

BETHESDA NEWS

Welcome to Worship!

February 22, 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

<i>Sunday, February 22</i>	<i>First Sunday of Lent</i> 8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 a.m. Sunday School
<i>Monday, February 23</i>	Pastor Andrea Wall & Pastor J Epp at AMBS Pastor's Week, Elkhart, Ind. 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
<i>Tuesday, February 24</i>	Pastor Andrea Wall & Pastor J Epp at AMBS Pastor's Week, Elkhart, Ind. 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. BWM Winter Sewing Day
<i>Wednesday, February 25</i>	Pastor Andrea Wall & Pastor J Epp at AMBS Pastor's Week, Elkhart, Ind. 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>Thursday, February 26</i>	Pastor Andrea Wall & Pastor J Epp at AMBS Pastor's Week, Elkhart, Ind.
<i>Friday, February 27</i>	Church Offices Closed
<i>Sunday, March 1</i>	<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> 8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship Message: Congregational Reflections Music: Laura Steingard, Organist/Chancel Choir 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 Virginia Barnes (Rodney & Debbie Barnes) and the family of Roma (Friesen) Epp.

Death

Roma Friesen Epp passed away on Wednesday, February 18 in Lincoln. She is survived by her husband, Phil; son, David (Season); grandchildren, Abby, Hunter

(Alexa) and Beau Epp. Siblings are Alan (Peggy) Friesen, Susan (Homer) Friesen and Kathy (Doug) Kroeker.

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

Hometown Fresh

The Food Bank of Lincoln will begin bringing their Hometown Fresh mobile food pantry to Henderson on the second Wednesday of each month starting on Wednesday, March 11. The Hometown Fresh program is committed to serving neighbors with limited access to food (such as not having a grocery store in town). The trailer is equipped with refrigeration, freezer and shelving units and welcomes neighbors to walk through and select fresh produce, meat, dairy and shelf-stable items.

The trailer will be parked in the Bethesda parking lot on March 11 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. and the food is free and the trailer is open to everyone. We are looking for a few volunteers from the church and community to help man the trailer when it is here. Volunteers would mainly be assisting their neighbors through the trailer and helping to carry bags to their cars. Contact the church office at 402.723.4562 or bethesda@mainstaycomm.net or the Henderson Chamber at 402.723.4228 or hendersonnebraska@gmail.com if interested in volunteering.



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

My Coins Count

Coins add up. Each year, spare change collected by churches, children and families add up to more than \$600,000 for MCC's work around the world. **Beginning March 1, 2026**, bring your spare change for the children to collect during offering time!



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.

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!

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. 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!

Number the Stars: Shalom Readers 6-8: It is 1943, and for Annemarie Johansen, life in Copenhagen is a complicated mix of ordinary home and school time, food shortages, and the constant presence of Nazi soldiers. As the German troops begin their campaign to relocate all the Jews of Denmark, the Johansens take in Annemarie's best friend, Ellen Rosen, and pretend she is part of the family. The girls live like sisters, until it becomes clear something more needs to be done to save Ellen, her family and the Jews of Denmark.

Katarina's Dark Shadow (Ukraine 1915-1917): Inspired by true stories, Fifteen-year-old Katarina's dreams of a self-determined future are compromised by a rebel attack. As Ukraine seeks independence from Russia, Katarina and her German Mennonite family are caught in the political fray. Sides are taken and loyalties questioned. Katarina must choose her fate. Growing up has never been more difficult.

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. Bring you coins to worship starting March 1.

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 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.

GIVING ATTENDANCE

Sunday, February 15, Worship Attendance: 217

Sunday, February 15, Sunday School Attendance: 88

Worship Offering: February 15, 2026

Bethesda General Operating Receipts	\$7,750.27
Sunday School Offering	\$125.00
Total Sunday Offering	\$7,875.27

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."
John 11:25 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 11:1-45 (NIV).



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

MARY
JESUS
PRAYED
ENTRANCE

WAKE
STONE
WEEPING
LOVE

SICK
DISCIPLES
GLORY
DEATH

LAZARUS
LIFE
MARTHA
TOMB

BROTHER
BELIEVE
RISE
SLEEP

LAZARUS

JOHN 11:1-44



**RAISED FROM
THE DEAD**

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

"If Only..."

Pastor J Epp

John 11:1-44 (NRSV)