

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH  
March 22, 2009  
*Lent 4: Our Lives Are In Your Hands*

**Prelude**  
**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship**

L: We are God's chosen trying to follow, trying to trust.

**All: *We are learning to lean on God even in times of trouble.***

L: When desolation haunts us, God provides

**Right: wholeness and expectation.**

L: When shadows darken our path, God offers

**Left: healing and hope.**

**All: *Even in the midst of despair, God restores us.***

**\* Hymns:** "You are all we have" #29 STJ  
"Brethren, we have met to worship" #8 HWB

**Readers' theatre:** (Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:14-21, Ephesians 2:1-10)  
**Response: "We give thanks to the Lord, who is good; whose steadfast love endures forever."**

**Prayer of Confession**

Jesus, we confess you as the Lord of our lives, the author and perfecter of our faith, our Savior. Grant us faith to submit to your lordship. Give us strength to walk in your holy way. Amen.

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

**Children's Time:** "Snakes!"

**Hymn:** "Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us" #352 HWB

**Gospel:** John 3:14-21

**Sermon:** "Facing our Deepest Desires"

**Song:** "God so loved the world" ~ Ensemble

**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**

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

**Introduction of Guests**

**\*Sending hymn:** "My life flows on" #580 HWB

**\*Benediction**

L: May God's hand restore you, the Spirit speak in the depths of your hearts, the strength of Jesus fill you, so you can follow God's teaching, rejoice in God's salvation, proclaim God's forgiveness and glorify the Lord.

**All: *Our lives are in your hands, O Lord.***

**\*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

- Women's choir rehearsal, noon, sanctuary

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**TODAY:** Lent 4: God restores in the midst of despair

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

**Song leader:** Pierre Gingerich-Boberg    **Piano:** Adam Nafziger

**Ensemble:** Arlene Holdeman, Melissa Hochstetler, Joan Kreider

**Nursery volunteers:** Cleta Roth Gingerich & Sandra Westby

**Fellowship:** Adam Nafziger & Nikki Fitch

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Lent 5: God leads from failure to life

**Worship leader:** Joetta Schlabach    **Sermon:** Alisa Bardo-Martinson

**Song leader:** Gregg Richardson    **Piano:** Sandra Westby

**Nursery volunteers:** Minke Sundseth & Marcia Siggelkow

**Fellowship:** Sandra & Dick Westby

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*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.*

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**Soup & Silence** —During the weeks of Lent we offer a simple soup supper one night each week, followed by a time of centering prayer. FMC Chapel. **6:00-6:30 p.m.** – Soup & Bread, **6:30-7:00 p.m.** – Prayer  
**Wednesday, March 25**, Monday, March 30

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406 Ph: 612-375-9483  
E: faithmc@faithmennonite.org Web: www.faithmennonite.org

### FMC OFFICE HOURS: March 23-27

**Pastor:** Wed & Thurs 10-5; Fri 8:30-12:30.

Joetta is open to receiving calls at home on Monday and Wednesday from 7-8:30 p.m., Tuesday is a study day.

**Michael Bischoff:** Thursday 9-noon

**Office Assistant:** Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

*Email all bulletin items before Thursday evening to:*  
[faithmc@faithmennonite.org](mailto:faithmc@faithmennonite.org)

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**Mar 15:** Attendance: 68            Offering: Not Recorded

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### Church Meetings and Events

March 24 – Lectionary Discussion Group (Isaiah 50:4-9a; Phil 2:5-11;  
Mark 14:1-15:47), 8:30 a.m., Trotters, Marshall & Cleveland in St. Paul

March 25 – Soup & Silence, 6-7 p.m., FMC chapel, education wing

March 26 – Vacation Bible School exploratory meeting, 7:15 p.m.,  
Sundseth home, 3937 24<sup>th</sup> Ave S, MPLS

March 29 – Greeter/Usher breakfast, 8:30-9:30 a.m. fellowship area

March 29 - Immigration & Food Justice: A Multi-Faith Dialogue,  
2:30 - 4:30 p.m., FMC

April 4 – Worship commission, 9-11 a.m., Schlabachs

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

April 9 – Maundy Thursday supper and service, 6-7 p.m., Fellowship Hall

April 12 – Easter Breakfast & worship (no Christian education classes)

April 13 – Church Council, 7 p.m., FMC chapel

April 15 – Deacon's Commission, 9:30 a.m., Richardsons

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

### **John 3:14-21**

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.

