

First Mennonite Church

2025 Annual Report

January 7, 2026

Church Fellowship Hall

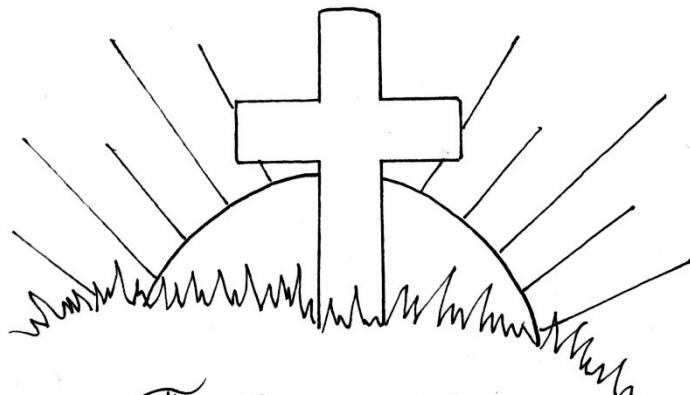
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*Follow Jesus,
Mature in Faith
Carry the Good News*

2025 First Mennonite Church Congregational Statistics
Dec 1, 2024 – Nov 30, 2025

Total Membership as of 11/30/25: 195

Membership Gains – None

Membership Losses December 1, 2024 to Nov 30, 2025

By Death:

Ernest Jantzen, August 26, 2025

By Transfer or Release of Membership – Brett & Cassie Klingenberg

Marriages

Alexandra Goossen & Nathan Gradoville, June 21, 2025

Kyle Riesen & Jerica Baumert, June 7, 2025

Chris Riesen & Katie Schmidt, May 25, 2025

Doug Penner & Susan Kiburz, July 19, 2025

Births – Dorothea Mae Janzen, November 12, 2025

Omitted in 2024: Asher Aufdenkamp, April 22, 2024, to Kate and Dylan Aufdenkamp

Dedications – Ivan Oak Regier Reimer, November 16, 2025

High School Graduates - None

College & Grad School Graduates – Claira Janssen from Bethel College, May 18, 2025

AGENDA FOR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING – JANUARY 7, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Call the Meeting to Order – Chair Jerome Reimer

Devotions by Amanda Thimm

Approve January 8, 2025 Annual meeting minutes (see next page)

Deacons Report – Sue Gerber

Deacon Election – Sue Gerber nominated

Main Ballot Election as presented by the Nominating Committee

Pastor's Report

Associate Pastor's Report

Committee Reports (printed in this report)

Central Treasurer's Report (printed in this report) – Mike Goossen

Presentation of 2026 Budget – Mike Goossen

Other Agenda Items:

- Everence Report – Vern Jantzen

Adjournment

Annual Business Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2025

Opening and Devotions: Church Chair Jerry Reimer called the meeting to order on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. with forty members present. The lamp was lit, symbolizing God's presence at the meeting. Justin Schardt led the group in devotions on "Fear, Faith, and Following Jesus".

Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the 2024 January 10 annual meeting are in the Annual Report and read at the meeting by Adm. Asst. Vicki Frerking. ▼ Vern Jantzen moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Dorothy Zimmerman and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Deacons Report: Vicki Hinz-Ensz thanked the congregation for allowing her to serve. The Deacons appreciate the prayers, encouragement, and open communication they receive from the congregation. She is excited about the growth and scope of FMC in 2025 and beyond. FMC has many positive attributes including great pastoral leadership, members who willingly give of their time and talents, enthusiastic participation of the children and youth, and caring members with a long history of working as the church in service to God wherever He leads. She presented the Deacons Fund report, thanking the congregation for their support so they could once again help those in need in the community.

Deacon Election: The nominee for Deacon is Vicki Hinz-Ensz for her second 3-year term. Vicki was elected Deacon for the next three years unanimously on a ballot vote. Tallying votes were Brad Thimm and Neal Trantham.

