

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

Serving Today:

Pastor: Josh Janzen
Worship Leader: Kyle Riesen
Live Stream: John Thimm

Pianist: Vicki Hinz-Ensz
Hosts: John & Zella Penner
Audio: Jim Ensz

Ushers: Bill Thimm, Daryl Riesen
Candle Lighters: Riley Schardt, Kollyns Hohensee, Eli Vanderschaaf

Last Sunday: Offerings: Food Pantry: \$ 2,000; FMC: \$ 850;
Tuition Fund: \$ 1000; **Attendance:** 105

Offering today: First Mennonite;

Next Sunday, Dec. 24 a.m. AMBS; Christmas Eve: Deacons Fund

Happening this week:

Sunday, December 17 9:30 a.m. Christmas Program Practice
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Christmas Program
Thursday, Dec 21 7:00 p.m. Church Board meeting
Sunday, December 24 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship

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, 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

December 17, 2023,

3rd Sunday in Advent - Christmas Program

"Carol of the Bells"

Vicki and Stella Ensz

Call To Worship

Kyle Riesen

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in
God my Savior!

**High voices: For the Mighty One has done great things for me,
Low voices: and holy is God's name.**

Leader: God has brought down the powerful and lifted up the
lowly.

**People: What will God do next?
(pause)**

All: Together we wonder.

"CHRISTMAS LETTERS"

by Gail Gaymer Martin

A children's Christmas program

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SCENES

Cast

Letter R - Root of Jesse

Eli, Jude, and Henry Vanderschaaf

Letter C – Caesar Augustus

Brendan Thimm, Anders Baade,
Blake Thimm

"Go Tell It On The Mountain"

Instrumental Ensemble

Letter T - Travelers

Graham Schardt, Maxson Esau,
Sam Vanderschaaf

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Children, Adult Choir and
Instrumental Ensemble

Letter I - Innkeeper Rikki Hohensee, Betsy Baade,
Callan Baade
Letter S - Shepherds Beckett Heinz, Miles Esau,
Gentre Esau
“Who’s the Little Baby” Adult Choir

Letter A - Angels Navy Esau, Sloan Esau

Letter M - Mary Kollyns Hohensee, Braxton Williamson,
Parker Williamson
“Away in a Manger” Children

Letter S - Savior Riley Schardt, Piper Heinz

Letter H – Holy Night Denise Jantzen, Ryan Hohensee,
Stella Ensz, Randall Ensz
“Silent Night” Children, Adult Choir, and
Instrumental Ensemble

Final scene

“O Come All Ye Faithful” Instrumental Ensemble

Advent Candle Lighting/Benediction JYF

Leader: Together we wonder.

Candle lighter: How will we know what’s next?

Leader: Go and hold fast to what is good, rejoice always,
make straight the way of the Lord!

Sharing and Prayer Pastor Josh

Offering to First Mennonite Church

Instrumental Ensemble: Rikki Hohensee, Katie Jantzen, Steph Janzen,
Josh Janzen, Erin VanderSchaaf, Eli VanderSchaaf, Mike Goossen, Pam
Kunzman, Abby Trantham, Clara Trantham, Symantha Shelton.

Directed by Neal Trantham.

Accompanist: Vicki Hinz-Ensz

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

Thank you to the children, choir, instrumentalists, and leaders for the wonderful Christmas program.

Children’s Sunday School will resume on January 7 at 9:30 a.m.

The adult Sunday School class uses Salt & Light discussion guides (stand-alone lessons) so come join us as your schedule allows in the room at the bottom of the stairs.

WMS will resume meeting January 9.

Tuition Fund pledges/donations: We are short \$2200 for our first semester pledge for Clairra Janssen’s tuition at Bethel College. Bethel needs to receive that payment by December 21. The second semester pledge for her tuition is \$4500 and due January 9. Donations for this may be put in the offering plate and marked "tuition pledge".

Annual committee/council reports are due in the church office.

If you have an **agenda item for the Annual Meeting**, please talk to Church Chair Jerry Reimer by December 17: (402-239-2716).

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.

I went home to East Arbor Saturday, December 16th. I just **THANK** the Dear Lord for being with me during this time and bringing me back to good health. Merry Christmas to all – Marjorie Epp

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.



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**

FMC General Fund Summary

	November
General Fund beginning balance 10/31/23	\$ 6,867.25
General Fund offerings	9,500.00
Church expenses	<u>(23,273.12)</u>
General fund ending balance 11/30/23	(6,905.87)