

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

November 9, 2008

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship** (from Wisdom of Solomon 6:14-20)

L: Those who rise early to seek wisdom, will have no trouble for she is found sitting at the gate.

C: Wisdom goes about seeking those worthy of her and she graciously appears to them in their paths, meets them in every thought.

L: The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction, and concern for instruction is love of her, and love of her is the keeping of her laws, and giving heed to her laws is assurance of immortality, and immortality brings one near to God...

All: All who desire to lead must honor wisdom.

***Hymns:** "Praise with joy the world's Creator" #16 STJ
"Come, Holy Spirit" #33 STJ

Old Testament Reading: Amos 5:18-24

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

Children's Time: "Shopping Bag Wisdom"

Hymn: "Long before my journey's start" #36 STJ

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon: "Getting on the right bus"

Hymn: "O breathe on me, O breath of God" #46 STJ (v. 1-3)

Congregational Sharing & 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:** "O healing river" #372 HWB

***Benediction**

***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

- **Fellowship time - 10:45-11:15 a.m.**

- **Children's music – 11 a.m.**, Room 201, education wing

- **Education for all ages – 11:15-noon**

Adult classes:

- Reading the Bible from a feminist perspective—Library
Today's topic: "The meaning of Headship"
- Politics & Spirituality – Sanctuary

TODAY: Guided by Justice and Wisdom

Worship & Song Leader: Pierre Gingerich-Boberg

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Piano: Cathy Smetana

Childcare: Gerald Schlabach and Volunteer Needed

Fellowship time: Donna Stucky and Arlene Geissinger

NEXT SUNDAY: Loving our Immigrant Neighbors

Worship Leader: Pierre Gingerich-Boberg

Sermon: Loren McGrail

Song Leader: Hermann Weinlick

Piano: Melissa Falb

Childcare: Cindy Bjork and Volunteer Needed

Fellowship time: Beth Richardson and Melissa Hochstetler

Next Sunday, Loren McGrail, a UCC pastor and Seward neighbor, will preach about the role of the church in responding to the needs of immigrants and advocating for humane immigration reform. She will also join the Politics and Spirituality adult education class discussion.

A parent resource room is directly below the sanctuary, between the men's and women's washrooms. 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.

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: Cleta Roth Gingerich, Candace Lautt, Mike Okerstrom
Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick

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FMC OFFICE HOURS: November 10-14

Pastor: Wed & Thurs. 9-4; Friday 9-noon. Joetta is open to receiving phone calls at home on Mon and Wed from 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday is a study day.

Michael Bischoff: Thursday, 9 a.m. - noon

Office Assistant: Dan will be out of the office Nov. 10 – Dec. 2.

If you have some time to help with office tasks please contact the church office 612-375-9483 or email us at faithmc@faithmennonite.org.

Email all bulletin items before Thursday evening to:

faithmc@faithmennonite.org

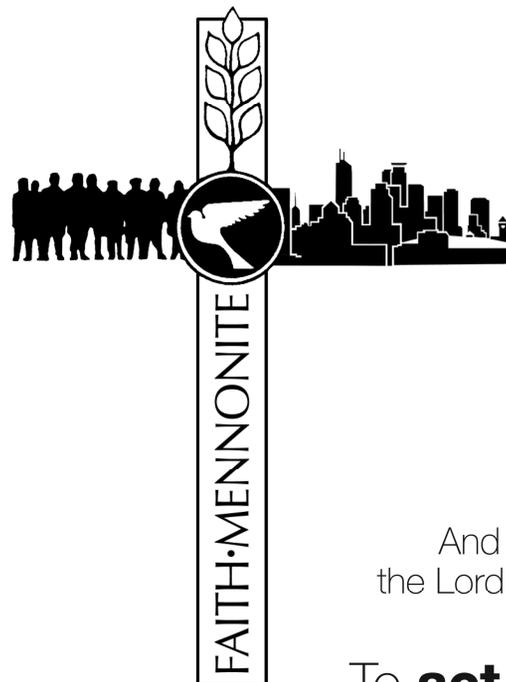
Thanksgiving Dinner Sign-up. If you do not currently have plans for Thanksgiving Day, consider gathering with other FMC folks to enjoy the day. Please sign up on the interest sheet on the fellowship area table, and indicate whether you would be willing to host a gathering at your home.