Main Ballot: Nominating Committee Chair Sue Gerber presented the slate of nominees. ▼ Dan Kunzman moved that those on the presented ballot be elected; seconded by Katie Jantzen and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Committee Reports: These are in the Annual Report. There were no questions or comments from the floor.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Josh referred to his report in the Annual Report and Jeremiah 6:16a. He feels he has settled into his role as Pastor of FMC and looks forward to listening and discerning God's paths in the future.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Sarah referred to her report in the Annual Report and outlined her schedule as she returns from maternity leave. She will work 10-hour weeks through January and begin her regular 20 hours a week in February. She finds her work at FMC energizing and appreciates how FMC supports the youth.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Goossen presented the treasurer's report. There were no questions or comments.

2024-2025 Budget: Treasurer Mike Goossen presented the 2024-25 proposed budget of \$209,500. ▼ Larry Thimm moved to approve the proposed budget; seconded by Vern Jantzen. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The Church Board presented a request for the congregation to authorize up to \$20,000 from the Undesignated Everence Funds to use only if needed, to meet the needs of the Faith Formation program, including the Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation's salary. ▼ Mike Goossen moved to approve this request; seconded by Lori Thimm and passed unanimously.

Everence Report: FMC Everence Advocate Vern Jantzen explained the allocation process of the Everence Sharing Fund. Everence intended to allocate \$3000 to each church that applied but did not have enough funds, so FMC received \$2,394 in 2024 to add to the Deacon's Fund. Everence will disperse \$990,000 through their Sharing Fund in 2025. He will apply for FMC to receive a portion of that.

Adjournment: With no further business, Pastor Josh closed the meeting with prayer and Chair Reimer adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m. He extinguished the lamp; symbolizing God does not only stay in this place but goes with us into the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Frerking, FMC Administrative Assistant

AUDITING COMMITTEE

The auditing committee met and reviewed the financials and to the best of our ability, the books appeared to be in order.

Submitted by Gene Penner

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The building Committee completed many projects this year. We helped to plan church cleaning. Many thanks to those who cleaned. We hired Schoen Roofing to repair shingle damage and Big Blue Natural Resources installed an auto-read water meter. We primed, painted, and added outlets to Room 10. We also installed a new water faucet on the West side. We also hired Fairbury Glass to install an electric door opener on the East door.

Thank you to Tracy Crawford for helping keep our AC and furnaces running.

Submitted by Doug Casey, Chair

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

On behalf of the cemetery committee, we want to thank Doug and Kathy Casey for the good work of keeping our cemetery well groomed. I want to thank all who came to help straighten head stones and fill holes on the grounds where needed. I want to thank Jim Ensz for bringing his skid loader to help with this project. We helped with the burials of those needed this year.

Submitted by Duane Claassen, Norman Reimer, Daryl Riesen, Jared Thimm

CHURCH BOARD

The FMC Church Board met regularly on the third Thursday evening of each month to consider business items and to discuss various ideas and programs. We appreciate the generous financial support of the congregation and the feedback on worship services, use of our financial resources, and development of other programs. We have also focused on

- working with Pastor Josh to facilitate virtual sermons and guest speakers for worship services during Pastor Josh's paternity leave
- working with Pastor Sarah in her leadership role in faith formation for youth and the whole congregation

As always, Vicki Frerking provided timely and professional support for our meetings and in attending to the needs of our Board, and of the congregation in general. We also have benefitted from steady leadership from both Pastors in their energetic management of worship planning and all the programs of the congregation.

Submitted by Jerry Reimer, Church Board Chairman

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL

Education Council met in January, April, July and October. Members of the council are as follows:

Debbie Goossen – Chair,
Lori Thimm—VBS,
Sue Gerber-- Peace Club,
Kathy Casey—Peace Club,
Barb Thimm—Peace Club,
Jane Esau—Peace Club,
Christina Lyons—Library,
Marcia Regier—Wednesday Jr./Sr. High,
Brett and Darcy Esau—Jr./Sr. High Sponsors,
Vicki Hinz-Ensz—Resource Coordinator,
Pastor Josh Janzen, Sarah Neher Reimer—Associate Pastor of Faith Development

FMC has so much to be thankful for as I review our 2025 year! While many churches are struggling with having children and youth in attendance, we are so blessed to have 36! We have so many adult volunteers who are willing to help lead these young people in their spiritual journey. Pastor Josh and Pastor Sarah are guiding all ages in following Jesus, maturing in faith, and carrying the good news.

