

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

Serving Today: Pastor: Josh Janzen
Worship Leader: Rodney Ensz Organist: Karen Wiebe
PowerPoint: Katie Jantzen Audio: Marv Goossen
Hosts: Don & Judy Jantzen Video: Jane Esau
Ushers: Doug Casey, Bryan Heinz

Happening this week:

Tuesday, Dec 24 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship
Sunday, Dec 29 9:30 am Community Time
9:50 am Adult Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
Tuesday, Dec 31 6:00 pm New Year's Eve Communion
Service

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
17: Dick Goertzen 20: Ann Reimer, Brett Esau
25: Dick Penner 29: John Penner

- Ask an usher for assistance with a **hearing device**.
- **We collect** Best Choice labels & used cards and envelopes.
- **Food Pantry** items may go in the box in the narthex. Cash donations may be given to Dolores Jantzen.
- Have a project for Men's Brotherhood? Contact Dan Kunzman or LeRoy Janzen.
- Our service is on <https://www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice> and heard on FM 107.5 in our parking lot. The bulletin is at fmcbeatrice.org, under the **More** tab; select documents; church docs, minutes & bulletins.

Address: 6714 W. State Hwy. 4, Beatrice, NE 68310 **Website:** fmcbeatrice.org
Pastors: Josh Janzen; 402-228-2052; pastorjosh@fmcbeatrice.org
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Church Office: 402-251-7180 **Email:** office@fmcbeatrice.org
Deacons: Vicki Hinz-Ensz (402-239-4174), Sue Gerber (402-239-8857),
Don Esau (402-223-9210); **Church Chair:** Jerry Reimer (402-239-2716)



*O, Come Let Us
Adore Him!*



Welcome to First Mennonite Church

December 24, 2024
Christmas Eve

Welcome

Opening Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

VT 241

Call to Worship

L: Come, faithful watchers, and behold, your salvation is here!

P: We greet the Wondrous Light, our Messiah, Christ the Lord.

L: We have waited and watched, longing for God to show up and save us from the suffering and pain in our world.

P: We greet the Wondrous Light, the fulfillment of our shocking hope.

L: We have waited and watched, longing for peace to reign among us, a peace that removes unjust barriers, frees us from sin, and binds us together as neighbors, family, and friends.

P: We greet the Wondrous Light, the bringer of our just peace.

L: We have waited and watched, longing for joy that is persistent in the face of the grief, lament, chaos, and oppression that weigh on us day in and day out.

P: We greet the Wondrous Light, the source of our fierce joy.

L: We have waited and watched, longing to encounter the love that transforms us, the Love that is now here among us, first as a babe in a manger, then as a teacher, a friend, and our Savior.

P: We greet the Wondrous Light, Love Incarnate who has come to save us and transform us.

All: Amen.

Prayer

1st Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Immanuel" (vs. 1,3,4,6,7)

VT 210

Prayer of Confession

L: God of Light, we confess that we have gone astray and have left Your light.

P: We follow the dim lights of the world of success and fortune. We follow the dim lights that call us to be more religious by following rules. We follow the fading light of only personal salvation.

L: Forgive us for not seeking the true Light

P: of Your love for all the world.

L: Forgive us for not following the ways of Jesus,

P: who commanded us to love one another.

L: O God, Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion, and justice, in which the Mystery of Your Love is revealed.

P: In the name of Jesus the Messiah, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: *"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"* VT 248

2nd Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25

Hymn: *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* VT 245

3rd Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Hymn: *"Joy to the World"* VT 240

4th Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20

Hymn: *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* VT 249

Message: *"O Holy Night"*

5th Scripture Reading: John 1:1-14

Prayer

Hymn: *"Hark! The Glad Sound!"* VT 217

Candle Lighting

Reader 1: To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared, the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Reader 2: Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

Congregation: We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kingdom.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! Amen.

(All Advent candles are lit)

Benediction

Sending Song: *"Silent Night"* VT 244

Offering for the Deacon's Fund

Wishing you and yours a Blessed Christmas as we welcome the Christ Child into our hearts and homes!