

# BETHESDA NEWS

## Welcome to Worship!

### April 12, 2026

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#### 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**

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## MINISTRY TEAM

Pastor Andrea Wall: 402-710-3195

[andrea@mainstaycomm.net](mailto:andrea@mainstaycomm.net)

Pastor Chelsea Vaught: 402-363-7004

[chelsea.vaught@bethesdamc.org](mailto:chelsea.vaught@bethesdamc.org)

Pastor J Epp: 402-366-7475

[j.epp@bethesdamc.org](mailto:j.epp@bethesdamc.org)

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## CONTACT US

Bethesda Mennonite Church  
930 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:bethesda@mainstaycomm.net)

BMC Treasurer Email: [treasurer@bethesdamc.org](mailto:treasurer@bethesdamc.org)

BMC Website: [www.bethesdamc.org](http://www.bethesdamc.org)

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## 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, April 12*

8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet  
9:30 a.m. Worship – Bethesda Bible Series Session 1  
10:40 a.m. Sunday School – Bethesda Bible Series Session 2  
12:00 p.m. Catered Lunch  
1:00 p.m. Bethesda Bible Series Session 3

*Tuesday, April 14*

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting  
8:00 p.m. Sunday School Committee

*Wednesday, April 15*

12:00 p.m. Bulletin Announcements Due  
6:30 p.m. High School Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. Cornerstone  
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

*Friday, April 17*

Church Offices Closed  
CPMC Leadership Retreat

*Saturday, April 18*

CPMC Leadership Retreat

*Sunday, April 19*

8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet  
9:30 a.m. Worship  
Message: Pastor Chelsea Vaught  
Music: Sandra Quiring/Chancel Choir  
Offering to God  
10:40 a.m. Sunday School  
7:00 p.m. Ron Goertzen Sharing: Congo

## CHURCH FAMILY

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

Rachelle Schweitzer, Bryan Bechtel, Dean Brehm, Elly Siebert (Margie Siebert's granddaughter), Margaret Hiebner, Diane Harrison and Mike Harrison.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**From Pastor Chelsea**

During my sabbatical, I wrote a “Devotional for the Unexpected Twists and Turns of Life” as a resource to provide comfort and encouragement when we face those unexpected challenges that life brings our way. You are invited to pick up a copy at your convenience – they are available on the table in front of the office.

### Gathering Room Ribbon Cutting & Faspa

**Sunday, April 12:** This afternoon starting at 4:00 p.m. the Henderson Heritage Committee invites everyone to attend their Gathering Room Ribbon Cutting & Faspa. Come and see and celebrate the completion of the group's latest project at Henderson Mennonite Heritage Park. A traditional Faspa will also be served to all in attendance.

### Volunteers and Ladders Needed

**Sunday, April 19:** Next Sunday, April 19 the Preschool Committee is looking for a couple of volunteers and ladders to help install the new canopy on the preschool playground. They are planning to start installing at 2:00 p.m. Please contact Hillary Bechtel at 309-569-0471 if able and willing to help!


### Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study held their final session on Monday, April 6.

### Upcoming Mission Sharing Nights

**Sunday, April 19:** Ron Goertzen will be sharing on his latest trip to the Congo on Sunday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m. Please join us to learn more about Ron and his son Wes' work with Dayspring Ministries.

**Postponement:** Hillary Bechtel's Sharing Night on her trip to Ecuador has been postponed. Watch for a new date coming soon in the Bethesda News.



## Parent Child Dedication

Parent Child Dedication will be held on Sunday, May 10, 2026. If you wish to have your child dedicated, please email the church office at [bethesda@mainstaycomm.net](mailto:bethesda@mainstaycomm.net) and include the name of the child, the hospital and city they were born in, and the name of the parents. You will receive a letter with instructions when we receive your request.



### New Address or Phone Number

If your address or phone number has changed please email the church office at [bethesda@mainstaycomm.net](mailto:bethesda@mainstaycomm.net) or call 402.723.4562 with the information.

