

BETHESDA NEWS

Welcome to Worship!

February 1, 2026

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"A community caring for all God's people, being transformed by Christ's love, serving others as a witness of God's grace and peace."

CONNECT, EQUIP, SEND

MINISTRYTEAM

Pastor Andrea Wall: 402-710-3195

andrea@mainstaycomm.net

Pastor Chelsea Vaught: 402-363-7004

chelsea.vaught@bethesdamc.org

(On Sabbatical)

Pastor J Epp: 402-366-7475

j.epp@bethesdamc.org

CONTACTUS

Bethesda Mennonite Church
930 16th Street PO Box 130
Henderson, NE 68371-0130
Church Office: 402-723-4562

BMC Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

BMC Office Manager Email: bethesda@mainstaycomm.net

BMC Treasurer Email: treasurer@bethesdamc.org

BMC Website: www.bethesdamc.org

WORSHIP SERVICES

Can be viewed/listened to live...

- † Livestream @ <http://bethesdamc.org/watch-live>
- † Facebook
- † KOOL Radio 103.5 FM
- † Local Cobalt Cable Channel 3207

Reminder...

- † The east doors will remain open during office hours 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. If you drop off items in the Et Cetera room and need to have the north door unlocked, please call the office.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <i>Sunday, February 1</i> | 8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 a.m. Annual Meeting 10:40 a.m. Sunday School for children/Jr. Youth 12:00 p.m. Youth Fundraiser Meal |
| <i>Monday, February 2</i> | |
| <i>Tuesday, February 3</i> | 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. Preschool Committee |
| <i>Wednesday, February 4</i> | 12:00 p.m. Bulletin Announcements Due 6:30 p.m. High School Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Cornerstone 7:00 p.m. Midweek 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir |
| <i>Friday, February 6</i> | Church Offices Closed |
| <i>Sunday, February 8</i> | 8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship Message: David Boshart Music: Sandra Quiring, Pianist/Chancel Choir Offering to God 10:40 a.m. Sunday School 12:00 p.m. Potluck |

CHURCH FAMILY

Please keep in prayer those with health concerns, grief, or family needs:
Rachelle Schweitzer, Lisa Friesen, Bryan Bechtel Dee Hansen and Elly Siebert
(Marge Siebert's granddaughter).

Full Time Ministry Connection

Dayspring Ministries – Thailand

Wedding

Rodney Barnes and Debra (Debbie) Hilly were united in marriage on Saturday, January 24, 2026 at Riverside in Grand Island after initially meeting as high school students back in 1968. The couple attended the Good Friday Hymn Sing at Heritage Park over a year ago and have been attending services here at Bethesda almost exclusively ever since. Rodney has taught adult Sunday School classes here and even proposed to Debbie at Bethesda following a class that he taught. Their address is: 404 Woodland Drive, Apt. 407, Grand Island, NE, 68801.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational vote

A congregational vote was held last Sunday (January 25, 2026) during which Pastor J Epp was overwhelmingly affirmed to become Bethesda's next Pastor of Preaching & Congregational Care. He will serve a five-year term, running from January 26, 2026 to January 26, 2031.

Annual Meeting

The 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting will be held following worship service today. Annual reports are available from the ushers and at the sanctuary entries. The youth will be serving us lunch as a fundraiser at approximately 11:45 a.m. Be sure to join us as we look back on 2025!

MDS Project

On February 20-21, the Nebraska MDS Unit will be hosting a project in rural Gretna.

Volunteers will be putting insulation into a new home owned by a family who lost their home in the 2024 Arbor Day Tornado. The more volunteers, the quicker it gets done! If you are interested, please reach out to Hillary Bechtel at 309-569-0471 or to Wes Reil at 402-641-1198 if you would like to participate.



**Mennonite
Disaster
Service**



New Address or Phone Number

If your address or phone number has changed please email the church office at bethesda@mainstaycomm.net or call 402.723.4562 with the information.

New Addresses: **E. James & Joan Friesen**, 12 Lakewood Circle, N. Newton, KS, 67117; **Shar Doell**, 1010 12th Street, P.O. Box 36, Henderson, NE, 68371; **Stan Ratzlaff**, 2201 Milrose Branch Rd., Lincoln, NE, 68520; **Jenice Epp**, P.O. Box 232, Superior, NE, 68978.

School Kit Bags

School kit fabric for bags has been cut at this time. They are available to be picked up in the office across from the church office. Thank you!