For Sunday School, the adults are studying “Salt and Light” and meet in the basement. The children and youth are led by several teachers per class, which makes it possible for teachers to have a break. The elementary classes have a time of singing with Erin Vanderschaaf and Shana Ensz each Sunday.

Peace Club meets on Wednesday evenings with 18 elementary students. Under the leadership of Kathy Casey, Jane Esau, Sue Gerber, and Barb Thimm, they have been studying “Path to Peace with God” and enjoy special activities planned with their “Prayer Partners.” We have continued the community meal the first Wednesdays of the month. With an average attendance of over 60, it has been a great way for intergenerational relationships to be developed. The JYF and SYF also meet on Wednesday evenings.

The Christmas program, “Let’s Celebrate the Savior”, was held December 14 during the worship service with participation from the children, women’s choir, and the instrumental ensemble.

Vicki Hinz-Ensz will continue as Resource Coordinator for the coming year.

A huge thank you goes out to the congregation for supporting our Faith Formation program.

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Goossen

WORSHIP COUNCIL

This year’s members are Kathy Casey, Grace Tegtmeier, and Erin Vanderschaaf. Decorating Committee members are Zella Penner, Paula Heinz and Darcy Esau.

The Council met most months via Zoom discussing the worship services and how we can help Pastor Josh and Pastor Sarah through children’s stories and other ways.

We helped during the Lenten season, with the Maundy Thursday service and also helped with the Advent season services, especially during Pastor Josh’s paternity leave.

Many people have helped with the services, and we thank all of you for sharing your time and talents with our church family. You make our services so meaningful.

Submitted by Kathy Casey, Chair

DEACON REPORT

The Deacon team of Don Esau, Vicki Hinz-Ensz and Sue Gerber met as needed with Pastor Josh and Pastor Sarah to discuss the needs of the congregation and community and how we can best meet those needs. The deacons assist with visitations to members. We assist with communion. We discuss how we can provide support for church members and community members with the financial resources of the Gift and Service fund. We are thankful for our pastoral team, Pastor Josh and Pastor Sarah, and appreciate their willingness to serve our church. Thank you to everyone who has supported us through prayer, words of encouragement and for contributions to the Gift and Service fund. Please continue to pray for us as we seek to do God's will.

Submitted by Sue Gerber

Deacon's Gift and Service Fund

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Balance 12/1/2024 | \$ 12,031.52 |
| Everence fund reimbursement | +3,000.00 |
| Contributions/Gift & Service Fund | +4,218.00 |
| Disbursements | 15,029.59 |
| Balance 12/1/2025 | \$ 4,219.93 |

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The members of the finance committee are responsible for getting all offerings counted and deposited into the church checking account and the treasurer is responsible for paying expenses and keeping the account books in order. In the past year the general fund balance has improved slightly, but at year-end was still (11,635.66). It is our hope to continue to improve this situation during the next fiscal year. The committee wishes to thank everyone for their continued financial support of the church.

Submitted by Mike Goossen, Treasurer

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

No report submitted.

MENNONTTE TUITION FUND COMMITTEE

No report submitted.

NEBRASKA MCC RELIEF SALE COMMITTEE

This year's sale was a change for everyone as it was held in York at the Holthus Convention Center March 28-29. We organized the responsibilities for our church and delivered said good to the sale. The state sale raised about \$180,000.

We also organized the mini auction which we have here in our church. This year we raised \$22,304. It takes a lot of volunteers to make it all happen and we thank everyone for helping.