**Elvera Peters**, c/o Freeman Regional Nursing Home, 510 E 8<sup>th</sup> St., P.O. Box 310, Freeman, SD, 57029

# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

## White Cookbooks Are Here!!

The White Cookbook is officially digitized, printed and in the church office as you read this! This is the fourth printing of the Bethesda Mennonite Church Cookbook thanks to the Bethesda Women's Mission. The price has gone up a smidge as they are now available for \$25.00. Stop in and pick one, two, three, or four up, you never know when the next White Cookbook Drought will hit!

## 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!

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**June 1-5:** All roads lead to Rome... come and join us! Travel back in time June 1-5 at Bethesda Mennonite Church. Each day from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., kids can become part of history as they explore the caves of the Underground Church, meet the Apostle Paul and create cool Bible-times projects. They will play high-energy games, sample tasty Mediterranean snacks, and hear unforgettable music. Plus, they will meet lots of new friends.

These experiences make God's Word come alive with new meaning for all who participate! Register now at [bethesdamc.org](http://bethesdamc.org). If you are interested in helping with VBS please fill out the 2026 VBS Volunteers form on the [bethesdamc.org](http://bethesdamc.org) website or visit with committee members Taylor Chrisman, Lisa Peters, Brie Steingard, Joy Friesen or Lindy Siebert.



# YOUTH MINISTRIES

## Final Midweek & Cornerstone

**Wednesday, May 6:** The last Wednesday Night of the year for Cornerstone (7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade) will take place on Wednesday, May 6.

**Wednesday, May 13:** Wednesday, May 13 will be the last day of High School Small Groups.

**Children's Midweek** is done for the school year. Looking forward to next year!

### Graduation Pancake Lunch

**Sunday, May 3:** On Sunday, May 3 we will celebrate our graduates with a pancake lunch following Sunday School. Please be sure to stop by the Fellowship Hall to greet the graduates and sign the books we will give them as a gift from the congregation.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Reenactment of the Russia to America Experience

**Sunday, April 26:** Henderson Heritage & Tourism will be hosting a reenactment of the Russia to America Experience at Heritage Park on Sunday, April 26 starting at 6:30 p.m. Come and join in on a special night of reliving our combined history.

### Swan Lake Christian Camp Dates



Mark your calendars now and sign up for camp this summer at Swan Lake Christian Camp! If you sign up before May 1, campers will get a free t-shirt (overnight camps only). Your

child/children can attend Swan Lake Christian Camp at NO CHARGE. To register, go to [www.myslcc.com](http://www.myslcc.com), and check the appropriate church scholarship amount. Bethesda Mennonite Church will be billed at the end of the summer for those who attended.

### Summer 2026 Dates

(Grades Based on 25-26 School Year)

Day Camp 1 (Age 5 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade): June 4	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade 1: June 28 – July 2
Day Camp 2 (Age 5 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade): June 5	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade 2: July 26-31
Day Camp 3 (Age 5 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade): July 10	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade 1: June 7-12
3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade 1: June 1-3	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade 2: July 12-17
3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade 2: July 6-9	9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade: June 21-26

## GIVING ATTENDANCE

Sunday, April 5, Worship Attendance: 302

Sunday, April 5, Sunday School Attendance: 70

Worship Offering: April 5, 2026

Bethesda General Operating Receipts	<b>\$10,622.00</b>
Sunday School Offering	<b>\$109.00</b>
<b>Total Sunday Offering</b>	<b>\$10,731.00</b>



## Swan Lake Christian Camp & Retreat Center April Newsletter

I want to share a couple of incidents where I saw evidence of God's presence here at the camp this past week. The first incident occurred when we hosted a women's adult spiritual renewal weekend. We host seven to ten of these types of weekends throughout the year.

Each person participating in the weekend comes with their own story. Some are front pew of the church type of people. Others are coming out of deep hurts including failed relationships, addiction or incarceration. Most fall somewhere in the middle between a thriving faith and the memory of a relationship with God gone stale.

