – 4:30 pm. What impact do immigrants as people and immigration policy have on the production and distribution of food in the U.S.? Who benefits? Who suffers? A panel from different faith perspectives will discuss how the values of justice and respect apply to the connections between immigration and food. **Panelist Include:** Rabbi Morris Allen, Owais Bayunus and Tisha Rajendra **Co-Sponsors:** Faith Mennonite Church, Jewish Community Action, Bread for The World Upper Midwest Office, Oxfam Action Corps Minnesota, Community of St. Martin, Pan-African Community Organization, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, The Church of St. Albert the Great, and the Land Stewardship Project. **Held at Faith Mennonite Church.** Open to the public; free. For more information, contact Michael Bischoff at 612-521-1889.

Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice Partnership builds community by bringing youth offenders, victims, community members and trained facilitators together in a conference to repair the harm done by the youth offender and promote healing, accountability and reconciliation. We need people who have a stake in Seward or Longfellow neighborhoods to volunteer at the conferences as a community member or a trained facilitator. Our next facilitator training will be April 24-26. Please contact Michele Braley at 612-338-6205 x108 or michele@sng.org for more information about the program and how you can become involved.