

**FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH**  
March 27, 2011 ~ Third Sunday of Lent  
*Becoming human: called and shaped by Jesus*

**Prelude**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Lift up your eyes to the hills; where does our help come from?

**People: Our help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

*All: Let us worship our God, who watches over us now and always.*

**\*Hymns:** “For God so love us” #167 HWB

“Joyful, joyful, we adore thee” #71 HHB

**Prayer of Confession & Silence**

**Words of Assurance**

Leader: Jesus you have come to put the world right,  
to give life to the dead,  
and to call into existence a people born from above.

*All: Break in by your creating Spirit.*

*Send forth your fresh wind.*

*And open the way to real life, eternal life. Amen*

**Scripture readings:** Genesis 12:1-4a; John 3:1-21

**Children’s gathering song:** “Come and see” #20 HWB

**Readers Theatre:** “Jesus & Nicodemus”

**Children’s time:** The colors of Lent: gray ~ Gregg Richardson

**Song:** “Sizohamba naye” #78 STJ

**Sermon:** “Born again...and again”

**Silent reflection:** How has your encounter with Jesus changed your life?

How have you experienced rebirth in your life?

**Hymn:** “Take, O take me as I am” #81 STJ

**Sharing our Joys and Concerns**

**Congregational Prayer & Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father/Mother 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 & Offertory**

**Announcements** (please give in writing to worship leader)

**Introduction of guests**

**\*Sung benediction:** “Go, my friends, in grace” (insert in back of hymnal)

**\*Passing the Peace / Postlude**

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Community Time

- 10:30 **Fellowship time** – basement fellowship hall

- 10:45 **Children’s singing time / activities**

- 11:00 **Education for all ages**

Adult Christian Education: A continuation of the discussion of marriage and how FMC can support those who have made this covenant.

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**TODAY:** Lent 3: Becoming Human: Shaped by new birth

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

**Song Leader:** Pierre Gingerich-Boberg **Organ:** Jim Kuebelbeck

**Readers:** Bob Mack and Rich Deming

**Ushers:** Darrell Martin & Cori Skogerboe

**Nursery:** Pat Eliason & Susan Weinlick

**Fellowship:** Kathleen Harder & Leslie Minkler

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**NEXT SUNDAY:** Lent 4: Becoming Human: Called to light

**Worship leader:** Gregg Richardson **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

**Song Leader:** Anna Gambucci **Piano:** Sandra Westby

**Greeter:** Beth Richardson

**Ushers:** Nikki Nafziger & Shawn Helmeke

**Nursery:** Cleta Roth Gingerich & Joan Wing

**Fellowship:** Cindy Bjork & Jenny Wandersee

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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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**March 20: Attendance:** 63

**Offering:** Local Budget: \$746  
(Weekly budgeted need: \$2984)

**Sanctuary Painting Project Update**

**Received to date:** \$24,550

**Amount remaining:** \$11,450

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**Faith Mennonite Church**  
**Pastor: Joetta Schlabach**  
**Ministry Staff Person: Kathleen Remund**  
**Deacons: Aryn Baxter, Shelly Hendricks**  
**Donna Minter, Neil Okerlund, Beth Richardson**

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**FMC OFFICE HOURS:** March 21-25

**Pastor:** Wed, Thurs, Friday 9-4. Tuesday is a study day.

**Ministry Staff Person:** Monday 1-3 p.m., Friday 9-Noon.

**Office Assistant,** Julie Cross: Tues, Weds & Thurs 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**Email all bulletin items before Wednesday evening to:**

[faithmc@faithmennonite.org](mailto:faithmc@faithmennonite.org). Bulletin is finalized and printed on Thursday.

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**Easter Flowers!** The Lent-Easter Planning Committee is taking order for potted spring flowers to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. The plants can be taken home after worship. **Sign-up sheet on back table this Sunday and next.** Suggested contribution of \$10/plant (can be put in offering, marked "Easter plants"). – *Cleta Roth Gingerich*

During the six weeks of **Lent our worship theme is *Becoming human: called and shaped by Jesus***. In this reflective season we have chosen to place a simple drape on the cross and leave our table bare. May the bare table and open Bible invite us to open ourselves to God and strip away the clutter that bombasts our lives daily. The Lent worship planning group is Cleta Roth Gingerich, Kristin Green, Gregg Richardson, Andrew Smale, and Joetta Schlabach.

Several persons will be received into membership on Easter Sunday, April 24.

**If you are interested in exploring church membership, please speak with pastor Joetta or one of the deacons.**

**Interested in joining a small fellowship group?** Return surveys today!

### **Church Meetings and Events**

March 29 – Lectionary Discussion Group, 8:30 a.m., Trotters Restaurant

March 29 – Lent sharing with Cabrini Catholic Church, 7 p.m. @ Cabrini

March 30 – Missions & Service Commission, 7 p.m., FMC

April 3 – Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, noon, Library

April 4 – First Monday Soup Group, 6 p.m., Joan Kreider's home

April 12 – Lent sharing with Cabrini Catholic Church, 7 p.m. @ Cabrini

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

April 20 – Deacon Commission, 9 a.m., Richardsons

*Cover design by Dan Leisen*

### Genesis 12:1-4a

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

### John 3:1-21

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 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 judgment, 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

**Please pick up children from the nursery before 10:40. Children may be dropped off again for Sunday School starting at 10:55.** The nursery will be closed between those times for cleaning and prep. –*Meagan O'Brien*

Invitation to meet **AMBS visitors on Monday, March 28, 3 p.m. President Sara Wenger Shenk and Director of Development Missy Kauffman Schrock** of the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary will visit FMC Monday afternoon. They'd like to become better acquainted with our congregation since beginning their jobs. Anyone who would like to meet, learn about the seminary or share about our congregation may meet in the chapel.

**Lent observance opportunity: Gathering around the Word with the St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Community, 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 29 and April 12.** You are welcome to join our neighbors at Cabrini Catholic Church (1500 Franklin Avenue SE) for two evenings of fellowship, scripture reflection, and prayer. Cabrini will host the gathering on March 29 and FMC will host on April 12.

**BMC Community Potluck, Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup>** Come for the wonderful people, conversation and food, **6:30 pm, 2520 28<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Minneapolis** (Frank Trnka's place - 612-721-7677). Bring a dish to share and friends to share it with - all are welcome. RSVP helpful but not essential: [bmc@bmclgbt.org](mailto:bmc@bmclgbt.org) . – *Kirsten Freed*

**April 3, 2:30 – 3 p.m. – Immigration Faith Action Vigil (ICOM).** Leader is FMC! Persons who can help lead singing should contact Pierre Gingerich-Boberg. Meet at church at 2 p.m. for carpools. Ramsey County Adult Detention Center; 425 Grove Street, SP

Please note Sign-Up Sheets for:

- **Petition to stop deportations in Hennepin County**
- **Final stained glass window washing, Sat., April 2, 9-noon**

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### Adult Education Series: Family, Singleness and Marriage

**March 27 – Marriage**

**April 3 & 10 - Vision for Christian Family & Relationships**

In this series we will seek to explore each of these areas, and to offer opportunities for open dialog within the context of a trusting and safe community. In each focus area, we will discuss biblical, theological and historical perspectives; we will listen to testimony from our congregation, as well as to the testimony found in our *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*. Planning committee: Matthew Blackwell Kinney, Kathleen Harder, Matthew Hendricks, Katie Hochstedler, Donna Minter, Joetta Schlabach.