

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

**Serving Today:** Pastor: Josh Janzen  
Worship Leader: Jerry Reimer Organist: Vicki Hinz-Ensz  
Hosts: Justin & Linsey Schardt Video: Jane Esau  
Audio: Van VanderSchaaf PowerPoint: Eli VanderSchaaf  
Ushers: Gayland Regier & Bill Thimm Kid's Time: Dan Kunzman  
**Last Sunday: Attendance:** 81 **Offering:** FMC \$ 3,416.50  
**Today's Offering:** WDC **Next Week's Offering:** FMC

**Coming Up this Week:**

Sunday, March 8 9:30 am Adult, Kids, Youth Sunday  
School, Baptism Class  
10:30 am Worship  
Tuesday, March 10 1:30 pm WMS  
Wednesday, March 11 6:30 pm Peace Club, SYF, JYF  
Sunday, March 15 9:30 am Adult Sunday School only  
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 Tegtmeyer 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 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 8, 2026  
Second Sunday in Lent

Welcome

**Call to Worship**

L: Confident, hesitant, maybe just tired.

**All: We come to worship.**

L: Wanting to follow but not always sure how.

Embarrassed by the ways we've fallen short.

**All: We come anyway.**

L: Seeking, hurting, longing, needing.

**All: We come.**

L: When hopes are high, and dreams are bright.

When hopes are dashed, and the world is not all right.

**All: We come again. We keep coming.**

L: Ready or not. Here we are.

**All: Come, Jesus. Come and meet us.**

Prayer

**Hymn 31: "Come, We that Love"**

**Confession & Assurance**

L: Faithful God, we long to be courageous in your ways. Yet we know how often our courage cracks.

**P: We want to follow Jesus closely, but not so closely that it costs us.**

L: We want to be known as your people, but not when it feels risky or uncomfortable. Like Peter, we follow at a distance. We warm ourselves by the fires of comfort, while you stand in truth and vulnerability.

**P: When we are questioned, we hide. When we are afraid, we protect ourselves. When love or courage is required, we too often say, "I am not."**

L: Forgive us, O God.

**P: Forgive us for the ways we deny you—in what we say, in what we fail to say, in the distance we keep between our faith and our lives.**

L: And in your mercy, meet us in that place— Not with condemnation, but with compassion.

**P: Awaken us, as the rooster awakened Peter, to see ourselves clearly and to return to you.**

L: Hear the good news: the story does not end with our failure. The places where our courage cracks are not the end of our story.

**P: In Jesus Christ, we are met with truth and grace, truth that awakens us, and grace that restores us.**

L: Hear and believe:

**P: We are forgiven. We are loved. We are being formed, even now.**

L: Thanks be to God!

**P: Amen.**

**Offering: “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”** by Sunday Singers  
*Offering for Western District Conference*

## Children’s Story

## Reader’s Theater

**Scripture: John 18:12-27**

**Sermon: “Inside and Outside”** Pastor Josh

**Hymn 344: “Seeking Warmth from Charcoal Blazing”**

**Moment in Mission-** Western District Conference

## Sharing and Prayer

## Benediction

**Sending Song 848: “Christ be all around me”**

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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

**Easter Lily** orders are due today! Forms are by the mailboxes: \$21 without a bow, and \$24 with a bow. Please put order forms in Paula Heinz’ **mailbox by noon March 8**. You may take your lily home on Easter Sunday.

**“My Coins Count”** collections during March! If you’d like to match a Sunday, contact the Committee. John & Lori Thimm will match today.

**Welcome to Sarah Bryan**, WDC Representative. Sarah will share some updates and progress from WDC, particularly in increased communication and collaboration between the conference and member churches and between individual churches in the WDC.

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](mailto: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 26<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Lent 2026**. Many of the Lenten readings this season 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. This season, may we be able to see the tension between how things are and how we want them to be. Additionally, there is a small table and candles in the window by the cross at the front of the sanctuary; please feel free to turn on a candle before each service to represent specific prayers and laments as we move through this Lenten season.

If you would like to be on the **Prayer Chain**, talk with Sue Gerber.

### First Mennonite Church General Fund Summary for February

General Fund Balance 1/31/26	(11,229.28)
February revenue	23,568.00
February expenses	(18,039.94)
Net Income for February	5,528.06
General Fund Balance 2/28/26	(5,701.22)

### 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.

**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 7:00a–9:00 a.m.**

**Saturday lunch options (11-1 p.m.):** Verenika meal (\$15), taco meal, & Pork sandwiches

**Bethel College Choir** will perform on 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 on 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.

**\*\*FMC is to provide 13 pies**, 8 loaves of **bread** and 3 jars of **jam or jelly**. Sign up on the bulletin board.

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

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

**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 only or send payment to the school office. Questions? Call Shana Ensz at 402-806-1946.

**Camp Mennoscah** wants your stories about the role we have played in your faith! As we continue to race toward the finish line of the retreat center - and likely other projects to follow - 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](mailto:Eric.litwiller@campmennoscah.org). Include how you were first introduced to Camp Mennoscah, your favorite aspect of camp and why it is your favorite, please include a good contact method so we can follow up with you Thank you!

**St. Joseph's Friday Fish Fries:** March 13, & 20, 5:30-7:00pm, in the Parish Center at 6th & High Street. Enter at the northeast school doors. Fried & baked fish, sides, and deserts. \$12 per adult, \$6 kids 4-10 (under 4 eat free), \$40 max price per family. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 1723.

**Homestead Harmonizers** Spring Show, *America's 250<sup>th</sup>*, 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.

**"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.