

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH
May 6, 2012 ~ 5th Sunday of Easter

Prelude
Welcome

***Call to Worship** - Based on John 15:1-8 and Psalm 22:25-31

One: You are the true vine and we are the branches.

Many: You are our source of life. One branch cannot produce fruit on its own.

Remove the deadness in us and prune us so that abiding in you, we will bear much fruit.

One: You are the true source of life and love and we are the disciples.

Many: You are the One who guides us and refines our work to bring about justice in this world,

One: so that one day the poor shall eat and be satisfied.

Many: All nations of the earth will bow down to you,

One: and future generations will know your name.

All: We seek to abide in you, O God. Abide in us.

***Hymns:** “We walk by faith” #570 HWB

“The work is thine, O Christ” #396 HWB

First scripture reading: 1 John 4:7-21

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

Children’s time: “Sisters and brothers”

Hymn: “Lord Jesus, you shall be my song” #14 STJ

Second scripture reading: Acts 8:26-40

Sermon: “A Wilderness Surprise”

Communion

Preparation Hymn: “I come with joy to meet my Lord” #459 HWB

Prayer of Confession

Response following the silence:

Lord, we rejoice that you have not abandoned us.

You sent your Son to redeem us and through his death and resurrection brought our redemption.

With thanksgiving we proclaim your love and grace shown to us in Jesus and together confess him as our Redeemer.

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Adapted from “Prayer of Confession” by Rebecca Slough, in Prayers for Public Worship, ed. by Edward K. Ziegler (Elgin, Ill: Brethren Press, 1986), 17.

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book

STJ: Sing the Journey

**Please stand if you are able*

Gathering at the table

We will gather at the tables at front and back in groups of 10-12 as the ushers guide. Please hold the bread and cup until all are served and then partake together. The bread is gluten free. The cup is grape juice. All who have made a commitment to follow Christ and share in the life of Christ’s body are invited to the table. Children may come to receive a grape and blessing.

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:** “Sent forth by God’s blessing” #478 HWB

***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

10:40 a.m. Fellowship time. On May 9, 1912, Ole and Anne Westby purchased property on the southeast corner of 29th Ave. and East 24th St. One hundred years later this property is still owned by Westbys—Richard and Sandra. During fellowship time join the Westbys in celebrating!

11:00 a.m. Education classes for all ages. Adult session: Joetta will share experiences from her sabbatical earlier this year. – Basement fellowship hall.

TODAY: Signs of Resurrection: Surprising Inclusion

Worship leader: Donna Stucky **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

Song Leader: Phil Stoltzfus **Organ:** Jim Kuebelbeck

Usher: Rhonda Martin **Fellowship buddy:** Jacob Schlabach

Nursery: Glenn Geissing & Andy Martinson **Fellowship:** Westbys

NEXT SUNDAY: Signs of Resurrection: Complete Joy (John 15:9-17)

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach **Song leader:** Hermann Weinlick

Piano: Sandra Westby **Ushers:** Darrell Martin & Rhonda Martin

Fellowship: *volunteer needed* **Fellowship buddy:** Jenny Wandersee

Nursery: Donna Minter & Annette Samanchin-Jones

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: Phil Stoltzfus
Deacons: Aryn Baxter, Shelly Hendricks,
Donna Minter, Adam Nafziger, Neil Okerlund

2720 East 22nd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406 Ph: 612-375-9483
E: faithmc@faithmennonite.org Web: www.faithmennonite.org

FMC office hours: May 7-11

Pastor: Mon 10-5; Wed 10-5; Thurs 9:30-3:30. Tuesday is a study day.

Ministry Staff: Mon 10-5; Wed 10-5; Thurs 10-5

Email bulletin items by Wednesday evening. Bulletin is printed on Thursday.

April 29: **Attendance: 71** **Offering:** \$1121-local budget
Weekly amount need to meet budget: \$2,692

Adult Christian Education session in May

For the past several years we have set aside September, January, and May as times for all-church discussions during adult education. The two remaining session in May are:

- May 13 - either Tyler Zabriskie will speak about his experiences with humanitarian relief in various countries **or** there will be a session focusing on Bread for the World (arranged by Hermann Weinlick).
- May 20 - session led by Tyler Zabriskie or Hermann Weinlick.
- *Kathleen Harder, adult education coordinator*

Church Meetings and Events (online calendar at: www.faithmennonite.org)

May 7 – Soup Group, 6 p.m., Joan Kreider’s, **please RSVP to Joan today**

May 7 – Youth program planning group, 7 p.m., office

May 8 – Sunday Text Discussion Group, 8:30 a.m., Trotters Café, SP

May 9 – Church Council, 7 p.m., chapel

May 15 – Worship Commission, 7 p.m., Joan Kreider home

May 16 – FMC Artisans & Crafters, 7 p.m., library

May 17 – Deacon Commission, 9:30 a.m., Nafziger home

May 19 – May Birthday Brunch, 9:30-11 a.m., Schlabach home

May 20 – Children’s Day Worship & Picnic; final day of Christian Ed.

May 21 – Missions & Service Commission, 5 p.m., chapel

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

Congratulations and thanks to Meagan O'Brien, our nursery staff person. This month marks five years since Meagan began working in our Sunday morning nursery. This month she will graduate from the University of Minnesota with a BS in Horticulture. In June she will start a masters/licensure program to teach life sciences at the secondary level. She has been a wonderful asset to our nursery program and a dear friend to our children and families. Please find a moment to give her a high-five and a big thanks!

Monthly Faith Action Vigil, Today, 2:30 p.m., Ramsey County Adult Detention Center, 425 Grove Street, St. Paul MN. Led by the **Immigration Team** of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ.

Habitat Benefit Concert featuring the **Cabrini Flute Choir, Today, 3:00 p.m.**, 1500 Franklin Ave. SE, Mpls. Free will offering, reception following.

Neil Okerlund's **Prevailing Winds Woodwind Quintet** invites you to a free recital! For all who love music—celebrate spring with fun music from Cuba, Spain and Denmark. **Monday, May 7, 7:00** to 8:15 p.m., St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55108.

Sign-up sheet for **May 19 birthday brunch** is in the fellowship area.

Nursery Notes: It's time for **spring cleaning!** On Sunday, May 20 we'll be giving the nursery and all nursery toys/equipment a good spring scrubbing.

Please stop by between 1:00 and 3:30 if you have time to help with the cleaning. Rags and cookies provided. Also, if you have toys/books/puzzles/art supplies your children have outgrown, **please consider donating them** to the nursery. We ask that toys be gently used, be age appropriate (c. 6 months to 5 years), and not require batteries. Thank you! *—Meagan O'Brien*

Boxes of **MCC relief kits** currently stored in our kitchen need to be transported to MCC. If you are traveling to **Newton, KS or Goshen, IN** in the next few weeks, contact the church office about taking along some kits.

Wilderness Wind is seeking volunteers to help with the opening of camp in Ely, Minnesota any time **after May 10**. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Wilderness Wind. Also, are you looking for a summer getaway in the BWCA? Wilderness Wind still has **openings for summer canoe trips** particularly in August. Contact Wilderness Wind at 218-365-5873 to book your trip. Lakeside cabins are also available.

I am **looking for housing** in the Seward area as of June 1st. My preference is to rent a room in a house or a small apartment or a studio. I am a professional in refugee and girls education, have worked in 14 countries, and am training to be a chaplain in the area. I am vegetarian and do not drink or smoke. I speak different languages and enjoy the diversity of the area. I can provide more information on request. *—Andrew Jilani*