

**FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH**  
December 11, 2011 – Third Sunday of Advent  
“Awesome deeds we do not expect”

**Prelude**  
**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: We bring to God this day the truth of who we are,  
our scarred and broken hearts,  
our grief-filled, shattered dreams.

**People: We bring to God this day the truth of where we live,  
our broken homes and our wars,  
our hungry mouths and our fears.**

Leader: The One who called us here is faithful; God will bring us to  
the light.

**People: We worship as we wait for the day when tears are turned  
to joy.**

**\*Hymns:** “Longing for Light” #54 STJ  
“Give to the winds thy fears” #561 HWB (vv. 1, 2, 4)

**Old Testament reading:** Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11

**Children’s gathering song:** “Come and see” #20 HWB  
**Children’s time:** Hermann Weinlick  
**Song:** “Lo, how a rose e’re blooming” #211 HWB (v. 1)

**New Testament reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**Sermon:** “Rejoice, pray, give thanks”

**Story**

**Hymn:** “Lord, you sometimes speak in wonders” #594 HWB (vv. 1, 4, 5)

**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**

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**

**\*Sending hymn:** “Hark! The glad sound!” #184 HWB

**\*Benediction**

**\*Passing the Peace / Postlude**

**Community Time**

**10:40 a.m.** Fellowship time

**11:00 a.m.** Faith Formation classes for all ages. Visitors are welcome to  
join any class. Adult options:

- In the beginning...creativity – Library (today: Gordon Kaufman video)
- Trauma healing – Basement fellowship hall
- Anabaptist/Mennonite Faith & Practice – Pastor’s study

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**TODAY:** Advent 3: Transforming our Sorrow

**Worship leader:** Shawn Helmeke

**Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

**Song leader:** Phil Stoltzfus

**Piano:** Melissa Falb

**Ensemble:** Neil Okerlund, Phil Stoltzfus, Karen Wiebe

**Usher:** Rhonda Martin

**Nursery:** Cori Skogerboe & Arlene Geissinger

**Fellowship:** Orv & Clea Roth Gingerich **Shoveling:** Okerstroms

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Advent 4: Reordering our World / Church Membership

**Worship leader:** Shawn Helmeke

**Song leader:** Hermann Weinlick

**Piano:** Gregg Richardson

**Ushers:** Barb Beers & Nikki Fitch Nafziger

**Nursery:** Casey Englund & Andy Martinson

**Fellowship:** Arlene & Glenn Geissinger **Shoveling:** volunteer needed

*We are grateful that five people will make covenants of membership next  
Sunday: Bruce Brunner (associate), William Chittenden, Jim Kuebelbeck,  
Leah Otto, and Terry Peterson. Please hold these people in prayer.*

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*A staffed nursery for toddlers and children up to age five is located in the  
education wing. Please ask an usher if you wish to be guided to the nursery.*

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**Dec. 4:**

**Attendance:** 89

**Offering:** \$1007

(Remaining budgeted needs in 2011: approx. \$30,000)

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

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***FMC OFFICE HOURS: December 12-16***

**Pastor:** Mon 1-5; Wed 9-11, noon-5; Friday 9-noon. Tuesday is a study day. On Thursday Joetta will represent Central Plains Mennonite Conference at the semi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Council of Churches.

**Ministry Staff:** Mon 9:45-5:00; Wed, 1:30-5:00; Thurs 9:00-5:00.

***Email all bulletin items before Wednesday evening to:***

[faithmc@faithmennonite.org](mailto:faithmc@faithmennonite.org). Bulletin is finalized and printed on Thursday.

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**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!***

**Church Meetings and Events**

**Ongoing Tuesdays** – Sunday Text Study, 8:30 a.m., Trotter's Café, SP

**December 13** – Deacon/New Members Sharing, 7 p.m. Brunner/ Minters

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

**December 18** – Deacon/New Members Sharing, 8 a.m. Hendricks

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

**December 21** – Deacon Commission, 9 a.m., Richardsons

**December 28** – January newsletter deadline, noon to G. Richardson

**January 11** – 2011 Annual Reports due

**February 5** – 2012 Annual Meeting

### **Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11**

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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**

**Tonight, 7 p.m.**, you're invited to a festive **Christmas Carol Sing-along!** **Note venue change:** Minter/Brunner home. Hot cider provided, please bring holiday cookies and treats.

This Sunday is the **last chance** to add your name to **FMC's group subscription to *The Mennonite***. Sign-up in the back or email the office.

**Soup Group, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 6 p.m.**, hosted by Marybeth Luing at the home of Beth & Gregg Richardson. Everyone welcome! RSVP to Marybeth Luing.

**Annual Homeless Memorial March, Service, and Meal – Wednesday, Dec. 14. 5 p.m.** Hennepin County Government Center, 3rd Ave. S and 5th St. S, march and silent vigil; **6:30** remembrance service with speaker State Rep. Jeff Hayden and music, followed at **7:30** by a community meal, Simpson United Methodist Church, 2740 1st Ave. S, Mpls.

**Calling all crafters!** Bring your crafts to the church on **Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7-9 p.m.** in the library, light snacks provided. All are welcome!

**Community Emergency Service** is looking for **volunteer musicians for Saturday, Dec. 17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.** to play/sing for CES's annual Christmas distribution. Contact Lynn Peterson.

**Parents of children** third grade and up: if you have a **solid color child's bathrobe, please bring it to church** next Sunday. We will use them for the Christmas program on Dec. 18. Contact Kristin Green.

**FMC Women's Retreat/getaway is coming up the 3rd weekend in January** (Friday, 1/20 through Sunday, 1/22) at an out-of-town location within an hour's drive of the Twin Cities. The retreat goals are to provide opportunities for reflection and rich conversations about the meaning of life and our spiritual journeys, have fun, and together enjoy breathing space away from our traditional routines. There is no fee, but contributions can be made to FMC with "Women's Retreat" in the memo line. **We need to know by Sunday, Dec. 18 how many women can join this retreat weekend.** Please RSVP to Beth Richardson.

A thank-you card/photo from **Ry & Marcia** is on the foyer bulletin board.

**Melanie Brunner**, Bruce's daughter and Donna's stepdaughter is a junior in college, majoring in Human Resources and Spanish. She **is available for work doing odd jobs, Jan. 4-19** to contribute to her college fund.

**One Voice Mixed Choir "Brave Souls and Dreamers" Concerts:** Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m., Carlson Foley Performing Arts Center, St. Francis (free); Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m. and Jan. 22, 3:30 p.m., Hopkins High School, Minnetonka (\$10-25). For more info: [www.ovmc.org](http://www.ovmc.org). –Joan Wing