

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

Serving Today: Pastor Josh Janzen Worship Leader: Brett Esau
Hosts: Gayland & Marcia Regier Power Point: Eli VanderSchaaf
Piano: Erin Vanderschaaf Audio: Jim Ensz
Video: Kathy Casey Ushers: Gayland Regier & Brandon Esau
Children's Story: Erin Vanderschaaf

Last Sunday: Attendance: 73 **Offering:** FMC: \$7,991

Today's Offering: Western District Conference **Next Sunday:** FMC

Coming Up:

Sunday, Sept 13	9:30 am Children's & Adult Sunday School
	10:30 am Worship
	11:30 am Congregational Meeting
Tuesday, Sept 15	1:30 pm WMS Quilting & Tying
Wed, Sept 16	6:30 pm Peace Club, Prayer Partners, JYF, SYF
Thursday, Sept 17	7:00 pm Church Board meeting
Sunday, Sept 20	9:30 am Children's & Adult Sunday School
	10:30 am Worship

September Birthdays:

3: Dan Crawford	4: Liana Stutzman
5: Norm Reimer, Margaret Boyce	6: Asha Jantzen
12: Graham Schardt	15: Anders Baade
18: Judy Jantzen, Denise Jantzen	20: Jim Hamm
23: Shana Ensz	24: LeRoy Janzen
26: Lori Craawford, Marcia Regier	30: Tony Tegtmeier

- Our services are on **YouTube:** www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice
- The **bulletin** is at fmcbeatrice.org under documents.
- If you would like to be on the **Prayer Chain**, see Sue Gerber
- If you use the **nursery**, please clean up after using it. Thanks!
- Ask an usher for assistance with a **hearing device**.
- **We collect** Best Choice labels & used cards and envelopes.
- **Food Pantry items** go in the box in the narthex; Checks in the offering plate.
- **Men's Brotherhood Project?** Contact Dan Kunzman or LeRoy Janzen.
- **Farmer's Market**, Thursday's 4-6:30 pm, 6th & High Streets

Address: 6714 W. State Hwy. 4, Beatrice, NE 68310 **Website:** fmcbeatrice.org

Pastors: Josh Janzen; 402-631-3481; pastorjosh@fmcbeatrice.org
Sarah Neher; 507-993-6820; sarah@fmcbeatrice.org. Her office hours are generally Sundays & Tuesdays, 9-12; Wednesdays, 1-8; Fridays 9-2

Church Office: 402-251-7180 **Email:** office@fmcbeatrice.org

Deacons: Sue Gerber (402-239-8857), Don Esau (402-223-9210),
Vicki Hinz-Ensz (402-239-4174), **Church Chair:** Brett Esau (402-520-9100)

Welcome to First Mennonite Church September 13, 2026



Welcome and Call to Worship

L: A sower went out to sow.

P: Scatter the seed, Lord, we have come to listen.

L: Some falls on the path, and never takes root.

P: Break up what is hard in us.

L: Some falls on rocky ground, and springs up fast, and withers faster.

P: Give us roots that can survive a hard season.

L: Some falls among thorns, and is choked by worry, by wealth, by wanting more.

P: Clear what is crowding you out of our lives.

L: And some falls on good soil, and grows, thirty, sixty, a hundredfold.

P: Make us good soil. We are here to hear.

L: Whoever has ears to hear,

All: let them hear. Let us worship the God who is still sowing.

Prayer

Hymn 30 "Jesus Calls Us"

Confession

L: Lord, you sow your word into our lives week after week, and we confess we do not always receive it.

P: Some weeks we are the path, so full of noise, so busy, so defended, that your word sits on the surface and gets carried off before it ever sinks in.

L: Forgive us for the distraction we call productivity, and the busyness we mistake for faithfulness.

P: Some weeks we are rocky ground, quick to feel joy, slow to grow roots, and when trouble comes, we fall away as fast as we sprang up.

L: Forgive us for mistaking a feeling for a foundation.

