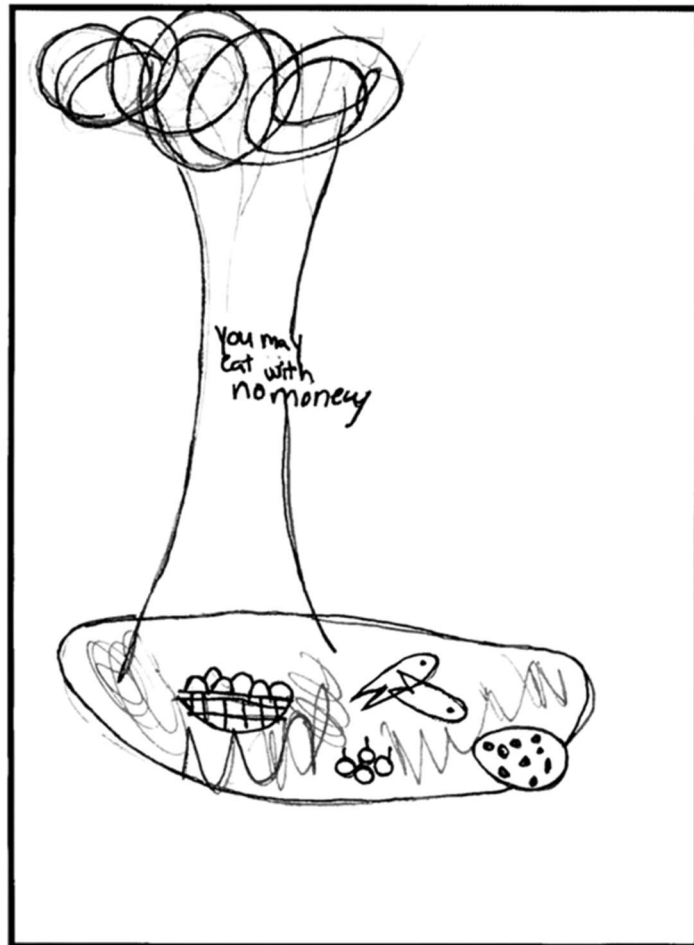




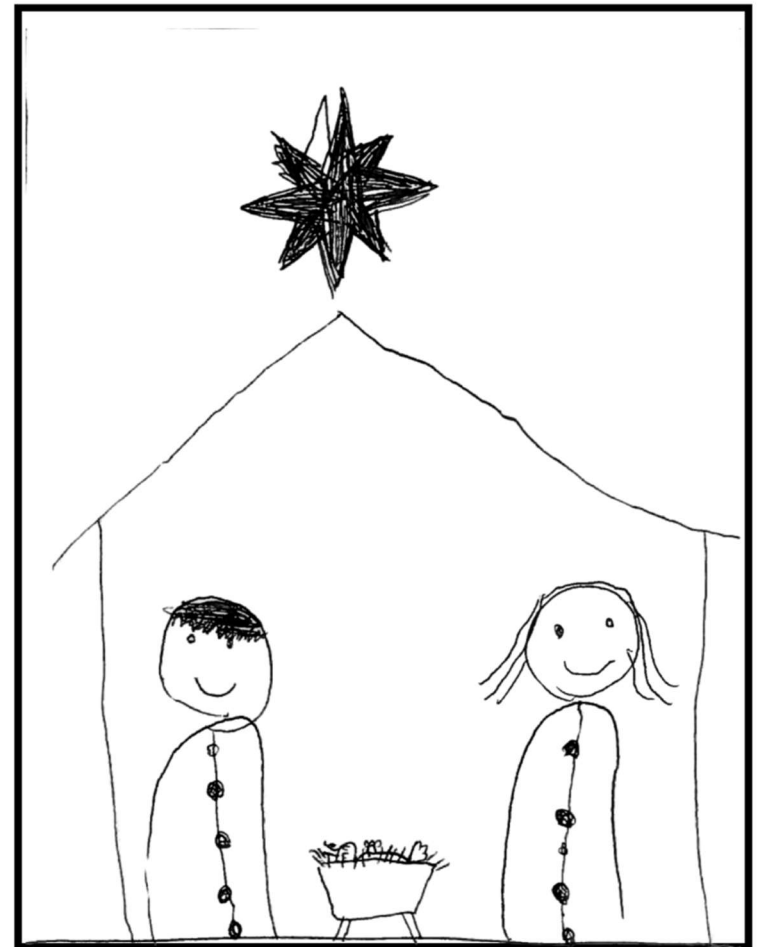
Welcome to First Mennonite Church  
December 14, 2025  
*Christmas Program -- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent*

Be Amazed!



