

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

November 27, 2011 – First Sunday of Advent

“Awesome deeds we do not expect”

Prelude

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Leader: Get up! Pay attention and prepare to follow.

People: The Shepherd of Israel leads us like a flock.

Leader: Get up! God’s face is about to shine upon us.

People: No ear has heard nor eye seen God’s full glory!

Leader: Get up! God’s salvation is near.

People: The mighty One tears open the heavens and comes down.

*Hymns: “O God of mystery and might” #130 HWB

“O holy Spirit, by whose Breath” #291 HWB (vs. 1, 3 & 4)

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

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

Children’s time: “Watching for the light” – John Ratigan

Song: “Lo, how a Rose e’re blooming” #211 HWB

Gospel reading: Mark 13:24-37

Sermon: “The Shape of our Longing”

Story: “Pay Attention!”

Hymn: “Lord, you sometimes speak” #594 HWB

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 “Alleluia” - Menno’Faith, Neil Okerlund, director

Announcements (please give in writing to worship leader)

Introduction of guests

***Sending hymn:** “Listen God is calling” #42 STJ

*Benediction

Leader: Go into the world, awake and aware of God’s presence!

People: We go into the world listening for God’s voice.

Leader: Go into the world, watching for the activity in God’s kingdom!

People: We go into the world, following in the footsteps of Jesus.

Leader: Go into the world, receiving the hope of salvation!

People: We go into the world, reflecting the Spirit’s radiance.

*Passing the Peace / Postlude

Community Time

10:40 a.m. Fellowship time

There are no education classes today.

TODAY: Advent 1: Learning to Pay Attention

Worship leader: Shawn Helmeke

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Donna Stucky

Piano: Karen Zeug

Ushers: Paula Okerstrom

Nursery: Andy Martinson and Kristi Zabriskie

NEXT SUNDAY: Advent 2: Changing the Landscape / Communion

Worship leader: Marybeth Luig

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Anna Gambucci

Organ: Jim Kuebelbeck

Ushers: Nikki Nafziger & Cori Skogerboe

Nursery: Susan Weinlick & Ann Semanchin-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.

Nov 20: Attendance: 80 **Offering:** \$2340.00

(Remaining budgeted needs in 2011: approx. \$32,000)

Thank you to the Advent Worship Planning Committee: Anna Gambucci, Arlene Geissing, Kristin Green, Shawn Helmeke, Chris Jones, and Marybeth Luig

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book STJ: Sing the Journey

**Please stand if you are able*

Faith Mennonite Church
Pastor: Joetta Schlabach
Office & Ministry Support: Phil Stoltzfus
Deacons: Aryn Baxter, Shelly Hendricks
Donna Minter, Neil Okerlund, Beth Richardson

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FMC OFFICE HOURS: Nov 28-December 2

Pastor: Mon 1-5; Wed 11:30-4:30; Thurs 9-4; Fri 9-noon. Tuesday is a study day.

Office & Ministry Support Assistant: Tues-Wed, 8:30-12:30; Thurs 10-4

Email all bulletin items before Wednesday evening to:

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

Soup Group is an opportunity for our church community to share meals together on a regular basis. The usual schedule is 1st Monday, 2nd Tuesday, 3rd Thursday, and 4th Friday, with occasional exceptions due to holidays, etc. A simple meal of soup and bread is shared. Upcoming dates:

- **Friday, Dec. 2** — home of Joan Kreider, Phil & Candace will give an update on the CPT Peacemaker Congress that they attended in Chicago on Oct. 13-16. Please RSVP to Joan by Wednesday, Nov. 30,
- **Tuesday, Dec. 13** — hosted by Marybeth Luing & Gregg & Beth Richardson, S.P. RSVP

Church Meetings and Events

November 29 – Lectionary Discussion Gp, 8:30 a.m., Trotter's Café, SP

November 30 – Deacon Commission, 9 a.m. Richardson home

December 1 – Missions & Service Commission, 6:30 p.m., Chapel

December 2 & 3 – Seward Art Crawl, Sanctuary

December 6 – Worship commission, 6:30 p.m.

December 10 – Birthday Brunch, 9:30 a.m., Schlabach's

December 11 – Christmas Carol Sing-along, 7 p.m., Kreider's

December 14 – Church Council, 7 p.m., Chapel

December 18 – Christmas program and cookie social, 4:30 p.m.

64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Mark 13:24-37

‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. (over)

Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

Leader: 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.

Words as we find and light the Advent candles

Finders: We are awake and watching. . . .

We see a flicker of light and want to share it!

All: Thanks be to God for giving us light!

Let us keep watch and not quench the Spirit.

Finders: We waited. We watched. We thought we knew why. . . .

Yet we are surprised by God’s trust: Who else would risk sending Jesus into this uncertain world, not as a military commander or a king, but as a newborn baby?

All: We are surprised by God’s tenderness: Who else would welcome open-armed all people, to join in the same body? Thanks, thanks be to God!

Seward Art Crawl at Faith Mennonite Church Dan Leisen and Michael Okerstrom are preparing their work for show and sale in the Seward Art Crawl. Support the arts, and come see what our local artists and craft makers have been creating. **Friday evening, Dec. 2, 5-7:30 p.m. and on Saturday, Dec 3, Noon-5:30 p.m.** Saturday we will have the added enjoyment of music provided by several musicians including: Chris Jones, Marybeth Luing, Adam Nafziger and others. For more info see poster on bulletin board or go to www.sewardarts.org.

December Birthday Brunch, Saturday, Dec. 10 If you or a family member has a birthday in December, pastor Joetta invites you to her home, for brunch from 9:30-11 a.m. This invitation is for the whole family and significant others, not just the birthday person. Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the fellowship area.

Announcements

Several people will be received into **membership in our congregation on Sunday, December 18**. If there are others who would like to consider membership at this time, please contact pastor Joetta or one of the deacons.

For anyone who wishes to receive a subscription, FMC provides *one* Mennonite publication for members or regular attenders. You can choose from either the monthly denominational magazine *The Mennonite*, or the *Mennonite Weekly Review*. We are currently **renewing our group subscriptions to *The Mennonite***. Anyone who doesn't already have another subscription and would like to receive this monthly magazine may **sign up** on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary or by emailing the office at faithmc@faithmennonite.org. **Shared copies of publications** are located on the magazine rack. Anyone may borrow copies as needed.

Advent choir rehearsal. Men & women are invited to **one rehearsal** during the education hour on **December 11**, to prepare for a **Sunday worship performance on December 18th**. All are invited, even if you don't consider yourself a good music reader. – *Neil Okerlund*

Parents, you can bring faith into focus during the holidays by **observing Advent at home**. Find a **free devotional guide online** at www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/Home. *Surprised by Awesome Deeds* has daily Bible readings, prayers and activities for every week from November 27 through January 8. Also, watch for the December issue of *Scattered Seeds* for practical ways to nurture faith at home. – *Central Plains Conference*

All are welcome at an **Advent Evening Prayer Series at Sabbath House**, a time of seasonal readings, music, and quiet during the Mondays of Advent. Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 7-8:00 p.m., 3228 Portland Ave. S, Mpls. For more information, call: 612-822-2623.

Mennonite Central Committee Christmas Giving. This Christmas, share the joy with others around the world by selecting a gift from MCC. Simple gifts make a big difference. The gift of **education** provides a brighter future for children and communities. The gift of **friendship** helps MCC reach out to newcomers, showing God's love for all. The gift of **peace** helps people build understanding and harmony where they live. Explore gift options at mcc.org/christmas or make checks payable to MCC and send them to MCC Central States, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117.

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