

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

Serving Today:

Pastor: Josh Janzen Worship Leader: Neal Trantham
Piano: Vicki Hinz-Ensz Children's Story: Neal Trantham
Live stream: Henry Trantham Audio: Marv Goossen
Greeters: Duane & Doris Claassen PPT: Debbie Goossen
Ushers: Brad Thimm & Kent Hohensee Hosts: Don & Judy Jantzen
Last Sunday: Offerings: WDC: \$2,180; FMC \$ 250

Attendance: 109

Offering today: First Mennonite **Next Sunday:** Camp Mennoscah

Happening this week:

Sunday, Sept 17 9:30 Sunday School for all ages
 10:30 am Worship
Tuesday, Sept 19 1:30 pm WMS Quilting & Tying
Wednesday, Sept 20 6:30-7:30 pm Peace Club, JYF, SYF
Thursday, Sept 21 7:00 p.m. Church Board meeting
Sunday, Sept 24 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 5:00 p.m. Church Picnic @ Chautauqua
 Tabernacle

September Birthdays

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

-
- Ask an usher for assistance with a **hearing device**.
 - **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

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

September 17, 2023

Welcome

Neal Trantham

Call to Worship (Katherine Hawker)

L: Come with your questions, come with your awe!

P: For the God who broods over the chaos meets us in this place.

L: Come with your energy, come with your weariness!

P: For the God who breathes new life into the dust meets us in this place.

L: Come with your sadness, come with your joy!

P: For the God who dared to become human meets us in this place.

Prayer

Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision"

VT 549

Prayer of Confession

L: You are only as far away as the sound of our whispers will travel, Lord, yet we so often struggle to speak with you intimately. We make small talk sometimes, thanking you for sun and rain, for gentle breezes and low humidity. Though we may be grateful, we know that chatting about the weather is something we do with casual acquaintances and even strangers.

P: Hear our purposeful prayers.

L: We maintain substantial vocabularies – collections of words we use for term papers and interoffice memos and for bantering with our buddies. But do we use them to deepen the conversations we have with you?

P: Hear our purposeful prayers.

L: Forgive us when we are shallow, seeking a quick blessing or a fast favor from you without being willing to invest fully in a trusting, committed relationship with you. Forgive us when we are one-sided, asking always for mercy and compassion, but not returning the same.

P: Hear our purposeful prayers.

L: Forgive us when we approach you begging for guidance and direction, but then neglect to follow your instructions. Forgive us when we cry out with our pressing questions, but then stop listening for your answers.

P: Hear our purposeful prayers.

L: May we have another chance to appreciate the fullness of your love? May we try, once again, to shed our self-interest and find joy in serving your interests?

P: Hear our purposeful prayers. Amen.

Hymn: “Lord, Listen to Your Children” VT 682

Children’s Story Neal Trantham

Scripture: Matthew 6:5-8

Sermon: “How (not) to pray” Pastor Josh

Hymn: “Through Our Fragmentary Prayers” VT 677

Sharing & Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song: “Come, Thou Fount” VT 563

Offering to First Mennonite Church

Welcome! We are glad you are here! 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; under the More tab select Documents, then Church docs, minutes, and bulletins.

Children’s Sunday School’s first unit theme this fall is “Creativity”. Our memory verse is “We are God’s creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10, NIV. Right from the start, we see God’s immense creativity. Everything around us gives us a glimpse of our creative God. Jesus was creative with the way He taught and the miracles He performed. We reflect God’s creativity to the world around us. **Today** we are studying

Joseph & the Plan to Save Egypt as found in Genesis 40-41. *Bottom Line:* You can use what God gave you to solve problems. **Next Sunday** we’ll hear about the Tabernacle in Exodus 25-39(selected verses). *Bottom Line:* Use your imagination to honor God.

The adult Sunday School class is studying the book *Rethinking Life*. Please join us!

The Decorating Committee invites you to share your fall flowers in church.

New Sermon Series: The Lord’s Prayer. In a world filled with challenges and uncertainties, prayer remains a steadfast source of strength and guidance for followers of Christ. Over the next several weeks, we will embark on a transformative journey through the timeless words of the Lord’s Prayer, delving deep into its profound wisdom and uncovering the hidden treasures within. Join us as we explore the richness of this foundational prayer, seeking to understand not only its words but also its transformative power in our daily lives. Together, we will discover the profound connection between our hearts and the divine as we learn to pray as Jesus taught us. – Pastor Josh

The voters at last Sunday’s special meeting voted to affirm adding a part time Faith Formation Associate Pastor at FMC. The Church Board will take up the task of selecting a candidate at the next meeting.

The School Kits need a ride to Newton! Contact Kathy Casey if you can help!

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

Upcoming:

- FMC Church Picnic** September 24, 5 pm at Chautauqua Park Tabernacle
- Camp Mennoscah 75th Anniversary Kick-Off & Annual Mtg**, Sept 24
- Camp Dam is being removed**, October 8 at 2:30 pm
- Bethel College Fall Fest:** October 13-15. Market-in-the-Round and Pie-by-the-Slice request your food donations.
- FMC Mini-Auction:** October 22, 5:30 p.m. in the church basement.

All are invited to participate in **LifeChain 2023** Sunday, October 1 at 2 p.m. on Highway 77 starting at 6th and Court St. LifeChain is an inter-denominational one-hour nationwide event. This non-confrontational gathering is a show of solidarity, of those willing to stand in defense of the unborn and on behalf of “the least of these”.- Beatrice Coalition for Life

