

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

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**Serving Today:**

|                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Pastor: Josh Janzen            | Pianist: Karen Wiebe            |
| Worship Leader: Kyle Riesen    | Greeters: John & Zella Penner   |
| PPT: Debbie Goossen            | Children's Story: Neal Trantham |
| Live Stream: Kathy Casey       | Audio: Doug Casey               |
| Ushers: John Regier & Jim Hamm | Hosts: Lynn & Sue Gerber        |

**Last Sunday:** Offerings: Mission Partners Stutzmans: \$1,935.  
Attendance: 77

**Offering today: FMC; Next Sunday: Food Pantry**

**Happening this week:**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Sunday, December 4  | 9:30 a.m. Christmas Program Practice                 |
|                     | 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School                        |
|                     | 10:30 a.m. Worship, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent |
| Tuesday, December 6 | Shepherd Group 4 serves Warren's Table               |
| Sunday, December 11 | 9:30 a.m. Christmas Program Practice                 |
|                     | 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School                        |
|                     | 10:30 a.m. Worship, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent |

**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, Christopher Janssen |                            |
| 17: Dick Goertzen                                    | 20: Ann Reimer, Brett Esau |
| 25: Dick Penner                                      | 29: John Penner            |

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- Ask an usher for assistance with a **hearing device**.
  - **We collect** Sun Mart receipts, Best Choice labels & used cards/envelopes
  - **Food Pantry:** Please put items in the narthex box or give cash donations to Dolores Jantzen.
  - **Shop at smile.amazon.com** to support Mother to Mother Ministries with your Amazon purchases!
  - If you would like a **PDF of the church directory** for your phone, please contact the office.

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

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

**Church Office:** 402-228-2231

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

**Deacons:** Vern Jantzen (402-230-0011), Don Esau (402-223-9210), Vicki Hinz-Ensz (402-239-4174)



**Welcome to First Mennonite Church**

**December 4, 2022,**  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent*

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**Welcome**

Kyle Riesen

**Call to Worship**

L: A branch shall come forth from the stump of Jesse; its root shall bear fruit.

**P: May we be ready, O Lord, ready to be fruit bearers of your harvest, bringing forth the fruit of dwelling, longing, unity, and peace.**

L: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

**P: Renew our spirit, stand as a banner before us, bright as morning glory.**

L: Prepare the way for new life that emerges in and through you, life that ripples out to your people, into all nations.

**ALL: In you there is glorious rest.**

**Prayer**

Kyle Riesen

**Hymn: "God of Grace and God of Glory"**

VT 716

L: John the Baptist proclaimed, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

**P: Prepare the way of the Lord, make God's paths straight.**

**(Lighting of the Advent candles)**

L: As we prepare, we light this candle as a sign of peace.

**P: Bring your restoration to your people, we pray.**

**Hymn: "O Come, O Come Immanuel"** verses 1, 3, and 7 VT 210

**Children's Story**

Neal Trantham

**Hymn: "Prepare the Way, the Prophet Called"**

VT 220

**Scripture:** Matthew 3:1-12; Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13

**Sermon: "Prepare the Way Today!"**

Pastor Josh

**Hymn: "Build Your Kingdom Here"**

VT 393

**Sharing and Prayer**

**Sending**

**Offering for First Mennonite Church**

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**Welcome!** We're glad you are worshiping with us. The service is available at <https://www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice> and on FM 107.5 in our parking lot. To follow along in the bulletin, visit our website [fmcbeatrice.org](http://fmcbeatrice.org); under the More tab select Documents. Scroll down to Church docs, minutes and bulletins.

**Christmas program practices** will be held Dec 4, 11, and 18 from 9:30 to 10:20 a.m. "*No Time For Christmas*," will be presented by the FMC instrumental ensemble, Sunday Singers, & Children on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30. Sunday School children are asked to attend the practices.

This week the **adult Sunday School** class is discussing chapter 4 (on mission-focused spirituality) of the book *Reawakened*. You're welcome to join the discussion even if you haven't read the book.

**The tuition committee** is seeking donations to fulfill our 2nd semester pledges for the college students. Donations can be given to Mike Goossen.

**Deacon nominations** are accepted through December 4. Please speak with your nominee before giving their name to Chair Dorothy Zimmerman.

**The nuts are here!** As before, you can pick them up in the room west of the kitchen. Find your name on the sheet. Take an envelope, write your name on it, put the money in the envelope and back in the box. **Thank you!** Yes, there are some extras! Contact Karen Wiebe if you are interested in extra bags.

**If you would like to share a poinsettia in church** this holiday season, you may order one through the Decorating Committee for \$17. It will be delivered to church Dec. 9 and you can take it home after worship on December 25. Please order through the Decorating Committee by December 4. - Leslie Trantham, Linsey Schardt, Robbyn Hohensee

**Congratulations** and God's Blessings on **Jay and Chelsea (King) Reimer** who were married on November 11, 2022 in Minneapolis.

**We have pledged to support our Mission Partners, Dave & Rebekkah Stutzman, with \$5000 per year.** A yearly offering was taken last Sunday to support them, gathering a total of \$1,935. Please consider contributing to their support if you haven't done so already. Thank you.

The **Pictorial Directory Committee** of Dolores Jantzen & Zella Penner ask you to share any photos you have of church activities that you think are suitable for use in our new pictorial directory. (Photos of Sunday school, 2022 VBS, Christmas program practice, camp, MDS work, MCC sale, Burwood Bookstore, church picnic, and whatever FMC is involved in) Submit them to the church office by email or hard copy. Thanks!

**MDS work is being done in McAllen, TX** on the La Posada Project through December 20. If you can help or have questions, please contact Marv Goossen (402-520-1609) or Jim Ensz (402-239-0062). Groups are scheduled to go throughout the first two weeks of December.

**Don & June Diller** have moved to Samaritan Springs. Their address is 600 S 22<sup>nd</sup>, Apt 307, Beatrice, NE 68310. They have a new phone number also: 402-230-3077.

**Thank you to Don & June Diller** for the donation of their piano to use in the church basement. The old upright basement piano is available free of charge for anyone who would like it. (You move it!) If you are interested in this, please talk to the worship committee: Jane Esau, Amanda Thimm, and Neal Trantham. Don and June also **have an organ that needs a home. It's free for the taking.**

**Thank you so much** for the prayers, cards, and expressions of care from this family of believers for our family at Leon's sudden passing and Ron's hospitalization. -Ruth Janzen Detwiler and family

You are invited to celebrate our mother, **Marj Epp's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday, December 18 at an Open House** from 2-4 p.m. at Summit Street Church, 12<sup>th</sup> & Summit, Beatrice. Her birthday is December 3. If you are unable to attend, she would enjoy receiving cards and your prayers. Her address is Marj Epp, Apt 2, 2300 Lincoln St, Beatrice, NE 68310. - Jeanette (Don Jr.), Roger, Beth, Robert, Curt and families

**Community Food Pantry Ingathering** is ongoing through November and December. Please drop off food, paper products, or personal hygiene items, at the pantry at St. John's Church. Cash donations also appreciated.

**An Advent at Home family worship guide, *Restoration is Near***, is available at: [mennoniteusa.org/adventathome](http://mennoniteusa.org/adventathome).

*Christmas Eve Service of Carols 6 p.m.  
New Year's Eve Communion Service 6 p.m.*