Michael Bischoff, Ministry Staff person, will hold a meeting during the Christian Education hour on Nov. 16 for any people interested in speaking with him who haven't been able to come to other sessions. He is listening for 1) the dreams we have for ways our church can become more connected with the community and can share our peacemaking commitments, and 2) our personal passions, gifts, ways we feel God working in our own lives.

Lectionary Discussion Group, Nov. 11, 8:30 a.m., Joetta is starting a weekly lectionary discussion group to discuss scriptures for the upcoming Sundays. Anyone may participate. Trotter's Restaurant, corner of Cleveland and Marshall, St. Paul. Nov. 11, Eze 34:1124; Ps 95; Eph 1:15-23; Matt 25:31-46.

Church Meetings and Events

- November 10 – Church Council, 7 p.m., FMC
- November 11 – Lectionary Discussion, 8:30 a.m., Trotters
- November 11 – Missions & Service Commission, 1 p.m., FMC
- November 11 – Gifts Discernment Committee, 4:30 p.m., FMC
- November 19 – Deacon Commission, 2:30 p.m., Richardson's
- November 19 – Retreat Committee Evaluation Mtg. 5 p.m., Schlabach's
- November 23 – Church Membership Sunday, Pie Social, Noon



And what does
the Lord require of you?

To **act justly** and
to **love mercy**
and to **walk humbly**
with your God.

Micah 6:8

**Come,
walk with us.**

November 9, 2008

Amos 5:18-24

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord!

Why do you want the day of the Lord?

It is darkness, not light;

as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Matthew 25:1-13

‘Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

L: For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Budget debt counseling — Mennonite Mutual Aid (MMA) offers you help in reviewing your spending habits, debts and budget. MMA offers **free budgeting and debt counseling** through LSS Financial Counseling to help with your basic finances and debt issues. Call your MMA advisor or 800 809-0039 to learn more about this service.

Neil Okerlund’s woodwind quintet, *Prevailing Winds*, will perform a recital **Monday, Nov. 17, 2008, 7:00 p.m.** Free and open to the public. St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Avenue West, St. Paul.

Every Church a Peace Church bimonthly potluck supper meeting, Monday, November 10, 6:30 p.m. Presentation by **Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer** entitled “US Foreign Policy Change: An Urgent Matter For Churches?” Everyone welcome. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E 31st St., Mpls.

Women’s Gallery and Lunch Outing, Saturday, Nov. 22 — FMC women are invited to have lunch and then visit the Catherine G Murphy Gallery at the College of St. Catherine to view the exhibit: *Vanishing, The Wonderland of Aging*. We’ll meet at St. Martin’s Table for lunch at 11:30 then arrive at the gallery (2400 Randolph Av., St. Paul) around 1 p.m. Lunch is optional. Let Joetta know if you plan to attend.

MCC Relief Sale News

- **Thank you** to all the volunteers who helped yesterday at the Festival and Sale for World Relief. Throughout the year there also have been dedicated individuals who created products to sell, planned the events, worked at different fund-raising opportunities and managed the dozens of details for the sale. Your help is vitally important; it assists MCC to carry out its mission and is much appreciated.
- **MCC Sale Benefit Night at Ten Thousand Villages**, 867 Grand Avenue, St. Paul. On **Tuesday, November 11th between 5:00pm and 8:00pm** 20% of the evening's sales will be donated to the TC MCC Relief Sale. Tuesday evening would be the time to have your money go farther in helping MCC by doing some of your holiday shopping at Ten Thousand Villages.
- **MCC Relief Sale Debriefing Meeting, Saturday, November 15** starting at 9:45 a.m. It will be at the Gramercy Park Co-op Meeting Room, 1669 Yankee Doodle Road in Eagan. A continental breakfast will be provided. The meeting is open to everyone interested and involved with the sale. The events of the sale will be reviewed, with a look forward to making the day better in the future. Bring your ideas and opinions. RSVP to Thaine Dirks at 612-850-8419 or lapha002@umn.edu.