Bethesda Women's Bible Study

The Bethesda Women's Bible Study led by Linda Goertzen is currently studying Mark's Gospel. The Bible Study takes place each Monday from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

There will be 11 sessions during which the group will explore further the first Gospel ever written. Please bring your Bible and something to write with. We will meet in the Powerhouse Room (old choir room) just east of the sanctuary. All are welcome!



2026 MCC Sale News and Updates

The 2026 Nebraska MCC Sale is set for March 27 and 28 at the Holthus Convention Center in York. The annual fundraiser for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is a two day event that is free to attend and features a variety of food offerings as well as an auction of quilts, furniture, tools, handmade items, gift baskets, toys, and more. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to fellowship with you! For more information check out

www.nebraskamccsale.org.

Updates for the 2026 sale are as follows:

Registration

- Donation registration for this year's sale is now open!
 - Important deadlines:
 - Quilt Deadline - March 1
 - All other donations - March 22
 - Quilts registered by the deadline (March 1) will be sold on Saturday and featured on the website and in the quilt guide. Quilts registered after the deadline will not be included in the guide and will be sold at the Friday evening auction.
 - Reminders when registering:
 - We've added a size field. Indicate if it is a king, queen, full, etc.
 - In the description, include the name of the pattern and the author's name if it is not your original design.
 - If submitting a project for the fat quarter color challenge, include that in your description.
 - Pictures should be uploaded during the registration process (at least 250 KB in size). Preferred pictures:

- One picture of the full quilt
- One with a corner folded back
- One with up close details

- Print the final registration page and pin it to the quilt so it can be identified at the sale.

Quilts and More

- We will also have a "Quilts and More" booth this year. You may donate clean fabric (please indicate how many yards or dimensions of each piece), sewing notions, sewing/embroidery/quilting kits, patterns and unfinished projects.

Meals

- There have been some slight changes in when meals will be served:
 - Friday Night Meal - Windsor Loin and BBQ Chicken Meal
 - Saturday Lunch Meals - Taco Bar or Verenika
 - The Pork Sandwich Meal will be available both days

Relief Kits

- MCC collects various different Relief Kits. Examples include but are not limited to Hygiene Kits, School Kits, Infant Care Kits and more. If you would like to donate, you can bring a variety of items or choose a specific kit as a church. Check out the website for the list of items accepted.

My Coins Count

- Don't wait to start collecting coins! There are links for resources on the MCC "My Coins Count" page on their website. We ask for churches to bring a check for the coins collected instead of the coins themselves.

MCC Golf Tournament

- The MCC Golf Tournament will be located at Centura Hills Golf Club in Cairo, NE on May 16th.

BETHESDA WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



Bethesda Women's Ministries Winter Sewing Days

"A handmade comforter provides not only warmth but also a tangible reminder to people in vulnerable situations that their needs are not forgotten." Join Bethesda Women's Ministries at Winter Sewing Days, tie some knots in a comforter, put a few stitches in a quilt or tea

towels, crochet/knit a prayer shawl, or just come for the Fellowship. Projects benefit MCC Winter Warm Up and NE MCC Relief Sale. February sewing days will be held on **Tuesday, February 10 and February 24**. Come as your schedule allows. Lunch served at Noon. You are welcome to come just for Lunch and Fellowship. Winter Sewing days are the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of January, February and March.

Last year, MCC shipped 39,616 comforters to communities in Canada, Malawi, Palestine (Gaza), Ukraine, the U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Zambia.



New Library Books!

- **Lost on the Prairie** is set between Kansas and Saskatchewan in 1907. This middle grade novel follows a young boy who gets separated from his family en route to Canada and must find his way alone across the immense prairie landscape. Following the sudden death of his brother, twelve-year-old Peter is chosen by his father to travel by train to help set up the new family homestead. When Peter's boxcar becomes uncoupled from the rest of the train, he finds himself lost and alone on the vast prairie.

- **The Memory Keeper of Kyiv** is a poignant historical novel that intertwines the harrowing experiences of a Ukrainian family during Stalin's regime with the contemporary struggles of a young widow, offering a powerful exploration of resilience and love amidst tragedy.

- **The Lost Daughters of Ukraine** is one of the most powerful World War II novels. An intense experience – full of random acts of violence, persistent persecution, relentless fear, and unimaginable suffering. A true showcase for both the best and worst of human nature. Compelling from page one, this historical novel is author Erin Litteken's fictionalized version of the history of her Ukrainian ancestors, based on family stories told to her through the decades.