Committee members: Larry & Kathy Thimm, Daryl & Becky Riesen, Mike & Debbie Goossen

MISSION, PEACE & SERVICE COUNCIL

In 2025, the people of First Mennonite Church continued our long-held tradition of faith-filled service to a wide variety of our neighbors, old and new, near and far. Much of this service is done quietly, organically and regularly.

From moving furniture, cooking for others, building, transporting supplies or people, sewing, mentoring, teaching and so much more, our impact on God's world is immeasurable.

The list below is likely not complete. Please reach out to me with any additions that you have to an extensive record of how we serve as a congregation.

Maya Angelou said "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." That seems, to me at least, to sum up how FMC approaches the world we occupy. We've done our best and we will do even better.

Thank you to all who serve, which is virtually everyone at FMC.

Submitted by Dan Kunzman of behalf of all who serve.

*As each one has received a special gift,
employ it in serving one another as
good stewards of the
manifold grace
of God.*



1 Peter 4:10

Knowing-Jesus.com

Los Companeros
Mother to Mother/Burwood Books
MCC
Meat canning
Community Food Pantry
Warren's Community Dinner Table
Sewing for Babies
Mennonite Men's Brotherhood
TeamMates Mentoring
4-H
Salvation Army
Senior Center
The Bargain Box
Teen Challenge of the Midlands
Women's Mission Society
Rural Response Hotline
Willow Center
Foster Grandparents
Peace Club / Prayer Partners
Senior Youth Fellowship

Junior Youth Fellowship
Beatrice Community Hospital
Meals on Wheels
Mennonite Disaster Service
Vacation Bible School
Shepherd Groups
Small Groups
Church picnic
Camp Mennoscah
Ten Thousand Villages
MCC kits
Mission Partners
Bethel College
Hope Crisis Center
Backpack Programs
Beatrice YMCA

PASTOR'S REPORT

Ephesians 3:14–21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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Beloved ones of First Mennonite Church,

As I look back on 2025, my heart echoes Paul's prayer in Ephesians—that we would be strengthened in our inner being, rooted and grounded in love, and increasingly aware of the vastness of Christ's presence among us. This past year has been filled with moments where that deep, immeasurable love has been made visible in our congregation: in the ways we show up for one another, in our worship and learning, and in our exploring what it means to love our neighbors with authenticity and depth. Again and again, I have seen God doing far more than all we could ask or imagine, shaping us into a people who embody the love of Christ together.

It is with deep gratitude and joy that I offer this annual report as we reflect on the journey God has led us through in 2025. Each year in the life of a congregation carries its own rhythm—its blessings, its challenges, its surprises, and its opportunities for faithfulness. As I reflect on the past twelve months, I am struck once again by the steady grace of God made visible in your lives, our communal worship, and our shared ministry.

We began the year with Cottage Prayer Meetings, gathering in small groups to reflect on listening, dwelling, and the deeper purpose of our Shepherd Groups. These conversations invited us to slow down, to be attentive to God's presence, and to ask what it means to walk alongside one another in meaningful, sustaining ways. These early-year gatherings helped set a tone of spiritual attentiveness that carried into our worship and life together.

Our worship this year was shaped by two major sermon series. During the summer, we engaged a Women of the Bible series, exploring the stories and courage of women who shaped God's people in profound ways. Their witness invited us to examine our own faith with fresh eyes. In the fall, we turned to the Beatitudes in a series titled "Backwards Blessings." Each week included a spiritual practice—lament journaling, simplicity, mercy, peacemaking, and more—inviting us not only to hear Jesus' teachings but to embody them. Your willingness to try these practices, even the uncomfortable ones, is a testament to the depth of your faith and your desire to grow. In all of this, I have seen the love of Christ at work—strengthening our inner being, grounding us in faith, and inspiring us to live into God's abundant purposes.

One of our great joys this year was covenanting as a congregation alongside Pastor Sarah and John as they dedicated Ivan to God on November 16. Moments like these remind us of God's faithfulness from generation to generation and the sacred trust we share in nurturing the next generation of disciples.