Artist Stella      Isaiah 55

Be Amazed!



Artist Parker Williamson

## Prelude:

### Instrumental Ensemble *(Directed by Neal Trantham)*

The mixed instrumental ensemble will be performing a prelude of assorted Christmas songs and will begin approximately 10 minutes before the start of the service. Musicians are

\*Pastor Sarah (flute)                      \*Erin Vanderschaaf (alto sax)  
\*Pam Kunzman (tenor sax)              \*Neal Trantham (trumpet)  
\*Jude Vanderschaaf (trumpet)          \*Symantha Janzen (French horn)  
\*Clara Trantham (trombone)          \*Eli Vanderschaaf (trombone)

**Piano Duet** by Stella Ensz and Vicki Hinz-Ensz

## Welcome

Pastor Sarah

## Opening Prayer

Leona Jantzen

## Opening Hymn 248: *"It Came upon a Midnight Clear" vs. 1,3,5*

### Call to Worship *(based on Isaiah 55:1-13)*

Rikki Hohensee

L: Come, all who hunger and thirst for more –  
God calls us to the feast!

**P: We are weary exiles, longing for home,  
caught in a world that drains our hope.**

L: "Listen, so that you may live! My covenant is everlasting,  
my promise sure."

**P: Can joy reach us here, in this place of waiting?**

L: God's vision is higher than the heavens,  
stretching beyond what we can see.

**P: The invitation is for all people,  
from the farthest reaches of the earth.**

L: The word of the Lord does not return empty – it brings forth life!

**P: The mountains and the hills will burst into song,  
the trees of the field will clap their hands!**

**ALL: You are the source of true joy, O God. You expand our vision,  
lifting our eyes beyond the moment, beyond despair,  
into amazement. We stand before you,  
ready to enter your story and BE AMAZED.**

Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-13

Kollyns Hohensee

## Women's Choir: *"Love Has Come"*

## Children's Story

Erin VanderSchaaf

## Candle Lighting

Leslie & Clara Trantham

Reader 1: We have been wandering in the dark, cold desert of grief and despair, and we feel heavy, dry, and lifeless.

Reader 2: Come, Joy of the world. Come amaze us.

***Congregation: May your joy water our thirsty souls, that we may become your fountains of joy, freely sharing your joy with the world.***

## Responding Hymn 211: *"Hope is a Candle" vs. 1,2,4*

## Women's Choir: *"Oh, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"*

---

# "Let's Celebrate the Savior"

## A Christmas play Celebrating the Reason for the Season

### Cast

**Narrators:** Sloan, Beckett, Maxson, Ryan

**Shepherds:** Callan, Randall

**Sheep/Angels/Animals:** Raelynn, Scarlett, Baker

**Wise Men:** Parker, Henry

**Angels:** Gentre, Piper

**Mary:** Stella

**Joseph:** Blake

**Inn Keeper:** Sam

**Inn Keepers Wife:** Navy

### Songs by the Children

🎵 *Oh, How Joyfully (1<sup>st</sup> verse in German)*

🎵 *Oh Little Town of Bethlehem*

🎵 *Away in a Manger (vs 3 by Stella, Sloan, and Piper)*

🎵 *Joy to the World*

---

Permission to livestream granted by play author Shannon L. Bryant, 2012, Bryant's Brain Train. All rights reserved.)

## Sharing and Prayer

Pastor Sarah

## Benediction

Riley Schardt

## Offering/Sending Hymn 252: "Go, Tell it on the Mountain"

(offering for Community Food Pantry)

## Additional Worship Opportunities:

- ✚ Christmas Eve, 5:00 pm
- ✚ New Year's Eve Communion Worship: 6:00 p.m.



