

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

April 30, 2017

***Gathering Song:** “In the morning when I rise” #45 STJ

Musical Interlude

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

Leader: O God, you summon the day to dawn,
you teach the morning to waken the earth.

All: Great is your name. Great is your love.

For you the valleys shall sing for joy,
the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

All: Great is your name. Great is your love.

For you the monarchs of the earth shall bow,
the poor and persecuted shall shout for joy.

All: Great is your name. Great is your love.

Your love and mercy shall last forever,
fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.

All: Great is your name. Great is your love.

From A Wee Worship Book, Wild Goose Worship Group, 1999

***Hymn:** “God of the Bible” #27 STJ (vv 1-4)

Children’s Gathering Song: “Come and see” #20 HWB

Children’s Time: “Working together for the good of all”

Song: “Alleluia” #41 STJ

Scripture reading: Acts 6:1-7:2a, 51-60

Sermon: “The story continues”

Hymn: “Pour Out Your Heart” #8 Hesla

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns (*It is a joy to welcome guests; this can be a time for guest introductions.*)

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

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book **STJ:** Sing the Journey **Hesla:** River of Gladness
**Please stand if you are able*

Offering and Offertory

Announcements

***Sung benediction:** “The Lord lift you up” #73 STJ

***Sharing the sign of peace / Postlude**

Community Time

10:40 Fellowship – Please keep all food and drink in the narthex. Thanks!

11:00 Christian Education Classes for all Ages

Adult classes: “Trouble I’ve Seen” – Front of Sanctuary

“Written that you might believe” – Fellowship Hall

TODAY: 3rd Sunday of Easter: Stephen’s Witness

Worship leader: Leslie Minkler

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Lea Graber

Piano: Adam Nafziger

Ushers: S. Hendricks, T. Dirks

Fellowship: A. Wright, D & M Seitz

Nursery: Matthew Hendricks, Andi Kuenning

NEXT SUNDAY: Everence Sunday (Acts 4:31-35)

Worship leader: Ry Siggelkow

Sermon: Lyle Miller

Song leader: Karen Wiebe

Organ: Jim Kuebelbeck

Ushers: S. Hendricks, T. Dirks

Fellowship: A. Wright, D & M Seitz

Nursery: Matthew Hendricks, Andi Kuenning

Next Sunday, Lyle Miller, a Stewardship Consultant for Everence, the faith-based financial services organization that serves Mennonite and other churches, will preach. Lyle is from Goshen, Indiana, where he previously worked as a pastor and in church relations at Goshen College.

Apr 23

Attendance: 80

Offering: \$2,500

Thanksgivings:

Concerns:

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.

Co-Pastors: Joetta Schlabach & Ry Siggelkow
Deacons: Dan Leisen, Heather Wengerd,
Shawn Englund-Helmeke, Katie Cuffey,
Hermann Weinlick, Kristin Green

2720 East 22nd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406 Ph: 612-375-9483

E: faithmc@faithmennonite.org Web: www.faithmennonite.org

FMC office hours: May 1-5

Ry: Tues, Thurs 9-4 **Joetta:** Tues, Wed 10-3

Office Staff: Aimee Weigle: Mon – Fri 9:30-12:30

Email bulletin items by Wed afternoon. Bulletin printed Thurs. morning.

Prayer Request from Central Plains Mennonite Conference: Online registration is open for Central Plains Annual Meeting in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, June 15-18. Please pray for those planning Annual Meeting, for those participating as delegates and guests, and for our speaker, Meghan Good, as she prepares. See www.centralplainsmc.org for details.

Come pray for our church and community! Parent Resource Room, 9:10-9:25 a.m. each Sunday. Also, if you would like to have someone pray with you or discuss a matter of concern please look for persons with the purple “deacon” ribbon or the green “prayer” ribbon on their name tag. They are glad to meet with you.

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

May 2 –Sunday Text Discussion, 8:30 a.m., Seward Co-op

May 3 – Deacon Commission, 6:30 p.m., Kristin Green home

May 10 – Church Council meeting, 7 p.m., Chapel

May 13 – FMC Sewing Group, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Library

May 21 – **Children’s Day Worship & Potluck**

May 24 – Missions & Service Open Forum, 6 p.m., Chapel

May 25 – FMC Men’s Breakfast, 7 a.m., Curran’s Restaurant, Mpls.

Acts 6:1-15, 7:1-2a, 51-60

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food.² And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables.³ Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task,⁴ while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word."⁵ What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with [six others].⁶ They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.⁷ The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.⁹ Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen.¹⁰ But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke.¹¹ Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God."¹² They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council.¹³ They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law;¹⁴ for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us."¹⁵ And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Then the high priest asked him, "Are these things so?"² And Stephen replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me." [After relating their whole history, beginning with Abraham, he concluded:]⁵¹ "You stiff-necked people, ... you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do.⁵² Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers.⁵³ You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it."

⁵⁴When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen.⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. (*continued on back*)

⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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

From Glenn Geissinger: Arlene and I are unable to coordinate the My 21st Children's Day Potluck. Please speak with me if you are able to switch with us. Thank You!

Once again, **Faith Mennonite Church will have a group outing at a St. Paul Saints game.** We have reserved 25 tickets for the game on Monday, Aug. 21st, against the Wichita Wingnuts at 7:05 p.m. The tickets are \$14 ea. Anyone interested may speak with Dick Westby or Stew Thornley.

From Jean Hendricks (Shelly's mother): I'm looking for a ride from central Kansas to Mpls, sometime between June 9th and June 13th (has some date flexibility). If you know of anyone traveling this direction, with room for an extra rider, please contact me. Thanks!

Ramadan is the month of the Islamic lunar calendar during which Muslims abstain from food and drink from sunrise to sunset; in 2017 it falls between the dates of May 26 – June 25. Fasting during Ramadan is one of the "five pillars" of Islam, and is performed to learn compassion, self-restraint, and generosity. **Taking Heart Open Houses** is a long-running program coordinated by the Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC) and the Muslim American Society of Minnesota (MAS-MN) to bring Christians and members of other faith communities together with Muslims for food and conversation during Ramadan. Minnesota mosques and Islamic community centers welcome their non-Muslim neighbors for a traditional Iftar, inviting a time of encounter and learning. **Please visit www.mnchurches.org to learn more about Taking Heart.** **Beginning in late April you will be able to register for one or more events.** Bring a friend and learn more about your Muslim neighbors! These events are free and open to the public.