

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

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**Serving Today:**

Worship Leader: Kyle Riesen                      Organist: Karen Wiebe  
Sermon: Katie Jantzen                              Hosts: Lynn & Sue Gerber  
Live Stream: Neal Trantham                      Audio: Larry Thimm  
Ushers: Brad Thimm & John Regier              Power point: Debbie Goossen  
Candle Lighters: John & Sarah Regier        Children's Story: Kathy Casey

**Last Sunday: Offering:** FMC: \$ 1,805

**Attendance:**

**Offering this morning: FMC              Next Sunday: MDS**

**Happening this week:**

Sunday, January 7	9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Tuesday, January 9	1:30 p.m. WMS Quilting & tying
Wednesday, January 10	7:00 p.m. FMC Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 14	9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship

**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
17: Ron Janzen	19: Kent Hohensee
21: Robbyn Hohensee	26: Don Esau, John Thimm
29: Randall Ensz	

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- **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.

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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:** 402-251-7180

**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**

*January 7, 2024*

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**Welcome**

**Call To Worship**

L: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

**P: Lift up your eyes and look around; they gather and come to you.**

**High Voices: You shall see and be radiant;**

**Low voices: your heart shall thrill and rejoice and proclaim the praise of the Lord.**

L: The mystery of Christ has been revealed by the Spirit. We have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise of Christ through the Gospel.

**P: We know this through faith in Christ. May our lights shine!**

**Prayer**

**Hymn: "As With Gladness"** VT 277

**Children's Story**

**Hymn: "Helpless and Hungry"** VT 268

**Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12**

**Sermon: How Will We Know....What We Know?** Katie Jantzen

**Hymn: "I Love to Tell the Story"** VT 761

**Sharing and Prayer**

## Advent Candle Lighting/Benediction

John & Sarah Regier

Leader: Together we carry the light.

Candle lighter: This is what we know.

Leader: Now go, basking in the glow of Christ!

We have become God's heirs, members of one body,  
and sharers of the promise. Amen!

## Sending Song: "This Little Light of Mine"

VT 762

## Offering to First Mennonite Church

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

**Children's Sunday School** resumes today at 9:30 a.m. with the story of The Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40)- *We should love God and love others.* Next week we hear about "Bigger Barns", (Luke 12:13-21) - *Share what you have.*

**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

**Pastor Josh will be ordained on Sunday, January 21** at a special service at 2:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. Guest speaker will be his mentor, Wilmer Harder of Buehler Mennonite Church. Speaking at 10:30 a.m. will be Kathy Neufeld Dunn, WDC Associate Conference Minister. A catered meal will be served following the morning service. To help with planning, please RSVP by January 14 to your Shepherds, Jerry Reimer, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Sue Gerber, Don Esau or email the church office. We hope you can attend this special event for Pastor Josh.

**Tuition Fund pledges/donations:** Thank you for your tuition fund donations for Clair's first semester. We are now asking for donations to meet our second semester pledge to Bethel College for Clair Janssen.. The second semester pledge for her tuition is \$4500 and due January 9. Donations for this may be put in the offering plate, marked "tuition pledge".

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

The **Annual Meeting** will be on Wednesday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m. 2023 Annual Reports are in your mailboxes this morning. Please take a look at the agenda to see items to be discussed and/or voted on, including:

- Update on the process of hiring an Associate Pastor of Faith Formation – Jerry Reimer
- Update on the WDC listening visit in March and the WDC Annual Assembly to be held here August 2-4, 2024. – Jerry Reimer
- Everence Report – Vern Jantzen
- Building Committee to present quotes for cemetery fence and trees – John Regier
- Regarding the Cemetery: Does the congregation want to have anything on the south and east sides of the cemetery or leave it as it is now?
- If something is desired, is a fence or trees preferred?

**We want to thank** all of you for the many ways you sustained our family during the passing of our mom, Edna Ensz. The visits, phone calls, cards, food, and help with the service was all very much appreciated. Most of all we appreciated how you shared in celebrating her long-lived life with us at the visitation and service, even though it was a busy time of the year. The church family always meant so very much to her to the very end and we also feel the same comfort and support of all of your care and love. --The family of Edna Ensz

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*
- 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*

## FMC General Fund Summary

	December
General Fund beginning balance 11/30/23	\$(6,905.87)
General Fund offerings	11,566.22
Church expenses	<u>(11,882.35)</u>
General fund ending balance 12/31/23	(7,222.00)