

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH
“Growing together as children of God”
December 31, 2017

***Gathering Songs:** “The love of God” #44 STJ

Musical Interlude

***Welcome and Call to Worship (based on Isaiah 40:3-5)**

L: A voice cries out:

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,

P: make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

L: Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

**P: the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.**

L: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

*All: and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.*

***Hymn:** “Amazing grace!” #143 HWB

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

Children’s Time: ~ John Ratigan

Hymn: “On Jordan’s banks the Baptist’s cry” #183 HWB

Scripture reading: John 1:19-34

Sermon: “The Witness of the Baptist”

Hymn: “Come, gracious Spirit” #303 HWB

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*

**Offering and Offertory
Announcements**

***Sending hymn:** “Lord, let us now depart in peace” #428 HWB

***Benediction / Postlude**

Community Time

10:40: Fellowship Time-Basement fellowship hall

11:00: There will be **no Christian Education** classes today.

TODAY: 1st Sunday after Christmas: A Voice in the Wilderness

Worship leader: Pat Eliason

Sermon: Ry Siggelkow

Song leader: Wendy Brunner

Piano: David Mayou

Offertory music: Abrahm Geissinger

Ushers: Dan Gerber, Stew Thornley

Nursery: Miriam Augsburg, Andi Kuenning

Fellowship: Arlene & Glenn Geissinger, Rachel Geissinger

NEXT SUNDAY: Epiphany / Baptism of Our Lord (John 1:35-51)

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Piano: Adam Nafziger

Song leader: Miriam Augsburg

Nursery: Ry Siggelkow, Elena Vidas

Ushers: Stew Thornley, Thaine Dirks

Fellowship: Shirley Leckie-Reed, Stew Thornley

Dec 24: Attendance: 83 Offering – Local Budget: \$1,528

Thanksgivings:

Concerns:

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

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Wi-fi username: FMC Guest; password: peacefmc

FMC office hours: Jan. 2-5

Ry: Tues, Thurs 10-3 **Joetta:** Tues, Wed 10-2

Office Staff: Aimee Weigle: Tues-Fri. 9:30-12:30

(Office closed on New Year's Day)

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

Prayer Request from Mennonite Mission Network: We invite you to pray and fast on Tuesday for the Villatoro and Huesca families, that Max and Alex may be reunited with their wives and children.

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)

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

Jan 3 – Deacon Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Weinlick home

Jan 13 – Sewing Group, 9:30 a.m., Library

Jan 13 – One Voice Mixed Chorus, 7 p.m., Sanctuary

Jan 28 – Membership Sunday/Annual Budget Meeting, 11 a.m.

Feb 9-11 – Men's Retreat – Ely, MN

John 1:19-34

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

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

Thanks to Heather Reinert for the Advent visual arrangements in the sanctuary. The addition of large poinsettias today came to us as a generous gift from Carol Stoltzfus, Plants by Design, Inc, St Paul.

December contributions are down this year compared to recent years. With the new tax bill going into place next year and the uncertainty of the deductibility of charitable giving, please consider an extra gift before the end of this year while your charitable giving will definitely be tax deductible.

(Announcements cont. on back)

Announcements (cont.)

"Seeing All as God's Children," a one-hour interfaith service embracing immigrants and refugees, will be held Sunday, Jan. 7th, at 1 p.m. at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis. Through testimony, prayer and music we will recognize our common bond and dignity as beloved children of God. We will celebrate a year of sanctuary and repent for the times we've failed to see each other as children of God. As we move into the 2018 MN Legislative Session and election campaign season, we will pledge to see and talk about each other as the family that we are, in both our personal conversations and public discourse. Sponsored by the Basilica, ISAIAH and other faith groups.

One Voice Mixed Choir will use FMC as the venue for a FREE performance of Sanctuary on Saturday, Jan. 13th. Doors will open at 7 p.m. for the 7:30 concert. Sanctuary explores the music of immigrants to Minnesota- from Scandinavian, to African American, to Hmong, Mexican and Somali communities. Several contemporary songs describe the experience of LGBT people struggling for a place of belonging. This concert is a collaboration with local non-profit, Green Card Voices, which has collected stories of youth immigrants.

Considering church membership? On January 28th, 2018, we will welcome several people who wish to transfer their church membership to FMC. If you would like to take part in the membership Sunday on January 28, please contact a pastor or deacon as soon as possible. In February, we will begin a Membership Exploration class during the education hour, for persons who would like to learn more about Anabaptist/Mennonite faith and practice. More information will be forthcoming.

If you'd like to see photos from this year's Christmas program, you can find them here: <https://www.facebook.com/faithmennonite/>. To keep in touch with Faith Church activities, make sure to "follow" us on our Facebook page.

Save the date! **MennoCon19 will take place on July 2 - 6, 2019** in Kansas City, Missouri. The biennial convention for Mennonite Church USA offers worship, fellowship, equipping sessions and service opportunities. Now is a great time to put it on your calendars.