Throughout the year, I continued to explore how the Beatrice Ministerial Association can best engage pastors and our wider community. These ongoing conversations are helping us discern fresh ways to support one

another, respond to community needs, and build bridges across denominational lines. I am grateful for the openness and collaborative spirit that these efforts continue to foster.

This summer I also had the opportunity to connect and learn at the MCUSA Convention. These times of training, worship, and fellowship broaden my understanding of the wider church and renew my own commitment to serving faithfully here at FMC. I am grateful for the support that allows me to participate in such gatherings.

On a personal note, our family celebrated the birth of our daughter Dorothea in November. Your prayers, meals, gifts, and encouragement have meant the world to us. Thank you for surrounding us with such love during this joyful season!

Of course, this year has not been without its challenges. The weight of the world's struggles—violence, division, uncertainty—has often touched our hearts and our spirits. And yet, even in this, I have witnessed the quiet resilience of this congregation: the way you show up for one another, the way you pray for our neighbors, the way you tend to the ordinary work of love. Through it all, I am reminded of Paul's words that we are being strengthened in our inner being, rooted and grounded in love, and empowered to comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ's love—a love that endures and carries us forward.

As I look back on this year, what I am most grateful for is the relationships, community, and fellowship we share. Joy truly abound, sometimes quietly, sometimes boldly, always as a gift of God. I have seen Christ Jesus in your kindness, your humor, your generosity, your honesty, your faith. I have seen God's abundant work within us, shaping us for the future in ways that exceed all we could ask or imagine.

As we step into the coming year, I believe we will continue to be shaped by the joy and love that define our life together. We are called to keep learning how to love our neighbors and our community with authenticity, depth, and mutuality. God has planted us here for a reason, and I trust that the Spirit will continue to guide us into the kind of relationships that bear witness to Christ's reconciling love.

Thank you for the privilege of continuing to serve as your pastor. Thank you for your trust, your prayers, and your partnership in the gospel. I am honored to walk this road with you.

In gratitude and hope,

Rev. Josh Janzen

ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

As I reflect on this past year and on our community, I find myself returning to Deuteronomy 6:5–7. We are instructed to love the Lord our God with all our heart, our being, and our strength. Jesus adds, to love our neighbor as ourselves. These words are meant to stay with us: on our minds, on our lips, shaping our conversations with our children, guiding us at home and out in the world.

Our church mission ends with a call to “carry the good news,” and I am reminded that this includes how we show up each day. Our children are watching. We pass on faith not only through programs and teaching, but also through the examples we set and the ways we interact with them.

I am deeply grateful for the value this community places on nurturing the faith of our youngest congregants (we have 36 children and youth, from birth through college!) and for the trust you place in me to oversee the ministry of faith formation at First Mennonite. Below is a summary of the work I have done this year alongside and because of you, the congregation.

Youth Ministry

- With my position at half-time, my primary focus this year continued to be youth ministry.
- **Wednesday Nights:** JYF and SYF now meet separately. Classrooms were updated: SYF received donated couches, and the room across from the women’s restroom was repainted for JYF. A new monthly rotation of themes was implemented on Wednesday nights: *exploring faith, building relationships, and serving together*. I am grateful to Marcia Regier and Darcy Esau for sharing leadership each week.
- **Baptism Class:** Seven youth began baptism classes this fall, with baptisms planned for spring.
- **Service:** Both JYF and SYF served at Warren’s Table in October.
- **Fundraisers:** A spring pancake feed and a fall soup lunch was held this year. Thank you for your continued generosity supporting youth ministries.
- **JYF:** There are eight enthusiastic youth. In February, four youth and three adults attended “Know Jesus” at Hesston College.
- **SYF:** Has five thoughtful youth. This summer, two youth joined with two congregations to attend MC USA’s convention in Greensboro, NC.
- **Sunday School:** Continued using the *Spirit & Life* narrative lectionary curriculum. I am thankful for our excellent teachers: Lynn Gerber, Paula Heinz, and Grace Tegtmeier.

