

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH
December 25, 2011 – Christmas Day
A service of lessons and carols

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship – Psalm 98**

- 1: O sing to God a new song, who has done wonderful deeds, Whose right hand and whose holy arm have brought salvation.
- 2: God has made salvation known, has shown justice to the nations, and has remembered the house of Israel in faithfulness and love.

All: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of our God.

- 1: Sing praise to God all the earth; ring out your joy.
- 2: Sing psalms to God with the harp, with the sound of music.
- 1: With trumpets and the sound of the horn, acclaim God.

All: Let the sea and all within it resound, the world and all its peoples.

- 2: Let the floods clap their hands;
- 1: Let the hills sing together for joy
- 2: At the presence of the Just Judge who comes, who comes to rule the earth.

All: God will rule the world with justice and the peoples with fairness.

***Hymn:** “Joy to the world” #318 HWB

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

Children’s time “From bulbs to blooms”

“What the bulb was told that bid it bloom
was given to me in my heart.” – Rumi (1207-1273)

Lighting the Christ Candle: “Come, light of the world”

Gospel reading: John 1:1-5, 10-14 #841 HWB

Hymns: “O come, all ye faithful” #212 HWB

“Morning Star, O cheering sight” #214 HWB

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Meditation

Prayer

Offering & Offertory

As you entered you received a foot-shaped piece of paper. You are invited to write an intention or desire of how you would like to “bring the good news of peace” to the world in the coming year. During the offertory, we will bring the feet forward and affix them to the mountain.

New Testament reading: Hebrews 1:1-4

Hymn: “Fairest Lord Jesus” #117 HWB

***Benediction**

***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

There will be no education classes today or next Sunday. May God bless your celebrations of Christmas and New Year with family and friends.

TODAY:

Worship leader & flute: Marybeth Luing **Piano:** Sandra Westby

Reader: Jacob Schlabach **Meditation:** Joetta Schlabach

Ushers: Cori Skogerboe & Darrell Martin

Nursery: volunteers needed **Shoveling:** Andy Martinson

NEXT SUNDAY: Parent/child dedication / Communion

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Song Leader: Karen Wiebe **Organ:** Jim Kuebelbeck

Ushers: Nikki Fitch Nafziger & Darrell Martin

Nursery: Kristen Green & Candace Lutt **Shoveling:** Thaine Dirks

Next Sunday Phil & Abra Staffin Wiebe will join in membership. We will have a parent child dedication for them and their baby Cassius Alfred and also for Terry and Justin Peterson. Please pray for these families as they make these commitments.

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.

Dec 18: **Attendance:** 100 **Offering:** \$9,488

(Remaining budgeted needs in 2011: approx. \$15,000; please consider an end-of-year gift to FMC if you are able to do so.)

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 26-30

Pastor: Thurs 9-5; Friday 9-3. Joetta and family will be in Goshen, IN, Monday-Wednesday.

Ministry Staff: Wed 10:00-5:00; Thurs 8:00-5:00.

Email all bulletin items before Wednesday evening to:

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

The Christmas giving project offering collected at our Dec. 18 Christmas program to support the diaper program of **Tapestry Pregnancy and Family Resource Center** totaled \$484.50. This included \$38 from our children's fall offerings. The funds and diapers will be delivered to Tapestry Center, located at 4105 Chicago Avenue S in Minneapolis.

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.

Church Meetings and Events

The Tuesday text studies are suspended during the pastor's sabbatical
December 28 – January newsletter deadline, noon to Gregg Richardson
January 11 – Deacon Commission, 9 a.m., Nafziger residence
January 11 – Church Council, 7 p.m., chapel
January 11 – 2011 Annual Reports due
January 18 – Worship Commission, 6:30 p.m., church office
January 18 – Missions & Service Commission, 7:00 p.m., chapel
January 20-22 – FMC Women's Retreat
February 5 – 2012 Annual Meeting

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Announcements

The **December issue of *Scattered Seeds***, from Central Plains Conference, is on the back literature shelf and also available at:
www.centralplainsmc.org/Publications

A card from **Lois & Wayne Hochstetler**, Mennonite Mission Network workers based in London, is posted on the back bulletin board: *Dear friends at Faith, We are privileged indeed to count you among our supporters of our ministry! Thank you. Thanks too for the thoughtful autumn card, and the thoughts and goodwill it represents. We have traveled a lot this year to provide encouragement, counseling, and pastoral care to mission workers. May the joy and blessings of Christmas come to you in surprising ways, now and throughout 2012. Peace, Lois & Wayne*

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). Explore all the MCC gift options and discover more ways to share the joy at mcc.org/christmas or make checks payable to MCC and send them to MCC Central States PO Box 235 North Newton, KS 67117. Joetta and Phil are transporting five boxes of kits that were delivered to the church this week to the MCC collection center in Goshen.

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.