

BETHESDA NEWS

Welcome to Worship!

February 15, 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

MINISTRY TEAM

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

CONTACT US

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

Sunday, February 15

8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:40 a.m. Sunday School
2:00 p.m. MCC Board Meeting – Fellowship Hall

Monday, February 16

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
7:30 p.m. Board of Deacons & Pastors

Tuesday, February 17

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
7:00 p.m. Board of Business
8:00 p.m. Board of Education
8:00 p.m. Board of Service & Outreach

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday
12:00 p.m. Bulletin Announcements Due
6:30 p.m. High School Meal
7:00 p.m. Intergenerational Ash Wednesday Service – Fellowship Hall (High School Bible Study, Cornerstone and Midweek will participate)

Friday, February 20

8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
Church Offices Closed

Sunday, February 22

First Sunday of Lent
8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet
9:30 a.m. Worship
Message: Pastor J Epp
Music: Marilyn Kroeker, Pianist/Worship Band
Offering to God
10:40 a.m. Sunday School

CHURCH FAMILY

Please keep in prayer those with health concerns, grief, or family needs:

Rachelle Schweitzer, Lisa Friesen, Bryan Bechtel, Elly Siebert (Margie Siebert's granddaughter), Andrew Regier, the family of Dan Fagan (Dee Hansen's brother), the family of Jeannie Bose (Kim Epp's mother), the family of Chriss Epp, the family of Nyla Friesen and the family of Myra (Friesen) Heegle.

Full Time Ministry Connection

Adam Friesen, the son of Orie and Lin Friesen, is the Outdoor Education teacher at Bethany Christian Schools in Goshen, Ind. Bethany Christian Schools is a Christ-centered K-12 institution affiliated with Mennonite Church USA. The school provides a holistic, experiential education focusing on peace,

reconciliation, service, and academic excellence, serving students in a diverse community.

A Note of Thanks

To Bethesda Mennonite Church,

Lisa and I would like to express our thanks for your warm welcome as I begin my journey as one of your pastors. Your love and encouragement have been felt by us in so many ways and it is truly a blessing and honor to serve this church family.

I look forward to growing together in faith, worshiping side by side, and seeking God's guidance for the future of this church. It will be so good to get to know each of you better, and please know that I am praying for each of you. And I ask for your prayers as well.

I join a fantastic pastor leadership team. I appreciate Pastor Andrea and Pastor Chelsea so much. I wouldn't be here without them. It is so wonderful to work with people that you connect with on so many different levels. Their passion and enthusiasm for Bethesda is very evident and contagious. It has definitely rubbed off on me.

Once again, thank you for making us feel so welcome. May the Lord bless us and keep us. May his face shine upon us and give us grace.

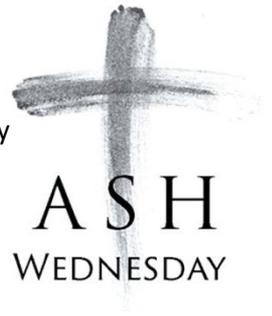
Keep the Son in your eyes,

Pastor J and Lisa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ash Wednesday Service

Everyone is invited to the Intergenerational Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The children's midweek will join us as we walk through stations to learn about Ash Wednesday and prepare for Easter.



Annual Meeting Election Results

The 2026 Budget was approved at the February 1, 2026 Annual Meeting and the following individuals were affirmed to Bethesda Mennonite Church Boards and Committees for 2026: **Board of Business Administration (3 Year Term):** Jeff Peters* and Marvin Quiring*; **Board of Education (3 Year Term):** Sherry Thiesen, Angie Bergen; **Church Council (3 Year Term):** Daphne Hall, Marcia Regier (Congregational Secretary); **Board of Service & Outreach (3 Year Term):** Frank Steckley, Lowell Duerksen; **Sunday School Committee (3 Year Term):** Tara Maltsberger*, Karen Dick; **Sunday School Committee (1 Year Term):** Tanya Thiesen, Lavonne Braun; **Weekday Christian Education**

Committee (3 Year Term): Taylor Chrisman*, Lindy Siebert; **Music Committee (3 Year Term):** Joy Steckley; and **Preschool Committee (2 Year Term):** Ashton Brown*, Ashley Buller*. *Indicates incumbent

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**

Swan Lake Christian Camp Annual Meeting

The Swan Lake Christian Camp Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, March 8 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will probably be held in the new worship center so you can see the progress being made. A light lunch will follow. RSVPs are appreciated. Contact Judi Kroeker at 605.326.5690 or www.myslcc.com.