Children’s Ministry

- **Sunday School:** Continued use of the Shine curriculum. Grateful for the dedication and care of our teachers.
- **VBS:** Supported the VBS committee by organizing the dramas and leading a song-and-story time with Grace Tegtmeier.

Family Ministry

- Created Lent and Advent resource kits for families.
- Distributed a spring survey to families about faith formation programming; results helped the Education Council plan for the fall.
- Assisted Shana Ensz and Amanda Thimm in planning the Young Adult Retreat (March 22–23), with 28 registrants. Jeff King served as guest speaker, teaching on the Enneagram.

Safe Church

- The Safe Church Committee (formally the Safe Sanctuary Committee) engaged the growing body of research and denominational guidance on creating safe and accountable church spaces.
- As a result a review of First Mennonite's Abuse Prevention Policy began with Debbie Goossen, Neal Trantham, and Grace Tegtmeier.
- We have worked to integrate the updated MC USA guidelines, industry best practices, and procedures for supporting anyone who has experienced abuse.
- Our goal is to finish editing and implement the updated policy in the coming year.

Service to Western District Conference

- Served as Bible instructor for a week at Camp Mennoscah.
- Helped organize and will co-lead an online WDC-wide book study in the new year on *Woven* by Meredith Miller.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Neher Reimer, Associate Pastor of Faith Formation

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

"Waves of Wonder" was the theme for this year's Bible School at FMC, May 27-30, 2025, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. We learned of various ways God uses water throughout the Bible. We couldn't do VBS without the wonderful staff of 29 volunteers. We had 33 students participating this year. Thank you to Zella Penner for her decorating expertise, we had coral reefs, water on the ceiling and a sail boat naming the different sessions. The VBS committee of Lori Thimm, Linsey Schardt and Laura Williamson scheduled the dates, sent out invitations to invite the children to attend, scheduled the volunteers, helped decorate and undecorate.

Students were divided up into four groups: Preschool & Kindergarten, Grades 1 & 2, Grade 3 and Grades 4 & 5. Thank you to Shana Ensz for leading all students in the opening session with music and learning the memory verse. Thank you to Pastor Josh and Pastor Sarah for leading the Bible story in a drama and involving various youth in the dramas. Pastor Josh also challenged us to raise 1,000 diapers and 25 packages of wipes for the Mother To Mother diaper bank, and then he would eat gross seafood. Groups then rotated between sessions of Bible Beach, Creators Coast, Music Harbor and Seaside Games. The cookie ladies did a wonder job of having some fun snacks that followed the Waves of Wonder theme and were enjoyed by all the students in the fellowship hall.

Our skating party was held after VBS on Friday, VBS staff transported the students to the Rolla Rena. Thank you to Marv & Lisa Goossen for providing the pizza for lunch at the Rolla Rena. Parents picked up their kids at 2:00.

The VBS program was held Sunday, June 1, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. Students performed songs, did 3 of the dramas from the week. A slide show shared the events, fun and learning of the week.

Our offering community project was the diaper bank at Mother to Mother in Beatrice. We exceeded our goal and raised 2,678 diapers and 66 packages of wipes, which led to Pastor Josh eating, octopus, sardine sundae, chub mackerel, and a seafood smoothie of oysters, anchovies and clams. We also challenged the congregation to raising \$3,000 for the diaper bank and then the kids would get a water balloon fight and get to dump buckets of water on Pastor Josh's head. We raised \$3,504! A huge THANK YOU to all that helped us provide diapers and wipes for many families in Beatrice.

What a great week we had! It is our prayer that VBS makes a difference in the lives of the children who attend. The continued support of our church family makes this week possible. The committee thanks you!!

Submitted by Lori Thimm, VBS Chair

2024 WOMEN'S MISSION SOCIETY

Executive Committee

We've had a great year in WMS. We meet every Tuesday from 1:30-4:30 except in the month of December. We tie comforters, quilt, hand stitch, cut quilt blocks, and sometimes take hems out of top sheets used for the backs of comforters. Of course, we always enjoy devotions and coffee time around 3:00.

