

## FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

December 18, 2011 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

“Awesome deeds we do not expect”

### Prelude

### Welcome

### \*Call to Worship

Leader: Our souls magnify you, Lord,

**People: our spirits rejoice in you, our Savior.**

Leader: You have looked with favor on your servants,

**People: chosen us in our lowliness rather than our strength.**

Leader: All generations can see that we are blessed,

**People: for you have done great things, and holy is your name.**

\*Hymns: “My soul is filled with joy” #13 STJ – Menno’ Faith

(congregation on refrain)

“O Savior, rend the heavens” #175 HWB (vv. 1, 3, 5)

**Old Testament reading:** 2 Samuel 7:1-11

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

**Children’s time:** Chris Jones

**Song:** “Lo, how a rose e’re blooming” #211 HWB (v. 1)

**New Testament reading:** Romans 16:25-27

**Sharing by new members**

**New Member Commitment & Congregational Response** #794 HWB

**Hymn:** “Lord, you sometimes speak in wonders” #594 HWB (vv. 1, 2, 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** “People Look East” – choir directed by Neil Okerlund

Angels announce with shouts of mirth

him who brings new life to earth.

Let every peak and valley humming

with the word, the Lord is coming.

People look east, and sing today:

Love, the Lord, is on the way.

**Announcements** (please give in writing to worship leader)

**Introduction of guests**

\***Sending hymn:** “Praise the One who breaks the darkness” (insert)

\***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
- Trauma healing – Basement fellowship hall
- Anabaptist/Mennonite Faith & Practice – Pastor’s study

---

**TODAY:** Advent 4: Reordering our World / Church Membership

**Worship leader:** Shawn Helmeke

**Song leader:** Hermann Weinlick

**Piano:** Gregg Richardson

**Brass quartet:** Matthew Blackwell Kinney, Neil Okerlund, Gregg Richardson, Matthew Thomas

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

**Nursery:** Casey Englund & Andy Martinson

**Fellowship:** Arlene & Glenn Geissinger **Shoveling:** Darrell Martin

*Today we joyfully welcome five people who will make covenants of membership: Bruce Brunner (associate), William Chittenden, Jim Kuebelbeck, Leah Otto, and Terry Peterson.*

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Christmas – A service of Lessons & Carols

**Worship leader:** Marybeth Luig

**Piano:** Sandra Westby

**Organ:** Jim Kuebelbeck

**Ushers:** Cori Skogerboe & Darrell Martin

**Nursery:** volunteers needed

**Shoveling:** Andy Martinson

---

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book STJ: Sing the Journey

\*Please stand if you are able

---

*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.*

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

2720 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406 Ph: 612-375-9483  
E: faithmc@faithmennonite.org Web: www.faithmennonite.org

**FMC OFFICE HOURS: December 19-23**

**Pastor:** Mon 1-5; Wed noon-5; Thurs 10:30-5. Tuesday is a study day.

**Ministry Staff:** Mon 9:45-5:00; Tues 9:45-5:00.

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

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

---

**Dec 11: Attendance:** 107      **Offering:** \$4996  
(Remaining budgeted needs in 2011: approx. \$25,000; please consider an end-of-year gift to FMC if you are able to do so.)

---

---

**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!***

**2 Samuel 7:1-11**

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

**Romans 16:25-27**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

**Christmas Program & Cookie Social, 4:30 p.m. today.** We invite everyone to return this afternoon for our children's program and cookie social. The children will present a drama, "The Shepherds." We will take an offering of cash or packages of disposable diapers in response to a request from Tapestry Pregnancy and Family Resource Center, a south Minneapolis agency that offers support to women and children in crisis. Please bring a plate of cookies to share.

**Sabbatical coverage plan.** The sabbatical committee and church council are pleased to announce that Phil Stoltzfus and Donna Stucky will provide administrative and pastoral support during Joetta's sabbatical from January 2 to March 11, 2012. Phil has agreed to increase his office/ministry staff hours from 25 hours per week to 32 hours per week, which includes preaching one Sunday. Donna will provide pastoral care support for 75 hours over the ten-week period, and she will also preach one Sunday. The worship commission is identifying people from within and outside of the congregation to preach the remaining Sundays. If you have questions about the sabbatical period, please contact a member of the sabbatical committee: Shelly Hendricks, Gregg Richardson and Hermann Weinlick.

**Women's Retreat, January 20-22. We need to know by TODAY, Dec. 18, how many women will attend.** Please speak with Beth Richardson or RSVP to Beth Richardson.

**Kristi Zabriskie will be singing** with the choral ensemble Sonomento in **Handel's Messiah** this evening, 6 p.m. at MacPhail Center for Music, 501 South 2nd Street, Mpls. (\$10)

**Christmas Eve Services.** We will not hold a Christmas Eve service, but neighboring churches invite us to join them:

- **Emmanuel Mennonite Church invites you to a Christmas Eve service, Saturday, Dec. 24,** at 725 E. 25th St., Minneapolis, beginning at **6:30 p.m.** The service will include stories of interest to all ages, including children. –*Mathew Swora, pastor*
- **Bethany Lutheran Church, 2511 E. Franklin Avenue,** also invites the community to their **4 p.m. Festive Christmas Eve Worship.**

On Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. the Twin Cities Peace Campaign will hold the 14th annual **Candlelight Service for the Children of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan and Other Child Victims of War.** It will be held at: St. Joan of Arc Church, 4537 Third Ave. S. Mpls. Over the years this has come to be known as a very meaningful and moving event. FMC is one of many community cosponsors.

**MCC urgently needs 10,000 school kits and 10,000 hygiene kits** to replenish its supply. Shipments to places like drought-affected East Africa have largely drained MCC's warehouses. **Please consider donating a kit this Christmas** (details about MCC kits can be found at [mcc.org/kits](http://mcc.org/kits)). Explore all the MCC gift options and discover more ways to share the joy at [mcc.org/christmas](http://mcc.org/christmas) or make checks payable to MCC and send them to MCC Central States PO Box 235 North Newton, KS 67117.

**Mennonite Mission Network** and Mennonite Partners in China **seek a teacher/administrator for the English-language program of the Nanjing Theological Seminary**, beginning in Fall 2012. A B.A. in English or an education-related field is required; an MA degree in ESL or education is preferred. Several years of English-language teaching experience, preferably in China or a similar overseas location, are required. Apply at [www.MennoniteMission.net](http://www.MennoniteMission.net).

Want to serve next year alongside a church and community to make a difference? Apply now to Mennonite Mission Network's year-long programs! **Mennonite Voluntary Service, Radical Journey, Service Adventure and DOOR Dwell are all accepting applications for Fall 2012.** Visit [Service.MennoniteMission.net](http://Service.MennoniteMission.net) for applications and details.

**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, 2012** to contribute to her college fund. If you need someone who is a conscientious hard worker with a positive attitude to clean, babysit, or do pretty much whatever, please send her an email with the subject line (Odd Job) or call or text.

Are you **looking for childcare**? Kristin Green's friend Anne is looking to do childcare. Please talk to Kristin or call if interested.

### Church Meetings and Events

**December 20** – Sunday Text Study, 8:30 a.m., Trotter's Café, SP

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

**December 28** – January newsletter deadline, noon to Gregg Richardson

**January 11** – 2011 Annual Reports due

**February 5** – 2012 Annual Meeting