

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

December 22, 2013 ~ O, the mystery of God's dwelling!

Inviting the mystery

Prelude

Silence

Hymn: "Joyful is the dark" #233 HWB ~ Jennifer Wandersee, flute
v. 1 – ensemble; vv. 2 & 3 – congregation

***Call to worship**

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel: Stir up your might,
and come to save us!

People: Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved

L: O Lord God, how long will you be angry with our prayers?

People: Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved

L: Let your hand be upon the one you have made strong for yourself.

Give us life that we may be saved.

All: O, the mystery of God's dwelling in the child that is born!

***Hymns:** "Let our gladness have no end" #198 HWB
v. 1 – ensemble; vv. 2 & 3 – congregation
"Lo, how a Rose e're blooming" #211 HWB

Engaging the mystery

Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Confession and lighting of the Advent Candle

**Response: In this light we celebrate forgiveness,
knowing that God dwells in the child that is born.**

Children's Gathering Song: "Come! Walk in the light"

Children's Time: "God is with us!" ~ Tyler Zabriskie

Song: "Gloria, gloria" #204 HWB

Celebrating the mystery

Scripture reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Silence

Hymn: "My soul proclaims with wonder" #181 HWB

Refrain; v 1; refrain; following verses + refrain after each person shares

Reflections: John Hershey, Ruth Johnston, and Adam Nafziger

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book

STJ: Sing the Journey

**Please stand if you are able*

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Congregational Prayer and 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 and Offertory

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 Fellowship time – Narthex (Parents: please assist children in
keeping all food and drinks in the fellowship area.)

*During fellowship time we will have a **baby shower for the Hsar Hel and Naing Po family** as they anticipate the birth of a child in January.*

- No education classes today or next Sunday. Classes resume January 5.

TODAY: Advent 4:...in the child that is born!

Worship leader: Joetta Schlabach

Piano: Karen Zeug

Song leader: Adam Nafziger

Snow: Andy Martinson

Ushers: Darrell Martin, Cori Skogerboe

Fellowship: Joan Kreider

Nursery: Kristin Green, Alisa Bardo-Martinson (Danika is away)

NEXT SUNDAY: 1st Sunday after Christmas: O, the mystery of God's
dwelling...in our distress! (Isa 63:7-9; Matthew 2:13-23)

Worship leader: Kathleen & Sophia Harder

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Hermann Weinlick

Piano: Sandra Westby

Ushers: Darrell Martin, Cori Skogerboe

Fellowship: Westbys

Nursery: Melissa Hochstetler, Tyler Zabriskie **Snow:** Melissa Hochstetler

Next Sunday we will have a time of sending and blessing for Joetta as she begins a two-month sabbatical. She will be gone from January 1 – February 26. During her absence Glenn & Arlene Geissinger will assist the deacons with pastoral care and the worship commission with worship coordination. Questions that arise can be directed to the sabbatical planning committee: Shelly Hendricks, Gregg Richardson, and Hermann Weinlick.

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: Thaine Dirks, Shelly Hendricks,
Melissa Hochstetler, Donna Minter, Adam Nafziger
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FMC office hours: December 23-27

Pastor: Mon 9-4; Tues 9-noon; Friday 10-4.

Ministry Staff: Out of town this week.

Email bulletin items by Wed. evening. Bulletin printed Thursday afternoon.

December 15:	Attendance: 94	Local Budget: \$8,099
	Weekly amount needed to meet budget: \$4,445	

Church Meetings and Events (online calendar: www.faithmennonite.org)

December 23 – January Newsletter deadline, noon, to Gregg R.

December 24 and 31 – NO Sunday text discussion group at Trotters

January 5 – All-church potluck meal, noon

January 8 – FMC Church Council Meeting, 7 p.m., chapel

January 8 – Annual commission reports due to Jennifer Wandersee

February 2 – Potluck brunch and Annual Congregational Meeting

Isaiah 7:10-14

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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.*

Announcements

Children's Sunday school Christmas giving project: Our Christmas giving project to provide **backpacks & School Supplies for homeless and highly mobile students** in Longfellow schools will continue through **January 5**. A collection box is located at the front of the sanctuary.

Following is a list of (new) items we are collecting:

- backpacks
- 3-ring 2" and 3" binders
- folders
- notebooks
- pencils
- pen cases
- clip-on reading lights
- alarm clocks (battery and electrical)

The fall children's offerings and Missions & Service commission matching contribution resulted in **\$98 that was sent to Seward Montessori School for gifts to families needing grocery assistance** during the holiday break. *—Christian Education Commission*

Cynthia Miller has created a display of **Advent and Christmas resources** that are **in our library**. You'll find them on the red and green cloth on the library table. Please borrow and enjoy! **Families with children can also find home-based Advent resources** that match our worship theme on the Mennonite Church Canada website.

Do you know of persons who do not have health insurance and **haven't yet signed up through MNSure**? The Minnesota Council of Churches, Minnesota Church Center, 122 W Franklin Avenue, has certified MnSure navigators who offer information and application assistance as follows:
Application assistance: Tuesdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (no appointment needed). **Information sessions:** Tuesdays 9-10 a.m.

Literature in the back:

- **Christian Peacemaker Teams 2014 calendars;**
- copies of the CPT quarterly *Signs of the Times*;
- copies of *Scattered Seeds* (Central Plains Conference).

On the foyer bulletin board:

- Christmas letter from **Myron & Rickey Schrag**.