P: Some weeks we are thorny ground, not far from you at all, just crowded. Worry, money, ambition, the ache for more, nothing evil has crowded you out, Lord. Everything ordinary has.

L: Forgive us for letting good things become the thing that chokes out the best thing.

All: Lord, have mercy on the ground our lives have become. You know what kind of soil we bring you this morning. Do the work in us that only you can do. Break up what is hard. Clear what is crowded. Deepen what is shallow. Make us good soil.

Assurance

L: Hear the good news buried in this very story: soil can change.

P: Christ himself has come to break up the fallow ground of our hearts.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God, who is patient with the soil, and who never stops sowing.

Offering Hymn 537: “Lord, You Sometimes Speak” (Offering for FMC)

Children’s Story

Scripture: Mark 4:1-20

Sermon: “Ears and Soil”

Hymn 732: “Open My Eyes”

Sharing and Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song 812: “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Passing the Peace

Welcome to all worshiping with us here and on YouTube. For easy access, bookmark this link: www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice and “Like” it and subscribe. The bulletin is at fmcbeatrice.org under the documents tab.

The Adult Bible Class will study the book “Loving Your Neighbor as Yourself”, intentional and powerful learning for those called to serve the vulnerable by R K Payne, Ph. D this fall. Join us September 13!

Youth and Children’s Sunday School begins Sunday, Sept. 13.

Peace Club will kick off Wednesday, **September 16**, with exciting activities and snacks for members K - 5th grade, and prayer partners. Meet at the church from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Families will receive the fall schedule at this first meeting. Please RSVP if you cannot attend to Jane @ 402-223-8206 or janeneufeldesau@gmail.com. We’re looking forward to a great year! Thank you!

-Kathy Casey, Barb Thimm, Jane Esau

Draft copies of proposed FMC Constitution and Bylaws are in mailboxes. A congregational meeting will be held next Sunday,

September 13 at 11:30 am to review the proposed changes to the document. A vote to approve the changes will be held at the January annual meeting. Please review it prior to the September 13 meeting. The Review Committee consisted of Pastor Josh, John Penner, Brett Esau, and Dorothy Zimmerman.

WMS would **appreciate donations of single size flat sheets** for the back of the comforters. The preferred colors are dark brown, tan (not too light), navy blue or black. They can be left on the counter in the basement. Thank You!

Be sure the **Church Picnic** is on your calendar for Sept 27, 5:00 p.m. at the Chautauqua Park Tabernacle!

Meat Canning at the Milford Fire Hall is Tuesday & Wednesday, November 17 & 18, 2026. Set-up is Monday, Nov 16. After 14 years of co-coordinating the Milford Meat Canning project, Kim and Sheila Eberspacher & Dave and Deb Welsch will turn the role over to new leadership. Thanks to all who have supported this great mission. It was a blessing to serve alongside you! **The new co-coordinators are Brandon and Ashley Roth & TJ and Tiff Reynolds.** It is exciting to see two younger couples step forward to lead the meat canning mission! Their contact information is: Ashley Roth: 402-984-1919; ashleyolin@hotmail.com Tiff Reynolds: 402-641-6178; Tiffreynoldsins@gmail.com Meat Canning offerings can be sent to: Milford Mennonite Church, [920 3rd Street, Milford, NE 68405](http://920%203rd%20Street%20Milford%20NE%2068405)

Bethel Fall Fest is October 17! BCWA welcomes donations of homemade goodies and craft items to sell at the Market in the Round in the Luyken Fine Arts Center. Questions: contact Valerie Klaassen at jvklussen@gmail.com. Please take donated items to the music library in Luyken October 16, 1-5pm or Oct 17, 7-9 am.

Our Daily Bread devotion books are available on the shelves by the mailboxes. The books are not all current, but the devotions are good even if the date is wrong.

Support Mennonite Central Committee’s relief efforts in the in the Nepal flooding disaster at mcc.org/nepal-flooding. Support their relief efforts in the Colombia earthquake at mcc.org/colombia-earthquake