L: For the Word of God in Scripture,  
For the Word of God within us,  
For the Word of God among us,

*All: Thanks be to God.*

### **Announcements**

**Health care dialogue & breakfast, Thursday, March 26, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Mpls** Senator John Marty, chair of the Minnesota Health, Housing and Family Security Committee will speak. Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. with presentation and discussion from 8:20-10:00. \$4.00 charge for the breakfast. To make a reservation call 612-729-8358 or email [office@htlcmpls.org](mailto:office@htlcmpls.org).

**Sabbath Economics: A Hopeful Vision in a Time of Economic Crisis with Ched Myers**

**Saturday, March 28, 12:30-3:30 pm**

*Preparing for Holy Week: A Seminar for Clergy and Lay Leaders*

Gethsemane Episcopal Church, 904 4th Avenue South, Mpls.

RSVP required by March 27 to [rex.mckee@gmail.com](mailto:rex.mckee@gmail.com)

**Saturday, March 28, 7:00 pm**

*Sabbath Economics' Role in Hip-hop Culture*

Urban Jerusalem, 1823 Emerson Ave. North, Mpls

**Monday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.**

*The Emperor Has No Clothes*

*Sabbath Economics in a Time of Economic Collapse*

Calvary Baptist Church, 2608 Blaisdell Ave S, MPLS

**For more information go to** [www.chedmyers.eventbrite.com](http://www.chedmyers.eventbrite.com)

**Next Sunday, March 29, Your opportunity to sponsor a Quilt or Wood piece for the November 7, 2009 MCC Sale.** You are invited to view and select a quilt top to sponsor at Emmanuel Mennonite Church, 725 E. 25th Street, Minneapolis from 11:30 am to 12:45 pm in the Church basement fellowship area. Choose 1 large quilt or 2 small pieces. After this opportunity, they will be assigned. A sincere thank you to everyone for your past and continued support for the TCMCC relief Sale. If you have questions, see Elaine Unruh, 651-994-9081 [elunruh2@aol.com](mailto:elunruh2@aol.com)

**Next Sunday, March 29, 2:30-4:30 pm., FMC Sanctuary Immigration and Food Justice: A Multi-Faith Dialogue**

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.

**Join in a celebration for Lucie Johnson** (former member) Tuesday, March 31 at 5:30 p.m. at Good Earth Restaurant in Roseville. RSVP to Cindy Bjork by Sunday, March 29, 612-338-2547 or [cbjork@yahoo.com](mailto:cbjork@yahoo.com). Hope to see you there!

**OutFront MN JustFair Lobby Day, April 23** Plan now to join your voice with others for an interfaith message of support for marriage equality. Register at [www.outfront.org](http://www.outfront.org). For those interested in going as an FMC group with our banner, contact Katie Hochstedler, [katie.hochstedler@gmail.com](mailto:katie.hochstedler@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:michele@sng.org) for more information about the program and how you can become involved.

The **Corinthian Plan** is a new health care benefit plan for Mennonite Church USA pastors and church workers. This week information about the plan will be received by every congregation. Congregations will have until October 1 to enroll with a goal of having 80% of Mennonite Church USA congregations in this new plan. Ambassadors for The Corinthian Plan have been trained in every conference and will be contacting someone in your church in the next several weeks. More information is also available at [www.thecorinthianplan.org](http://www.thecorinthianplan.org).