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.

Found

A pair of silver, wire-framed glasses were recently found in a pew in the sanctuary so if you haven't been able to see for a few weeks please stop by the office and pick up your glasses.

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. If you have any questions contact Lindy Siebert at 402.723.4376 or Deanna Steingard at 402.366.6284. 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!

BETHESDAWOMEN'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. The next Sewing Day will be held on **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!

You won't want to miss three-time Christy Award winner and best-selling author Lynn Austin's books as she pens five fascinating historical novels based on actual Biblical events.

- **Book 1: Gods & Kings:** Shortly after the death of King Solomon in 931 B.C., the Promised Land is divided into two separate nations: Israel in the north, and Judah in the south. Hezekiah is the second son of King Ahaz of Judah. As he comes to power, he must navigate a troubled path to reunite his wayward people with Yahweh.

- **Book 2: Song of Redemption:** As King Hezekiah embraces God's Law, he leads his country into renewed prosperity. But following the will of Yahweh is a perplexing process, requiring unpopular choices - for both his personal life and political career. Now his archenemy's demands for tribute are forcing Hezekiah into a precarious situation.

- **Book 3: The Strength of His Hand:** The legacy Hezekiah has established as one of Judah's great leaders is threatened: his beloved wife, Hephzibah, remains barren. Desperate to provide a successor to the throne, Hephzibah makes a forbidden pact with the fertility goddess Asherah.

- **Book 4: Faith of My Fathers:** Constant companions in their youth, Manasseh, son of Hezekiah, and Joshua, son of the palace administrator, have been primed for leadership of Judah. But anger toward God begins to smolder in Manasseh's heart upon his father's unexpected death. As Manasseh comes to power, his insecurity leads him down the path of sorcery.

- **Book 5: Among the Gods:** Fleeing King Manasseh's tyranny, Joshua leads the faithful remnant to their new home in Egypt. But as years pass, Joshua's desire for vengeance becomes an obsession. Blinded by hatred, he makes rash decisions, placing his loved ones in jeopardy.



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.



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.

Help Needed for Verenike Meal

Help is needed for the annual MCC Sale verenike meal on Saturday, March 28 at the Holthus Center in York. Areas of need include helping with set-up, serving food, waiting tables, and cleaning up. Donations of zwieback and jelly are also needed. If you are able to help, please sign up on the east bulletin board or contact Evan & Kristen Friesen at 402-710-8586.

MISSIONSLOCAL/GLOBAL

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.

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 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 marilypeters@mcc.org.

Lent at Home Worship Guide

MC USA's 2026 Lent at Home Worship Guide invites households to journey through Lent with simple rituals, Scripture from John's Gospel and opportunities for reflection. This guide, titled "Dwelling in Dissonance," helps all ages hold grief and hope together, as we walk with Jesus toward resurrection. Available in English and Spanish. Download it here:

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/lent-at-home-2026>

GIVING ATTENDANCE

Sunday, February 8, Worship Attendance: 212

Sunday, February 8, Sunday School Attendance: 91

Worship Offering: February 8, 2026

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Bethesda General Operating Receipts | \$8,543.00 |
| Sunday School Offering | \$134.00 |
| Total Sunday Offering | \$8,677.00 |

John 9

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

give god the praise
He is a prophet
sabbath day
spittle
siloam
clay

light of the world
Lord I believe
man of God
washed
sight
jews

A man called Jesus
he is of age
pharisees
opened
blind
eye

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...

MESSAGENOTES

"Now I See"

Pastor Andrea Wall

John 9:1-41 (NRSV)