- **The Child of Ukraine** Ukraine, 1940. She cups her daughter's face with her trembling hands, imprinting it on her mind. 'I love you. Be brave,' she whispers through her tears, her heart breaking into a thousand pieces. Sending her child away is the only way to keep her safe. But will she ever see her again? When war breaks their country apart, Julia is sent away by her tearful parents in the dead of night, clutching her mother's necklace and longing for one last embrace. But soon she is captured by Nazi soldiers and forced into a German

labor camp, where behind a tall fence topped with cruel barbed wire, she has never felt more alone.

YOUTHMINISTRIES

College Care Packages

We are trying something new this year! Due to the high costs of shipping, instead of sending an actual physical Care Package to each of our college age students we are planning to send them Care Packages in the form of Gift Cards. So please consider donating to a gift card fund. Just designate your offering check to the effort by writing "College Care Packages" in the memo line. Let's show the kids we're thinking of them and help brighten up at least one of these dreary, cold, winter days.



MISSIONS LOCAL/GLOBAL

MCC Central States annual meeting

You are invited to the MCC Central States annual meeting on Saturday, March 7 at 11 a.m. at MCC Central States, 121 E. 30th St, North Newton, KS 67117.

MCC's Great Winter Warm-up

The chill of winter is settling in and that means it's time for **MCC's Great Winter Warm-up!** From January to March, the goal is 10,000 comforters to help spread warmth, joy and comfort to people around the world. Start plans now to gather with friends and family to make comforters for MCC this winter! Find inspiring stories and instructions at mcc.org/gww.

Calling for 2026-2027 MCC SALT participants!

MCC's Serving and Learning Together (SALT) program is a year-long cross-cultural experience for young adults ages 18-30. It's a chance to immerse yourself in another culture and grow in ways you never imagined. Whether your interest is in a specific region of the world, specific country, type of work

or a language, there are numerous possibilities waiting to be explored. There is no cost to participate and there is student loan assistance available. You'll grow. You'll experience the world, find purpose, and you will Serve and Learn Together. Dates: August 12th, 2026 – July 17th, 2027. Visit mcc.org/salt for more information, applications due Feb. 15.

MCC is recruiting Canner Operators

MCC is recruiting Canner Operators to join its mobile meat canning team, which prepares about **600,000 cans of meat** annually for global communities in need. These operators travel to **30 U.S. locations** from October to April, managing machinery, operating steam and pressure vessels, coordinating volunteers, and ensuring compliance with USDA regulations. Make new friends while participating in **a unique service adventure!** Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until April 25th OR until position is filled. Apply online at mcc.org/careers. For more information, call 1-888-563-4676 or email marilynpeters@mcc.org.

GIVING ATTENDANCE

Sunday, January 25, Worship Attendance: 182

Sunday, January 25, Sunday School Attendance: 77

Worship Offering: January 25, 2026

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Bethesda General Operating Receipts | \$6,067.00 |
| Sunday School Offering | \$224.00 |
| Total Sunday Offering | \$6,291.00 |

