

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

**Serving Today:**

Pastor: Josh Janzen                      Worship Leader: Erin V.  
Piano: Kathy Casey & Karen Wiebe      Children's Story:  
Live stream: John Thimm                  Audio: Larry Thimm  
Greeters: John & Zella Penner          PPT: Lori Thimm  
Ushers: Bill Thimm & Daryl Riesen      Hosts: Lynn & Sue Gerber  
Candlelighters/Benediction: Prayer Partners Amanda Thimm & Stella Ensz  
and Prayer Partners Laura Williamson & Navy Esau

**Last Sunday: Offerings:** Mission Partners: \$5,685; MCC mini auction:  
\$950; FMC \$300. **Attendance:** 81

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

**Happening this week:**

Sunday, Dec 3    9:30 a.m. Adult SS; Program Practice, 10:30 Worship  
5:30 pm Community Potluck at FMC  
Tuesday, Dec 5    5:00 pm Shepherd Group 4 serves Warren's Table  
Sunday, Dec 10    9:30 a.m. Adult SS: Program Practice, 10:30 Worship

**Late November/Early December Birthdays**

**Nov.27:** Gail Cross, Nathanael Stutzman  
29: Lesley Trantham, Aaron Jantzen    30: Don Diller  
**Dec. 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, Dick Goertzen  
20: Ann Reimer, Brett Esau  
25: Dick Penner                              29: John Penner

- **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.

**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**

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent - December 3, 2023*

**Welcome**

Erin Vanderschaaf

**Call to Worship**

L: O God, tear open the heavens and come down so that the mountains  
would quake at your presence!

**High Voices: No one has heard,**

**Low Voices: no ear has perceived,**

**All: no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for you.**

L: No one knows when the time will come.

**P: How long must we wait?**

(pause)

**ALL: Together we wait.**

**Prayer**

**Hymn: "Come, Walk with Us"**

VT 23

**Children's Story**

Neal Trantham

**Hymn: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

VT 218

**Scripture: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Mark 13:32-37**

**Sermon: "How Will We Know? How Long?"**

Pastor Josh

**Hymn: "Poor of the Earth"**

VT 213

**Sharing and Prayer**

**Advent Candle Lighting/Benediction**

Prayer Partners

L: No one knows when the time will come.

So, go! Keep alert, strengthened by God's faithfulness to you.

**Sending Song: "Wait for the Lord"**

VT 228

## Offering to First Mennonite Church

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

**The Children's Sunday School will practice at 9:30 a.m.** on December 3, 10, and 17 for the December 17 Christmas program at 10:30.

**The adult Sunday School class** uses the Salt & Light discussion guides. These lessons are all stand-alone lessons so come join us as your schedule allows. All are welcome to attend. We meet in the room at the bottom of the stairs.

**FMC COMMUNITY POTLUCK TODAY! 5:30 pm!** Please bring food to share **and friends!** Drinks and table service provided. Our Los Companeros friends will be here!

**WMS** will not meet during December. We'll resume meeting January 3.

**Deacon nominations** are being accepted through December 10. Please speak with your nominee before giving their name to Chair Jerry Reimer. Of note, Don Esau is eligible for re-election.

**Tuition Fund pledges/donations** may be put in the offering plate marked as such. Second semester funds are due January 9.

**"Share the Warmth"**. There is a collection box in the coat rack to put coats, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, boots, etc. in good condition through Dec 4. Sponsored by Best Foot Forward 4-H Club.

**Poinsettias to share in church** during the Christmas season are still available to order. **Orders are due today**, December 3. Order forms are by the mailboxes and should be put in Linsey Schardt's mailbox with payment of \$18.

**Homestead Harmonizers and Beatrice Regional Orchestra** present **"Celebrate the Season"**, Sunday, Dec 3 at 2:00 p.m. at the Hevelone Center. Tickets are \$10 at the door; 18 & under are free.

A reminder for **all committee and council chairs: Your annual committee/council report is now due** in the church office. Please submit it soon. If you have any questions, please refer to last year's annual report or call Vicki at 402-239-5312.

If you have an **agenda item for the Annual Meeting**, please talk to Church Chair Jerry Reimer: (402-239-2716).

If anyone would like to **join us for Sunday Singers** when we sing in the Christmas program on Sunday morning, Dec 17, we would love to have you. Even if you haven't sung with us before, come join us. We will be practicing the next 2 Wednesdays, Dec. 6 & 13 at 7:00.

The **family of Dick Goertzen invites you to help celebrate** his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday with a Christmas Open House on Friday, December 15, beginning at 5 pm at Countryside Event Center, 27349 131<sup>st</sup> Road, Beatrice. NO gifts please.

**NUTS!** WMS has sliced almonds \$7.00, cashews \$9.50, and black walnuts \$12.50, all are one-pound bags. Contact Lori Thimm, 402-239-3611.

An **Advent at Home worship guide, "How Will We Know?"** is available from Mennonite Education Agency as a free download from their website: [www.mennoniteeducation.org/resources](http://www.mennoniteeducation.org/resources). The worship guide accompanies individuals and families through the days and weeks of Advent through Epiphany with scriptures, prayers, worship rituals, suggested activities, and contextual information. It is intended for all ages and life stages to deepen the experience of the season.

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.

**MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton critically low on inventory:** You can help! We need: *new* infant onesies and sleepers (6–12-month sizes); *new* bath towels (dark colored, light to medium weight); *new* hand towels (dark colored). For prisoner care and returning citizen care kits, we need: men's shirts (sizes XL, 2XL, 3XL -- any color) and men's underwear (sizes 2XL, 3XL -- any color). Buy online and ship it to MCC or bring items to MCC in North Newton (121 E. 30<sup>th</sup> St, North Newton, KS 67117). Questions? [brociamueller@mcc.org](mailto:brociamueller@mcc.org) or 316.283.2720.



### Christmas Worship Opportunities:

Sunday, December 24, 10:30 a.m. Worship  
Sunday, December 24, 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship  
Sunday, December 31, 10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

**New AMBS Vision issue on "Family" available for free online.** The Fall 2023 issue of *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* — edited by Andy Brubacher Kaethler, PhD — explores how the church can play a positive role in supporting families without relying on a narrow understanding of the ideal family unit itself. Find it at [ambs.edu/vision](http://ambs.edu/vision)