

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH
August 16, 2009 ~ "Letters to the early churches"

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

L: With all your saints across the generations we gather, Holy God,

P: to approach your mystery and hear your judgment.

L: We come seeking the faith of those who have gone before us in righteousness and truth.

All: Lead us by your Word to walk in your ways and observe your commandments. AMEN

***Hymns:** "Lead me Lord" #538 HWB

"Give thanks for life" #108 STJ (v. 1, 2, 4)

Psalm 90

L: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

P: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world,

All: from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

L: You turn us back to dust and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

P: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday...or like a watch in the night.

All: You sweep them away; they are like a dream.

L: For all our days pass away; our years come to an end like a sigh.

P: So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

L: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

P: Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

All: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; and prosper the work of our hands!

Children's gathering hymn: "Come and See" #20 HWB

Children's time: "Remembering people of faith"

New Testament reading: Hebrews 11:1-12:2

Hymn: "Faith of the martyrs" # 413 HWB

Sermon: "Heroes of Faith"

Hymn: "All who love and serve the city" #417 HWB

Congregational Sharing: Kami Blackwell Kinney, deacon

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

***Sung Benediction:** "Great is thy faithfulness" #327 HWB

***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

- Fellowship time - 10:45 a.m.

TODAY: The Cloud of Witnesses

Worship leader: Jenny Wandersee

Sermon: Richard Westby

Song leader: Karen Wiebe

Piano: Adam Nafziger & Sandra Westby

Musicians: Jenny Wandersee & Karen Wiebe

Readers: Greg Renstrom & Richard Westby

Nursery volunteers: Barbara Beerswing, Matthew Blackwell Kinney

Fellowship: Kristin Green

NEXT SUNDAY: Faith and Works (James 2:8-26)

Worship leader: Adam Nafziger

Sharing: Teresa Wasick and Hermann Weinlick

Song leader: Gregg Richardson

Piano: David Mayou

Nursery volunteers:

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.

August 9: Attendance: 65

Offering: \$1,129

Prayer concerns: safety for Donna M and Bruce and Paula as they bike across Minnesota, and for Joetta, Gerald and family as they travel; Minke's mother-in-law who recently fell and needs community support moving to the use of a cane; civil discourse in the national healthcare debate.

Thanksgivings: The witness of Hermann's friend Gert.

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book STJ: Sing the Journey

**Please stand if you are able*



Faith Mennonite Church

Pastor: Joetta Schlabach
Ministry Staff Person: Michael Bischoff

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

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FMC OFFICE HOURS: August 17-21

Pastor: Tues, Wed & Thurs 10-4; Fri 9-noon. Joetta is open to receiving phone calls at home on Monday and Wednesday evening from 7-8:30 p.m. Joetta will be attending the annual Mennonite-Catholic Bridgefolk gathering at Laurelville Mennonite Center in Pennsylvania, Aug 21-24.

Michael Bischoff: Thurs 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

Car Sabbath – August 30

The Missions & Service Commission invites the congregation to take part in another Car Sabbath on the last Sunday of August. The purpose of Car Sabbath is to challenge ourselves to occasionally let our cars rest for an entire day. While this may not be possible for folks who live at greater distances, we encourage those who can to walk, bike, take transit, carpool, or explore other creative modes of transportation!

Save the date: FMC will host a community event called "**Who are the Mennonites?**" on the afternoon of Sunday, October 25, from approximately 2:00 - 5:00 pm. **Note that the date has changed.** Please mark this time down in your calendars. More details to come soon. Contact Michael Bischoff (612-521-1889) with questions and ideas.

Church Meetings and Events

Aug 18 – Lectionary Discussion Group, 8:30 a.m., Trotter's Restaurant, SP (1 Peter 2: 9-17)

August 19 – Deacon's, 9:30 a.m., Richardson's

August 19 – Missions & Service, 7 p.m., FMC library

August 22 – Sunday School teacher orientation, 9-11 a.m., FMC

August 30 – Back to School Sunday / Car Sabbath

September 7 – FMC Labor Day Bash, Minnehaha Park Blue Grass Festival, time TBA

You've got mail...



