

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

August 29, 2010

Stories of God's People

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship** from *Words for Worship 2*

Response: Gather us in!

***Hymns:** "Jesus calls us here to meet him" #3 STJ, vv. 1-3

"Give me Jesus" #45 STJ, v. 1

Alt 2: For such a time as this (3x), give us courage.

Give us courage, (2x)

For such a time as this, give us courage.

Alt 3: For such a time as this (3x), grant us peace.

Grant us peace, O Lord (2x)

For such a times as this, grant us peace

Prayer of confession: #699 HWB

Children's gathering song: "Come and see" #20 HWB

Children's time: Backpack blessing & the Story of Esther

Song: "Obey my voice" #163 HWB

Old Testament Reading: Esther 4

Sermon: "For such a time as this"

Hymn: "How clear is our vocation, Lord" #541 HWB

Sharing: Eric Kasper

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

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book STJ: Sing the Journey

**Please stand if you are able*

Announcements (please give in writing to worship leader)

Introduction of guests

***Sung Benediction:** "Take, O take me as I am" #81 STJ

***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

Fellowship time – 10:45

TODAY: Queen Esther

Worship Leader: The Hendricks family **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

Song Leader: Hermann Weinlick **Piano:** Melissa Falb

Ushers: Rachel Hoskins & Paula Okerstrom

Nursery: Gerald Schlabach & Clea Roth Gingerich

Fellowship: Kathleen Harder & Joan Wing

NEXT SUNDAY: Mother God Labors to Birth the World / Communion

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach **Children's Time:** Joan Kreider

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

Ushers: Darrell Martin & **volunteer needed**

Nursery: **2 volunteers needed**

Fellowship: **volunteers needed**

***School age children are invited to bring their backpacks next Sunday for a backpack blessing.*

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.

Aug 22: Attendance: 73 Offering: \$2286.00; Designated: \$1,000

Note: Our year-to-date offerings at the end of July were \$21,000 below our budgeted needs for this year. Approximately \$2,500 is needed each Sunday to meet our budgeted ministry goals for 2010.

Faith Mennonite Church

Pastor: Joetta Schlabach

Ministry Staff Person: Kathleen Remund

Deacons: Kami Blackwell Kinney, Greg Renstrom
Neil Okerlund, Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick

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FMC OFFICE HOURS: Aug 30-Sept 3

Pastor: Mon 1-5; Wed, Thurs 9-4; Friday 9-noon. Joetta is open to receiving phone calls at home on Monday and Wednesday evening from 7-8:30 p.m.

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

Office Assistant: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Email all bulletin items before Wednesday evening to:

faithmc@faithmennonite.org. Bulletin is finalized and printed on Thursday.

Save the date – September 25 – FMC All Church Fall ½-day Retreat

The Retreat Committee is designing a **Saturday morning retreat** with several optional afternoon activities on September 25. Our theme will be “Meeting New Neighbors...around the corner and around the world.” We’ll hear from a new immigrant who came to Minnesota as a refugee and from Aryn Baxter who has returned from two years in Africa. Special activities for children and a noon meal prepared and served by members of the Hmong Mennonite Church. We’ll meet at Matthews Center and FMC. Mark your calendar and watch for more information coming soon!

Church Meetings and Events

August 31 – Lectionary Discussion (Matthew 13:33), 8:30 a.m. Trotter’s,

Corner of Marshall and Cleveland, SP

September 5 – Car Sabbath

September 5 – Immigration Vigil, 2:30 p.m. – 3 p.m., Ramsey Co.

Detention Center

September 7 – Biblical Encounter (Luke 5:1-11), Library, 7-8 p.m.

September 8 – Church Council, 7 p.m., FMC

September 10-11 – Families Moving Forward, evening, Union

Congregational UCC, 3100 Alabama Ave., St. Louis Park

September 11 – Birthday Brunch, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Schlabachs

September 12 – Christian Education program begins, noon potluck

September 15 – Deacon’s Commission, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Richardsons

September 18 – Church work day, 8 a.m.

September 19 – Interior Design Committee, after worship

September 25 – All church fall retreat, 9 am-1pm, Matthews Center & FMC

November 13 – Twin Cities MCC Relief Sale

Esther 4

When Mordecai learned [that an order had gone out to destroy all Jews], he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; he went up to the entrance of the king’s gate, for no one might enter the king’s gate clothed with sackcloth. In every province, wherever the king’s command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

When Esther’s maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth; but he would not accept them. Then Esther called for Hathach, one of her attendants, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king’s gate, and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman, [one of the king’s lead officials,] had promised to pay into the king’s treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and entreat him for her people.

Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, ‘All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days.’

When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, ‘Do not think that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.’ Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, ‘Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.’ Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

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

FMC Custodial Position Open Michelle Hutchins, who served as custodian the past 2 ½ years has resigned and the Trustees are accepting applications for this 10-hour-per-week position. A job description is posted on the foyer bulletin board. Application deadline is September 7.

FMC Fall Cleaning Day – September 18, 8:00 a.m. Mark your calendars! If you are able, we appreciate many hands making light work for everyone. If you have noticed something in particular around the building that needs attention, please let one of the Trustees (Glenn, Mark, or Nikki) or Joetta know as soon as possible and we'll put it on the list. More details follow...

Car Sabbath, September 5. As a way to decrease our congregational carbon footprint, the Missions & Service Commission invites all who are able to observe a Car Sabbath several Sundays each year. Next Sunday, consider walking, riding a bike, carpooling or taking public transportation.

September 5, 2:30-3 p.m. Monthly Faith Action for Immigration Reform, Ramsey Co. Detention Center, 425 Grove Street, St. Paul

FMC South Minneapolis Potluck, Fridays, 6 p.m., SE corner of Powderhorn Park, corner of 15th Avenue and 35th Street. New participants welcome! Cancelled for rain.

Families Moving Forward, Sept. 10-11. Thank you to all who volunteered! FMC volunteers will help with dinner (preparers, servers, cleanup) and evening activities for the children of homeless families in temporary shelter at Union Congregational UCC, 3100 Alabama Ave., St. Louis Park. For more information or changes in signup, contact Pat Eliason.

It's time for MCC School Kits! The MCC warehouses are extremely low on school kits and there are requests for over 40,000 school kits from partner organizations around the world. The complete list and instructions for making a school kit bag can be found at mcc.org/kits/school. **Please bring completed kits by September 12.**

The **Twin Cities MCC Relief Sale** is scheduled for **November 13th**. The "Services and Gift Certificates" group would like donations for the live or silent auction. The possibilities for this are limitless. **Contact Thaine Dirks before September 1st if you have services to donate.**

Your **donation of household items** can help welcome a refugee into a new life in Minnesota. Current needs include blankets, winter coats, and pots and pans. For more information contact Dan Huynh at (612) 230-3227, **MN Council of Churches.**