

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

Serving Today:

Pastor: Josh Janzen Organist: Vicki Hinz-Ensz
Worship Leader: Brandon Esau Hosts: John & Zella Penner
Live Stream: John Thimm Audio: Jim Ensz
Ushers: Bill Thimm, Daryl Riesen Power point: Lori Thimm
Candle Lighters: Gene & Pat Penner Children's Story: Grace Tegtmeier

Last Sunday: Morning Offering: FMC: \$ 225.22; AMBS: \$ 650;

Tuition Fund: \$1,300; **Attendance:** 56

Christmas Eve attendance: 82 Offering was to the Deacons Fund

Offering this morning and next Sunday: FMC

Happening this week:

Sunday, December 31 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Worship with **Communion**
Sunday, January 7 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adults & Kids
 10:30 a.m. Worship

Late December Birthdays

25: Dick Penner 29: John Penner

Early January Birthdays

2: Christina Lyons 2: Ryan Hohensee
7: Barb Thimm
8: Doris Claassen, Hannah Kunzman 9: Jim Wiebe
10: Jan Reimer 11: Beckett Heinz
14: John Regier 15: Clara Trantham

-
- **Need a hearing device?** Ask an usher for assistance.
 - **We collect** Best Choice labels & used cards and envelopes.
 - **Food Pantry:** Please put items in the narthex box or give cash donations to Dolores Jantzen.
 - **Men's Brotherhood** project? Contact Dan Kunzman or LeRoy Janzen
 - Our **service is available** on youtube.com, search for fmcbeatrice. We're also on FM 107.5 in our parking lot. You'll find the bulletin at fmcbeatrice.org; click the More tab to select Documents, Church docs, bulletins.

First Mennonite Church; 6714 W. State Hwy. 4, Beatrice, NE 68310

Pastor: Josh Janzen; 402-228-2052; pastorjosh@fmcbeatrice.org

Church office: 402-251-7180

Website: fmcbeatrice.org **Church email:** office@fmcbeatrice.org

Deacons: Don Esau (402-223-9210), Vicki Hinz-Ensz (402-239-4174),
Sue Gerber (402-239-8857)

Church Chair: Jerry Reimer (402-239-2716)



Welcome to First Mennonite Church

December 31, 2023

Welcome

Call To Worship

L: Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

High voices: At that moment, Anna, a widow who worship at the temple with fasting and prayer night and day,

Low Voices: began to praise God and to speak about the child to everyone who was looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

L: The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

People: Our long wait is finally over!

(pause)

ALL: Together we rejoice.

Prayer

Hymn: "Poor of the Earth"

VT 213

Children's Story

Hymn: "Love has Come"

VT 258

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40

Sermon: How Will We Know...Who Knows?

Pastor Josh

Hymn: "What Child is This"

VT 267

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN THE PAST

Scripture: Isaiah 63:7-9

Testimony of God's faithfulness in Our Congregation

- Dedications
- Marriages
- Deaths

GOD'S SURE PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE

Scripture: Isaiah 45:3-6

Act of Covenant

L: Do you commit yourselves today to take up the cost and joy of discipleship in Jesus Christ during the coming year and from now on?

ALL: As we begin this New Year, we renew our covenant with one another to seek and respond to the word and the will of God.

We propose to walk together in all God's ways made know and yet to be made known to us.

We will join the mission of the church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshiping God and striving for truth, justice, and peace, relying on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us.

We will pray for the coming of the realm of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

This we do with the help of God. AMEN.

COMMUNION

Words of Introduction

Communion Prayer

VT 944 adapted

L: It is a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you Holy God. With you people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join in the underlying hymn:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest.

L: And so here we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ has been born. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

L: We praise you, all-holy god, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, today, tomorrow, and forever. We give thanks and pray the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray:

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name....

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communal Prayer

VT 946

ALL: Everlasting God, in deep gratitude, for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Send us to live as changed people, because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So God, may we glorify you as inhabitants of earth and citizens of heaven. AMEN.

Sharing and Prayer

Advent Candle Lighting/Benediction

L: Together we rejoice!

Candle Lighter: Our waiting is over!

L: We've seen the One, the light to all peoples, who grew in strength and is filled with wisdom. The favor of God is upon him!
Go! Rejoice! God is here!

Sending Song: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

VT 182

Offering to First Mennonite Church

Welcome! We are glad you are here! Please come again!

The Adult Sunday School class uses Salt & Light discussion guides (stand-alone lessons). Come join us in the room at the bottom of the stairs as your schedule allows.

Children's Sunday School resumes January 7, 9:30 a.m. and will study the Greatest Commandment, Matthew 22:36-40. God tells us to *Love God and Love Others*.

Thank you for your donations to the **Tuition Fund!** We have met our first semester pledge for Clair Janssen's studies at Bethel College. We are still accepting donations for the second semester tuition pledge of \$4500. Donations for this may be put in the offering plate, marked "tuition pledge".

The **Annual Meeting** will be on Wednesday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m. The Annual Report will be in your mailbox on January 7.

A **Celebration of Life** was held for **Edna Ensz** at First Mennonite on Thursday, December 28. Edna passed away on December 23 at the age of 104. Our prayers are with her family.

Gail and Sylvia Cross request your prayers as Gail continues to have aftereffects from Covid.

The **Church board meeting** has been changed from January 18 to January 16. New and old board members are asked to attend.

If your **address or phone number have changed** (or your land line disconnected) in the past year, please let the office know.

If you have **frozen food for Scott Jantzen** and his family, you may put it in the freezer in the church kitchen. Please put cooking instructions and Scott's name on the item. The food will be delivered to Scott every Monday. Call Lori Thimm 402-239-3611 with questions.

The following **books have been donated to the church library** by Brandon & Cara Esau and are available for check out if you are interested:

- Vertical Marriage *by Dave & Ann Wilson*
- A Lifelong Love; Discovering How Intimacy with God Breathes Passion into Your Marriage *by Gary Thomas*
- Love Like you Mean It; The Heart of a Marriage that Honors God *by Bob Lepine*
- Sexual Intimacy in Marriage *by William Cutrer, MD & Sandra Glahn, PhD with Michael Sytsma, PhD*
- The Story of Us (A Couples Devotional) *by Family Life*
- Your Money Made Simple; The Key to Financial Freedom *by Russ Crosson*
- Fight Fair!; Winning at Conflict Without Losing at Love *by Tim & Joy Downs*

May God's Blessings be with you in 2024!