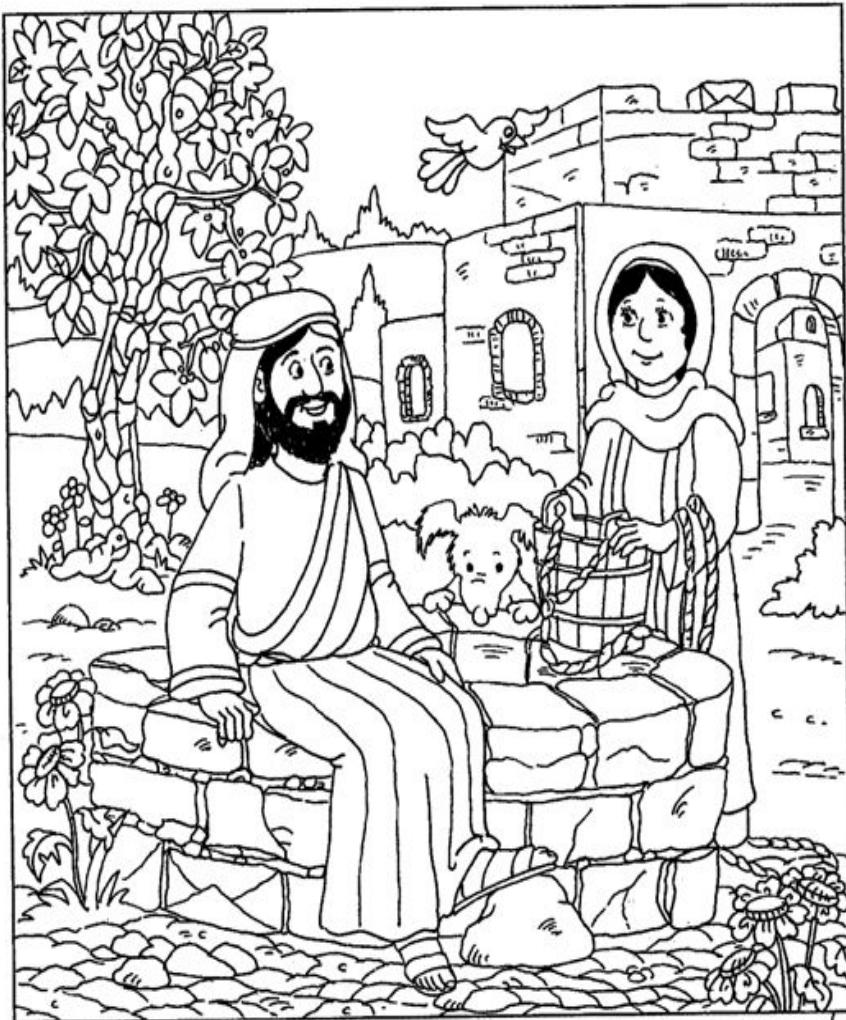
Blanche Franz Memorials

- Gideon Bibles: \$70
- Bethesda Livestream: \$200
- Dayspring Ministries – Congo: \$1,420

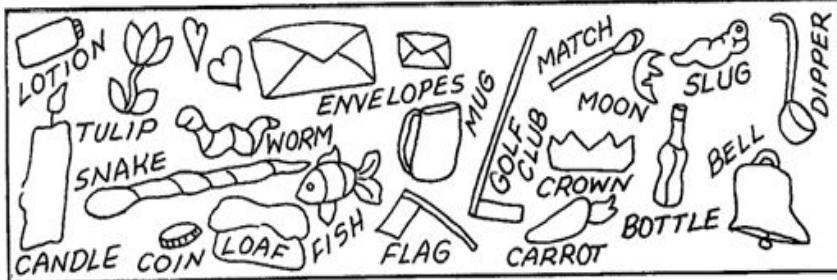
Woman at the Well

D W H G B X D M R G U Z C T W I V
A U E L X S I W A O F Q G Q V S T
H T U R T H S C J I S U S E J S R
Z E J K Q S C L R U H C N J V A O
Z P X Z H P I W E K Q U A I T V P
P V Z H M I P W T V D W T J M I E
C P C H X R L K A P L O I C D O R
M Y F H R I E F W E X H R G C U D
O K C F R T S P N Y G H A D O R B
U B B W J I X M I E O V M I F P S
N I E Q A B S P P H D J A F Z S C
T S S L M T H T D R S W S U O P D
A P K W I R E O Q M E R N A M O W
I K R T A E G R H P K Q O N P X D
N K L N Q Q V C Q B M K Q W I D A
S X R A S S J E Y O I L I V I N G
B K O G E Y W E D W E L L D I J D

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|---------|
| water jar | disciples | Samaritan | mountain | worship |
| Saviour | believe | spirit | living | report |
| Christ | truth | water | woman | Jesus |
| food | well | GOD | | |



I need
a drink
of water.



Find the hidden pictures above in the puzzle.

Jesus met a Samaritan woman and told her good news.
(Read the story in John 4)

CONNECT

For more information, complete the form below and drop this tear-off in the offering or the church office.

I would like more information about:

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Serving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Baptism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Studies | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Choirs | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

I would like to receive the weekly e-Bethesda News and bulletin. Please enter your email address: _____

I am new to Bethesda Mennonite Church.

Please update/add my contact information to the Bethesda yearbook.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Name | |
| Address | |
| City, State, Zip | |
| Email | |
| Home Phone | |
| Cell Phone | |

My age range:

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary School | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior High |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High School | <input type="checkbox"/> College |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult | |

Comments/Bulletin Announcement...

MESSAGE NOTES
"The woman, the well, the water"
Pastor J Epp
John 4:1-30 (NRSV)