The 2025 Executive Committee was Karen Wiebe, President; Lori Thimm, Treasurer; and Barb Thimm, Secretary. The other committees serving this year were Nominating Committee of Doris Claassen, Rogena Jantzen & Alma Reimer; Project Committee of Marjorie Epp, Pat Penner, Elaine Penner; and Service Committee of Kathy Thimm & Dolores Jantzen.

The Executive Committee also serves as the Kitchen Committee. They clean the kitchen at church cleaning, help serve food at the evening cleaning, and prepare and serve Semmel for the morning cleaning. This year church cleaning was March 20 & 21. Thursday evening 15 people came and Friday morning 21 came to clean.

During the year members connect with those who are in retirement centers and assisted living facilities. This year we went to the PEO Home and Samaritan Springs. We brought semmel, egg casseroles, and fruit. We also enjoy going to some assisted living centers to play bingo and enjoy coffee and cookies with them. This year we visited Samaritan Springs, Homestead House, PEO Home, Whispering Winds, and Beatrice Health and Rehab. Usually only 2 or 3 ladies go to one place.

On March 13 we held a comforter blitz where we worked on 20 comforters from MCC. During the year we sent 54 comforters, 55 school kits, and 8 bags of scraps to MCC. We also sent 19 comforters to the Beatrice Community Hospital to be given to End of Life patients. We also completed a beautiful quilt which was sold at the MCC Sale. Alma Reimer also made some cloth star ornaments that we helped her finish. These were made at the request of Pastor Sarah that she will use for a children's story.

Our Annual Meeting was held after lunch at our regular WMS meeting on November 26. Our recommendations for distribution of our money, pending approval of our members, are as follows: \$200 for the Stutzman's Christmas present - \$200 for Pastor Josh's Christmas present - \$100 for Pastor Sarah's Christmas present; \$400 to MDS; \$400 to Mother to Mother; \$400 to the Community Food Pantry; \$400 to Sewing for Babies; \$600 to Camp Mennoscah.

The Christmas Brunch was held on December 7, with Grace Tegtmeier as our guest speaker. She told the inspiring story of how she and Chris came to adopt their 3 children, Hannah, Tony, and Samantha. The offering went for Western District Women.

Respectfully submitted by Barb Thimm, Secretary

Service Committee

The Service Committee served lunch for Ernie Jantzen on September 2 and Dorothy Luker on October 31.

We want to thank the Shepherd groups and volunteers for setting up, helping prepare and serve lunches and clean up after the lunches. We appreciate all your help!

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Thimm and Dolores Jantzen.

Nominating Committee

The committee met during the regular circle meeting. Officers from last year agreed to serve again this year. They are as follows: Karen Wiebe, President; Barb Thimm, Secretary; and Lori Thimm, Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted: Doris Claassen, Rogena Jantzen, Alma Reimer

Project Committee

The ladies of the Mission circle have been blessed to work together to care for those in need. The donated fabrics have been used for tied comforters, hygiene and school bags. There is also quilting and embroidering of quilt blocks done. The finished product is then distributed where needed.

Thanks to those who have given us material for these projects. Also, thanks to those who work at home to make the day productive. Fun and fellowship is had by all!

