

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

**Serving Today:** Pastor: Josh Janzen  
Worship Leader: Brandon Esau Piano: Erin VanderSchaaf  
Hosts: Brad & Amanda Thimm Video: Jane Esau  
Audio: Van VanderSchaaf PowerPoint: Eli VanderSchaaf  
Ushers: Gayland Regier & Bill Thimm Kid's Time: Erin VanderSchaaf  
**Last Sunday:** Attendance: 90. Offering: FMC \$4,186; Tech Fund \$225  
**Today's Offering:** MMN **Next Week's Offering:** FMC

**Coming Up this Week:**

Sunday, March 22 9:30 am Adult, Kids, Youth Sunday  
School, Baptism Class  
10:30 am Worship  
Tuesday, March 24 1:30 pm WMS  
Wednesday, March 25 6:30 pm Peace Club, SYF, JYF  
Thursday, March 26 4:00 p.m. MCC Sale items due at  
church by 4 p.m.  
NE MCC Sale at Aurora  
Friday & Saturday  
Sunday, March 29 9:30 am Sunday School for all ages  
10:30 am Worship

**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](http://www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice)
- The **bulletin** is at [fmcbeatrice.org](http://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](http://fmcbeatrice.org)  
**Pastors:** Josh Janzen; 402-631-3481; [pastorjosh@fmcbeatrice.org](mailto:pastorjosh@fmcbeatrice.org)  
Sarah Neher; 507-993-6820; [sarah@fmcbeatrice.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 22, 2026  
Fourth Sunday in Lent

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

L: Come, not as the people we imagine ourselves to be,  
but as the people we truly are.

**P: We come—uncertain, conflicted, and in need of grace.**

L: Come, you who have known what is right and struggled to live it.

**P: We come—carrying both courage and hesitation.**

L: Come, you who have been swept up in the crowd,  
or silenced by fear, or certain beyond mercy.

**P: We come—seeking truth that can hold us.**

L: Come and behold the One who stands before us,  
full of grace and truth.

**All: We come to worship the One who sees us fully  
and calls us beloved.**

**Prayer**

**Hymn 712: "Beauty for Brokenness"**

**Confession & Assurance**

L: God of truth,  
we confess that we are not always who we think we are.

**P: We have known what is right and chosen what is easy.**

L: We have stayed silent when courage was needed.

**P: We have gone along with the crowd  
when we should have stood apart.**

L: We have told ourselves stories to make our choices feel acceptable.

**P: We have clung to certainty and left little room for mercy.**

L: Forgive us for the ways we have participated in what harms,  
excludes, and diminishes.

**P: Forgive us O God for the dissonance  
between what we believe and how we live.**

L: Hear the good news:

Christ stands in the midst of our failure and fear—  
not to condemn, but to love.

**P: Even here, we are not abandoned.**

L: Grace does not wait for us to get it right.

Love does not depend on our deserving.

**P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, held, and made new.**

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**VT 330: “Ah, Holy Jesus”** Offering for MMN

## Children’s Story

## Reader’s Theater

**Scripture: John 19:1-16a**

**Sermon: “What Role Are You Playing”**

Pastor Josh

**Hymn 564: “What Wondrous Love Is This”**

## Sharing and Prayer

## Benediction

**Sending Song 827: “Move In Our Midst”**

## Passing the Peace

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**Welcome** to all worshiping with us here and on YouTube. For easy access, bookmark this link: [www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice](http://www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice) and “Like” it and subscribe. The bulletin is at [fmcbeatrice.org](http://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 worshiping 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, \$451.58 matched by Marvin & Lisa Goossen  
and Kyle & Laura Baade

March 22 will be matched by Larry and Kathy Thimm

*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 research topic ideas to Katie Jantzen at [k\\_jantzen@hotmail.com](mailto:k_jantzen@hotmail.com).

**Get Out Your Recipes!** As one of the components of our history at First Mennonite Church, we’d like to publish an updated version of the FMC cookbook from 50+ years ago. The emphasis will be on traditional recipes, some of which may be unique to our families & congregation. Updates to instructions and modern adaptations (including bread machine/crockpot/instant pot modifications) are encouraged and welcome! Please contact Paula Heinz or Debbie Goossen to contribute your recipes. We will be publishing well before the anniversary celebration, so please don’t delay!

**VBS** is May 26<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup>. Register at [fmcbeatrice.org](http://fmcbeatrice.org).

Are you missing a 9x9 cake pan, a white bowl or a plastic lid to a casserole dish? These items have been in the kitchen for a long time. They are on the counter in the fellowship hall, please claim them by March 25.- WMS

Many of the Lent 2026 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 candle on the communion table is 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.

Sign up on the bulletin board to bring soup for **Maundy Thursday/Good Friday service** and meal. Meal is at 6:00 p.m. with a service at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 2.

## **47<sup>th</sup> Annual NE MCC Sale March 27 & 28, 2026**

Holthus Convention Center, York, NE.

Auctions are Friday 6 pm & Saturday 8 am.

**Kid's Auction is 11 am to 12 pm on Saturday.**

**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.**

**Saturday lunch (11-1):** Verenika meal (\$15); taco meal, & Pork sandwiches

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

**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. Registration slips are by the mailboxes and should be filled out and attached to items for the sale.**

**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 until March 26.

**\*\*\*New information this week:** There is a **Kid's Auction** on Saturday from 11 to noon.

***Thank you! Committee Members, Larry & Kathy Thimm,  
Daryl & Becky Riesen, Mike & Debbie Goossen***

**FMC will cover the cost of one Mennonite camp per year plus a T-shirt!**

**Registration is now open for Camp Mennoscah!** Register at <https://campmennoscah.campbrainregistration.com>

### **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)

**Camp Mennoscah** wants your stories about the role we have played in your faith! Personal stories are so meaningful to those who support camp. 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](mailto:Eric.litwiller@campmennoscah.org).

**“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](mailto: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.