

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

Serving Today: Pastor: Josh Janzen
Worship Leader: Brett Esau Organist: Erin VanderSchaaf
Hosts: Gayland & Marci Regier Video: Jane Esau
Audio: Van VanderSchaaf PowerPoint: Eli VanderSchaaf
Ushers: Gayland Regier & Bill Thimm Kid's Time: Daryl Riesen
Last Sunday: Attendance: 83 **Offering:** WDC \$1,635; MMN \$50;

FMC \$150

Today's Offering: FMC **Next Week's Offering:** MMN

Coming Up this Week:

Sunday, March 15 9:30 am Adult Sunday School only
10:30 am Worship
Tuesday, March 17 1:30 pm WMS
Wednesday, March 18 6:30 pm Peace Club, SYF, JYF
Thursday, March 19 7:00 p.m. Church Board meeting
Sunday, March 22 9:30 am Adult, Kids, Youth Sunday
School, Baptism Class
10:30 am Worship

Items for NE MCC Sale can be brought this week! Due Thursday by 4.

March Birthdays

4: Daryl Riesen, Karen Wiebe 8: Kyle Riesen, Darcy Esau
14: Josh Janzen 15: Bev Claassen
16: Rodney Ensz 17: Doug Penner, Stella Ensz
21: Hannah Tegtmeier 24: Roger Claassen
25: Parker Williamson 26: Callan Baade
28: Navy Esau 29, Baker Esau, Sarah Neher
30: Sue Gerber

- 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 for the food pantry may go in the offering plate.
- **Men's Brotherhood Project?** Contact Dan Kunzman or LeRoy Janzen.

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



Welcome to First Mennonite Church
March 15, 2026
Third Sunday in Lent

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: We gather for worship, seeking a kingdom that is not of this world.

All: "Your Kingdom come! Your will be done on earth!"

L: We pray.

Then we look around . . . Where is it? What is truth?

We gather for worship, asking questions and staying the course.

We pray again and again,

All: "Your kingdom come!"

L: Looking and longing . . . Where is it? Where are you?

We gather for worship and find that God is here.

All: On earth as in heaven.

L: God's kingdom now and not yet; here and in the world to come.

All: Let us worship our God together.

Prayer

Hymn 65: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Confession & Assurance

Leader: O God, when power threatens us, we reach for control.

When we feel afraid, we want strength that can overpower our enemies.

People: We confess that we often trust the power of this world more than the way of Jesus.

Leader: Jesus stood before Pilate without violence, without retaliation, without fear. Yet we often prefer kings who promise victory rather than truth.

People: Forgive us when we misunderstand your kingdom.

Leader: We confess the dissonance in our lives—

between the faith we proclaim and the power we practice.

People: We confess that we want the kingdom of God but we are not always ready for the way of the cross.

Leader: We confess that we benefit from systems of power while hesitating to live the costly love of Christ.

People: Lord Jesus, teach us again the power of your kingdom.

Leader: Hear the good news. The kingdom Jesus proclaimed does not begin with our perfection but with God's mercy. The same Christ who stood before Pilate now stands among us with grace.

People: In Christ, we are forgiven.

Leader: In Christ, we are invited again into the upside-down kingdom—a kingdom where love is stronger than fear, where truth is stronger than power, and where mercy has the final word.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

VT 393: "Build Your Kingdom Here" *Offering for FMC*

Children's Story

Reader's Theater

Scripture: John 18:28-40

Sermon: "A Different Kind of King" Pastor Josh

Hymn 297: "You Are Salt for the Earth"

Sharing and Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song 841: "AS You Go Out from Here" (2x)

Welcome to all worshipping 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.

Interested in Exploring Church Membership? Are you curious about what it means to become a member of our church community? Whether you're new here or have been worshipping with us for some time, you're warmly invited to explore the next step. I've recently updated our membership class, and I would be glad to talk with you about participating. The class is a space to learn more about our shared life, values, and mission — and to ask questions along the way. There is no pressure or

obligation — just an open invitation to explore. If you're interested, please reach out to me directly so we can connect. --Pastor Josh

"My Coins Count" collection totals:

March 1, \$350.07 matched by Jim and Vicki Ensz

March 8, \$298.99 matched by John and Lori Thimm

March 15 will be matched by Marvin and Lisa Goossen and Kyle and Laura Baade

March 22 will be matched by Larry and Kathy Thimm

Others are encouraged to match My Coins Count. If you are **interested in matching, let the committee know.** *Last year we collected a total of \$2,733.25, plus matches equaled 7,126.13.* Let's see if we can beat that total.