Respectfully submitted, Marjorie Epp, Pat Penner, Elaine Penner

2025 Nomination Slate to serve in 2026

| Remaining in office | Term Expiring | NOMINEE |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <hr/> | | |
| Auditing Committee - Inspects financial statements of various church organizations before the annual business meeting. 3-year term. | | |
| Steph Janzen (2026) | Gene Penner (2025) | Jan Reimer |
| Steph Janzen (2027) | | |
| Robbyn Hohensee(2028) | | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Building Committee - Oversees maintenance and improvements on the church building and grounds. 3 year term. | | |
| Tracy Crawford (2027) | Doug Casey (2026) | John Thimm |
| Jim Ensz (2028) | | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Cemetery Committee - Assigns burial plots and maintains a current cemetery map.3 year term, re-election possible. | | |
| Daryl Riesen (2027) | Duane Claassen (2026) eligible for re-election | Duane Claassen |
| Norman Reimer (2028) | | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Finance Committee - Count money after church; assist the church treasurer as needed, meet with Business Council. 3 year term | | |
| Vern Jantzen (2027) | Jim Hamm (2026) | John Reimer |
| Don Jantzen (2028) | | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Hospitality Committee - Arrange for lodging and accommodations for speakers, be greeters before church services. 3 year term. | | |
| Gayland & Marci Regier (2027) | Don & Judy Jantzen (2026) | Justin & Linsey Schardt |
| Brad & Amanda Thimm (2028) | | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Library Committee - Maintain and promote the use of the church library, acquire new material and work with Conference Library. 3 year term. | | |
| Jeanette Bryson-Epp (2027) | Christina Lyons (2026) | Karen Wiebe |
| Katie Jantzen (2028) | | |
| <hr/> | | |
| MCC Relief Sale Committee - Coordinate participation in and management of annual relief sale. 3 year term, eligible for re-election (terms renew/begin/expire after NE MCC sale of upcoming year). | | |
| Daryl & Becky Riesen (2027) | Larry & Kathy Thimm (2026) (eligible for re-election) | |
| Mike & Debbie Goossen (2028) | | Larry & Kathy Thimm |
| <hr/> | | |
| Mennonite Tuition Fund Committee - Solicit and approve applications, solicit funds for Tuition Fund Program. | | |
| Note: For IRS reasons, members of this committee may not have a family member that is eligible to receive the funds. 3 year term. | | |
| John Reimer (2027) | Kyle Riesen (2026) | Jim Ensz |
| John Thimm (2028) | | |
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| Ushers - Greet guests, take collections and attendance at church services, and assist at funerals. 2 year term. | | |
| Jake Janzen (2027) | Jim Ensz (2026) | Bill Thimm |
| Brandon Esau (2027) | Doug Casey (2026) | Lynn Gerber |
| Gayland Regier (2027) | Justin Schardt (2026) | Rick Brethouwer |

REMAINING IN OFFICE**TERM EXPIRING****NOMINEE**

Vacation Bible School Committee - Coordinates selection of material and staff for summer VBS. 3 year term.
Linsey Schardt (2027) Lori Thimm (2026) Dan Kunzman
Laura Williamson (2028)

Worship Council- The chair serves on the church board during the third year of council membership, meets to coordinate ways of making the worship service more effective, coordinates weekly worship music, assists pastor as needed with other aspects of the service, finds ways to utilize the gifts of the congregation. 3 year term
Grace Tegtmeier (2027) Kathy Casey (2026) Shana Ensz
Erin Vanderschaaf (2028)

Church Chair: Sets agenda and presides at all congregational and Church Board meetings; takes leadership in church deacon election. 3 year term.

Jerry Reimer (2026) Brett Esau

Central Treasurer: Prepare financial reports for monthly church board meetings, is chairperson of the Business Council, which prepares the budget. 3 year term, may be re-elected to second consecutive term.

Mike Goossen (2026) finishing second term so not eligible for re-election.
Lori Thimm

Education Council Chair: Coordinates work of Peace Club, Sunday School, VBS, JYF and SYF. 3 year term.
Debbie Goossen (2026) Jane Esau

Mission, Peace & Service Chair: Chairs committee to encourage communication and input between the various ministries of the church; encourages exploration of new or more effective responses as needs around change; promotes outreach and service activities through community ministries. 3 year term.

Dan Kunzman (2026) Dorothy Zimmerman

Nominating Committee: (appointed by Church Board, 3 yr term. (Listed for information only.)

Amanda Thimm, John Reimer (2027) Cara Esau, Larry Thimm (2028)