

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

Serving Today:

Pastor: John Janzen	Worship Leader: Rodney Ensz
Pianists: Vicki Ensz	Hosts: Brad & Amanda Thimm
Power point: Katie Jantzen	Audio: Jim Ensz
Ushers: Justin & Doug	Video: Kathy Casey
Children's Time: Erin Vanderschaaf	

Last Sunday Attendance: 57 **Offering:** FMC \$3,015

Bethel College \$125

Today's Offering: FMC **Next Sunday:** Western District Conference

Coming Up:

Sunday, Sept 7	9:30 am Youth & Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5:00 pm Church Picnic @ Chautauqua
Tuesday, Sept 9	1:30 pm WMS Quilting & Tying
Wednesday, Sept 10	6:30 pm Peace Club, Prayer Partners, SYF, JYF
Sunday, Sept 14	9:30 am Youth & Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship

September Birthdays:

3: Dan Crawford	4: Liana Stutzman
5: Norm Reimer, Margaret Boyce	6: Asha Jantzen
12: Graham Schardt	15: Anders Baade
18: Judy Jantzen, Denise Jantzen	20: Jim Hamm
23: Shana Ensz	24: LeRoy Janzen
26: Lori Crawford, Marcia Regier	30: Tony Tegmeier

- 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 may go in the offering plate.
- **Men's Brotherhood Project?** Contact Dan Kunzman or LeRoy Janzen.
- Please **turn off all lights** if you are the **last to leave** the building.
- Visit mennowdc.org to see what's new at Western District Conference.

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: Sue Gerber (402-239-8857), Don Esau (402-223-9210),
Vicki Hinz-Ensz (402-239-4174), **Church Chair:** Jerry Reimer (402-239-2716)

Please let the office know of **members' marriages and births** so they can be put in the bulletin and entered in the church historical book.



Welcome to First Mennonite Church

September 7, 2025

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Come, people of God, gather on the mountainside of the Lord.

P: We come seeking blessing, hoping for healing, longing for grace.

L: Here, the poor in spirit are honored. The mourners are comforted.

P: Here, the meek are lifted up.

The peacemakers are named children of God.

L: This is not the world we are used to,
but it is the world Jesus shows us.

P: We come to see with new eyes, to hear with open hearts, to walk in the way of Christ.

ALL: Let us worship God, who turns the world upside down, and makes all things new.

Prayer

Hymn: "Mountain of God"

VT 11

Confession and Assurance

L: God of grace, we confess that we have often looked away from those you call blessed.

P: We have chased success more than faithfulness. We have honored strength more than mercy. We have feared mourning, avoided hunger, and dismissed the meek.

L: Forgive us, O God, and open our eyes.

P: Teach us to see as you see, to love what you love, and to follow Jesus into your upside-down kingdom.

(Silence for reflection)

L: Hear the good news: Jesus does not wait for us to earn blessing – he gives it freely. To the brokenhearted, to the longing, to the hungry, to you. In Christ, we are seen, we are forgiven, and we are called blessed.

P: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Offering Hymn: *"You are Salt for the Earth"*

(Offering is for First Mennonite Church)

VT 297

Children's Story

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12

Message: *"Backwards Blessings"*

Pastor Josh Janzen

Hymn: *"The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound"*

VT 392

Sharing and Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song: *"As You Go Out from Here"* (2x)

VT 841

Passing the Peace

Welcome to all who are worshiping with us here and on YouTube (search for FMCBeatrice). The bulletin is at fmcbeatrice.org under documents.

Welcome Back to our Sunday School children and teachers today!

The Church Picnic is tonight at 5 pm at Chautauqua Park Tabernacle!
Come for fellowship, food, ice cream, a sing-along, and more!

Peace Club, Prayer Partners, JYF and SYF will meet this Wednesday, September 10 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. **Peace Club/Partners** will have an activity and snacks (no meal). Please RSVP to Sue, Barb, Kathy C, or Jane. **JYF AND SYF** will have a combined meeting on the 10th.

FMC's Mini-Auction is set for Sunday, October 19, at 5:30 pm. Larry and Kathy Thimm are this year's chairs.

Pastor Sarah will be out of town September 12-14. If you need assistance Pastor Josh will be available.

A memorial service for Ernest J. Jantzen, 88, was held Tuesday, Sept 2 here at FMC. He passed away August 26. Memorials are suggested to the family's choice in care of the mortuary. His obituary may be found on the Harman-Wright Mortuary website. Your prayers are invited for his family.

Fall Sermon Series: Backwards Blessings. This fall we'll journey through Jesus' Beatitudes in Matthew 5 under the theme *Backwards Blessings*. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus turns the world's values upside down, calling the poor, the grieving, the meek, the merciful, and the peacemakers "blessed." These words are not commands to follow, but a daring description of God's upside-down kingdom and the kind of people who reflect it. Each week we'll discover how Jesus' backwards blessings can shape our faith, form our character, and invite us into a new way of seeing and living.

Doug Penner of N Newton, KS passed away August 29. Messages of condolence may be sent to his wife, Raylene, at 25 Lakewood Circle, N Newton, KS 67117. Raylene is the sister of Vicki Hinz-Ensz and Barb Esau. His service is September 13 at 11:00 am at Bethel College Menn. Church.

At last Sunday's congregational meeting, Chair Board Chair Jerry Reimer **made the recommendation from the Church Board to extend the call to Pastor Josh Janzen for another three-year term**; seconded by Vern Jantzen. There was no discussion. Ballots were distributed, collected, and counted by Justin Schardt and Kent Hohensee. **The motion passed**, 51-3. We anticipate another three years of pastoral leadership from Pastor Josh.

Spaghetti Dinner today from 11-2 pm at the 4-H Building on the Gage County Fair Grounds. Free will donation to help with kitchen upgrades. Spaghetti, meat sauce, side salad, bread stick, brownie and drink.

Orphan Grain Train Fish Feed at First Trinity Lutheran Church today, September 7, 11:00-1:00 pm. Boiled Fish, potatoes, onions, salads, desserts, and drinks. Free Will Offering benefits the Orphan Grain Train for shipping and general operating costs. Supplemental funds provided by Thrivent Action Team Grant. Carry out meals available.

BIG GIVE GAGE COUNTY is September 11. Some of the non-profits participating that FMC members volunteer at are Sewing for Babies, Mother to Mother, MTM Youth Center, SheepGate, 4-H Building Inc., Backpack Programs, Blue Valley Community Action, Hope Crisis Center, Keep Beatrice Beautiful, Teammate's Mentoring of Beatrice, Warren's Community Dinner Table, Gage County Ag Society, and Community Food Pantry. You can find more information at biggivegage.org.

FMC General Fund Summary for August 2025

General Fund Balance 7/31/25	1,438.04
August revenue	14,690.76
August expenses	-22,145.87
Net revenue for August	-7,455.11
General Fund Balance 8/31/25	-6,017.07