2027 marks **150 years of our Mennonite congregation in Beatrice.** As we think back on our history, we'd like to write down the stories of our church. What are some of the important events, people, or projects that have impacted our church in the past 50 years? In what ways has our church been involved in the community locally, nationally, or internationally in the past 50 years? Send your ideas for research topics to Katie Jantzen at k_jantzen@hotmail.com.

It takes a village to plant seeds of faith. **VBS** is one of the most meaningful weeks of the year for our children, and you can be a part of it! Sign-up sheets are in your mailbox. VBS is May 26th- 29th.

Lent 2026. Many of the Lenten readings echo the intensity of Holy Week, and the theme of ***Dwelling in Dissonance***, where we are called to spend time reflecting on John's Holy Week passages. Each Sunday, one more of the six candles on the communion table will be extinguished, representing the discordance with present life and with Holy Week in Jesus' time. There is a table and candles at the front of the church where you can turn on a candle before service to represent specific prayers and laments as we move through this Lenten season.

Tri County 2026 Blue & Gold Gala is Saturday, March 21, 5-10 pm at the Plymouth Community Center. Use the QR code on the flyer on the bulletin board to register and pay or send payment to the school office. Questions? Call Shana Ensz at 402-806-1946.

Beatrice Regional Orchestra Concert TODAY @ 2 pm at the Hevelone, BHS. Admission \$10, students free.

47th Annual NE MCC Sale March 27 & 28, 2026

Holthus Convention Center, York, NE.

Auctions are Friday 6 pm & Saturday 8 am.

March 22 is the deadline to register items to list on the website.

Meals:

Friday evening options (4-7 p.m.): Windsor Loin/BBQ Chicken meal (\$15), Pork sandwiches

Saturday breakfast 7:00am–9:00 a.m.

meal, & Pork sandwiches

Bethel College Choir will perform on Friday at 5:30 pm and through the day on Saturday.

****If you plan to stay overnight in York, book your room soon!**

Signup sheets are on the bulletin board for **pies, bread, jams**, and to **help with the Windsor Loin/BBQ chicken meal** Friday evening.

****Sale Items must be at First Mennonite by Thursday, March 26 at 4:00 p.m. for transport.**

Thank you! Committee Members, Larry & Kathy Thimm,

Daryl & Becky Riesen, Mike & Debbie Goossen

NE MCC Sale: MCC requests **Hygiene Kit** items of medium weight & size **hand towels** (no light colors) & individually wrapped bars of **soap**. Please place them in the can in the narthex through March 25.

Homestead Harmonizers Spring Show, *America's 250th*, is March 21 at 7 pm and Sunday, March 22 at 2 pm. At the Hevelone Center at Beatrice High School. The Quartet *Daily Special* will also perform. Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. 18 & under are free.

Camp Mennoscah wants your stories about the role we have played in your faith! Personal stories are so meaningful to those who support camp and we would love to publicize your connection to this incredible place. If you are willing to let us publish the ways that Camp Mennoscah has touched your life, please send an email to our Communications office at Eric.litwiller@campmennoscah.org.

Registration is now open for Camp Mennoscah! Register at <https://campmennoscah.campbrainregistration.com> (FMC will cover the cost of one Mennonite associated camp per year)

JUNE

Junior I—June 14-19 (Grades 6, 7 & 8, Fall 2026)

PreJunior I —June 21-25 (Grades 4 & 5, Fall 2026)

John & Sarah Reimer Directors

First Camp —June 25-27 (Grades 3 & 4, Fall 2026)

JULY

PreJunior II—July 5-9 (Grades 4 & 5, Fall 2026)

Junior High—July 12-17 (Grades 8 & 9, Fall 2026)

Junior II—July 19-24 (Grades 6, 7 & 8, Fall 2026)

Senior High--July 26-31 (Grades 10-12, Fall 2026)

St. Joseph's Friday Fish Fries: March 20, 5:30-7:00pm, 6th & High Street. Enter at the northeast school doors. \$12 per adult, \$6 kids 4-10 (under 4 eat free), \$40 max price per family. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 1723.

"Bridges Out of Poverty" workshop will be April 8, 8:30-11:30 am at the Beatrice Public Library. Registration is required (so a required book is available for you) by emailing pastordorismartin@gmail.com. The Bridges training is a community framework that helps people better understand how economic status shapes experiences, decision-making, and access to resources and how communities can respond more effectively and compassionately. Facilitated by Georgann Roth of Food Bank of Lincoln, presented by CASA of Gage County and Beatrice Ministerial Association.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10