**Thank you** to the children and their leaders, instrumentalists, and ladies choir for the wonderful Christmas service and program.

**Thank You** for the leadership of Baptism Class members Riley, Leona, Kollyns, Rikki, Clara, and musician Eli in our service.

**Children's Sunday School** is on winter break and resumes on January 4, at 9:30 a.m.

A reminder that **annual committee/council reports are due** in the office by December 15.

**Please inform the office of any changes** in address, phone numbers, or emails before the 2026 Directory is printed in January.

**The Annual Meeting** is January 7 at 7 p.m. If you have an agenda item, please speak to Jerry Reimer.

**Deacon Nominations!** Please talk to the nominee before speaking to Jerry Reimer to nominate someone. (Of note, Sue Gerber is eligible for re-election.)

Parents, caregivers, and grandparents are invited to join a **book study of Woven by Meredith Miller**, facilitated by Western District Conference. The book explores how to nurture healthy faith in children. The group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 7:30–8:30 p.m., beginning January 13 and concluding April 7. If you are interested, please talk with Pastor Sarah and/or fill out the sign-up form: <https://forms.gle/CxbA4VXyskLukYeh6>

## Follow Jesus; Mature in Faith; Carry the Good News At First Mennonite Church

### Serving Today:

Pastor and Worship Leader: Sarah Neher Reimer  
Pianist: Vicki Hinz-Ensz  
Audio: Jim Ensz  
Ushers: Doug Casey, Gayland Regier  
Children's Story: Erin VanderSchaaf

PowerPoint: Eli VanderSchaaf  
Hosts: Gayland & Marci Regier

Video: John Thimm

**Last Sunday Attendance:** 99  
**Offering:** FMC \$3,105  
Stutzmans \$500; Food Pantry \$100

**Today's Offering:** Food Pantry  
**Next Week:** FMC

### Happening this week:

Sunday, Dec 14	9:30 am Program Practice 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship with Christmas Program 3rd Sunday in Advent
Thursday, Dec 18	7:00 pm Church Board meeting
Sunday, Dec 21	9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship
Wednesday, Dec 24	5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship
Sunday, Dec 28	9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship
Tuesday, Dec 31	6:00 pm New Year's Eve Communion Service

### December Birthdays

4: Maxson Esau	6: Kristin Ruiz
9: Cara Esau, Vern Jantzen, Bill Thimm	10: Gene Penner
11: Lori Thimm	13: Laura Baade, Bill Epp
14: Paula Heinz	17: Rogena Jantzen, Wendy Kyser
17: Dick Goertzen	20: Ann Reimer, Brett Esau
25: Dick Penner	29: John Penner

- Ask an usher for assistance with a **hearing device**.
- **We collect** Best Choice labels & used cards and envelopes.
- **Food Pantry** items may go in the box in the narthex. Cash donations may be given to Dolores Jantzen.
- Men's Brotherhood project? See Dan Kunzman or LeRoy Janzen.
- Our service is on <https://www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice> and heard on FM 107.5 in our parking lot. The bulletin is at [fmcbeatrice.org](http://fmcbeatrice.org), under the More tab; select documents; church docs, minutes & bulletins.

**Address:** 6714 W. State Hwy. 4, Beatrice, NE 68310 **Website:** [fmcbeatrice.org](http://fmcbeatrice.org)

**Pastors:** Josh Janzen; 402-228-2052; [pastorjosh@fmcbeatrice.org](mailto:pastorjosh@fmcbeatrice.org)  
Sarah Neher; 507-993-6820; [sarah@fmcbeatrice.org](mailto:sarah@fmcbeatrice.org)

**Church Office:** 402-251-7180 **Email:** [office@fmcbeatrice.org](mailto:office@fmcbeatrice.org)

**Deacons:** Vicki Hinz-Ensz (402-239-4174), Sue Gerber (402-239-8857), Don Esau (402-223-9210); **Church Chair:** Jerry Reimer (402-239-2716)