Summer 2009

Festival & Sale for World Relief

- **We are looking for folks to sponsor hand crafted wood products** that will be auctioned off at the **Festival and Sale for World Relief** (a/k/a Twin City MCC Relief Sale) in November. Donors are generally at a \$300 level. If you can't swing \$300, join together with a friend or two or five, and create a group sponsorship! Your efforts in helping cover the cost of the sale is most appreciated. Donation forms and a lot of other information at www.tcmccreliefsale.org. See Thaine Dirks, Teresa Wasick, or Glenn Geissinger if you have questions.
- **Pre-Order Your Favorites! Festival and Sale for World Relief** will be offering a way to pre-order Russian Mennonite foods for you to bring home and enjoy after the festival. **The prices are \$30/ 2-dozen frozen verenicka, \$15/1-dozen frozen prieshka and \$6/pound for frozen sausage.** Contact Thaine Dirks at lapha002@umn.edu or 612-724-6450 before August 30th to order verenicka or prieshka and November 1 to order sausage. The pre-ordered food will only be available for pickup at the sale on November 14th. Orders may be limited.
- **House of Heinrich Concert, September 19, 7 p.m.,** Emmanuel Mennonite Church, 725 E 25th St., Minneapolis — A women's quintet, directed by Charles Harder, and accompanied Jan Klassen and an instrumental group. There will be a free-will offering. The **Menno' Faith Men's Ensemble** will provide opening music for this concert. Refreshments will be available.

Wilderness Wind — Fall is coming - perfect time to head to the beautiful north woods for a retreat.

Colors of Fall: quilters, scrapbookers, and creator's retreat, October 1-4, 2009 Wilderness Wind, Ely, Minnesota.

Let your laughter join that of the loons as we quilt, create and bask in the in the spectacular colors of fall. Our days will be rich and fluid with time for creative expression, good conversation and opportunities to soak in the beauty of fall. Knitting, sewing, hiking, and quilting on baby quilt for MCC Relief Sale. www.wildernesswind.org, or kathy@wildernesswind.org, or call 218-365-5873. **Flyers on table by mailboxes.**

Hebrews 11:1-12:2

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death... By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going... For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son... By faith Isaac invoked blessings for the future on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph... By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ... By faith he left Egypt, unafraid of the king's anger; for he persevered as though he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned.

By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, . . . , they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of 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

Sunday school teachers — Orientation meeting Saturday, August 22 at Faith, 9 to 11 a.m. For more information contact Kristin Green.

There is a new sign-up form for Fellowship Volunteers

All spaces are open for the rest of August, September and October. If you are willing to provide a snack for the fellowship time after our services and help clean up, please find a date that works for you and sign up. We would like to have two volunteers per Sunday.

Next Tour of Families Moving, Tours are on the 1st Thursday (4:30 p.m.) and **3rd Wednesday (11:30 a.m.) August 19**, of each month. These are informative sessions about family homelessness crisis in our community and how Families Moving Forward is working to help meet the growing need for shelter and housing. This is not a fundraiser and will only take 59 minutes (guaranteed!). 1810 Emerson Ave. N., Mpls, MN 55411. Phone 612-529-2185.

Sunday, August 30 - Car Sabbath —On Car Sabbath we challenge ourselves to let our cars rest for an entire day. We encourage those who live within a reasonable distance to walk, bike, take transit, carpool or explore other creative modes of transportation.

Back to School Sundays, August 30 and September 6

As the time of year approaches when families are buying school supplies, we encourage families and other individuals to buy extra supplies for School Kits for Mennonite Central Committee. We will collect school kits on August 30 and September 6. A complete school kit includes (all new):

- 4 spiral or perforated notebooks (about 21.5cm x 27cm / 8.5" x 10.5" and 70 sheets
- 4 unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler flat, flexible plastic; indicating both 30cm and 12")
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- large pencil eraser

Kits can be brought in plastic bags or in double drawstring cloth bags (28cm x 40.6cm / 11in x 16in). Directions for making the bags are found at <http://mcc.org/kits/kitbags/>. A few cloth bags are available at church.

We also invite school age children to bring their personal backpack on either of these Sundays. During children's time we will offer a "Backpack Blessing" for children as they return to school.