This particular woman indicated that she was rather new to faith in Jesus and had not yet found a church. She wanted to praise the camp staff for a feeling of peace and safety that she felt just as she entered the driveway.

While I appreciate her sentiments, I responded to her with my belief that that feeling of God's presence is due to the generations of prayers which have been lavished over these grounds. Too many people have made similar comments for me to dismiss her feeling. I also feel God here at camp and I thank many of you for those prayers.

The second one involves the new worship center. I had commented to the staff members here at camp that we were going to need more chairs. I asked for prayers for chairs. Judi had priced the chairs that we have in the dining hall and noted that they had increased in price from around \$23 to just over \$40 each.

Less than a week later, Shelley showed me a Facebook Marketplace post that Habitat for Humanity had 1,000 chairs available for three bucks each. I was at their door when they opened for the week and was able to purchase 350 chairs at a bulk rate of around \$2.72 including the truck from another business in town for delivery.

What a God ordained moment. I know that we cannot save ourselves to either wealth or salvation, but this is another incident where God's economy

provides a clue into how great is His providence and how we will complete this building under projected costs.

This miracle amounts to more than eleven thousand reasons to praise God.

The last incident involves bacon. Our oven had been periodically malfunctioning and we had not yet figured out what was wrong. Two weeks ago we had a men's group that requested bacon. To provide three strips each, it requires seventeen full baking pans plus the scrambled eggs and the rest of breakfast which taxes our eight or so oven slots. Shortly after the meal was complete, the oven really quit. It just would not maintain any consistent temperature setting. I called a dear friend of the camp and Mike the Genius successfully diagnosed the problem and ordered the parts.

The bacon was done. The huge meal complete and then the breakdown and finally the fix. I see God even in that.

Several people have encouraged me to write down all of these stories. I can't. First there are too many to recall. Secondly, some stories are very personal to the individuals involved. I don't want to break any confidentiality. Those are their God encounters to share when they are ready. I do, however, want you to know that these happen regularly.

This morning, I was reading in Revelations chapter 4 which described a rainbow that encircled the throne. I have seen double rainbows and once I even saw a partial triple in the sky. I have never seen a complete circular rainbow. God gives us a partial insight into His glory and tells us that if we remain faithful, that one day we will see Him in full. These stories of God sightings help me through the valley experiences because I trust in a God that is greater than I have yet seen.

Jerry Kroeker  
Swan Lake Christian Camp &  
Retreat Center Director

*\*\*To read the rest of the Swan Lake April Newsletter please go to [myslcc.com](http://myslcc.com) and click on the "About Us" tab to find the newsletter.*

### **MDS Family Program**

Mennonite Disaster Service is happy to offer the MDS Family Program this summer in Central Kansas! For the Family Program, we love serving with grandparents, parents, children, church family, etc.! This is a project for anyone of any age and skill!

**Location:** The MDS Family Project will take place in Hesston, Kansas, this summer. Central Kansas offers meaningful access to service opportunities through Anabaptist organizations that serve those in need locally, nationally, and around the world.

**Work:** In the MDS cabinet shop, participants will build cabinets for installation in new homes for disaster survivors. Volunteers may be able to assist in building toolboxes with leftover wood. Volunteers will assemble MCC kits that will be distributed globally to support communities facing hardship. In addition, volunteers will assist Hesston College with campus preparations, helping ensure everything is ready to welcome students in August. The work is adjusted to the skill level of the volunteers.

The weeks available to serve in Central Kansas are: June 14-20, June 21-27, June 28-July 4.

### **MCC Appalachia Build**

**Urgent Opening, apply by April 17! MCC Appalachia Build (formerly SWAP) home repair program is seeking summer staff in Kimball, West Virginia or Elkhorn City, Kentucky.** These three-month positions for Job Site Coordinators and Meals Coordinators will allow you to explore new cultures, develop skills, build friendships and live out your faith. Applicants should be at least 19 years old, but the roles are not limited to young adults. An hourly wage plus room and board are provided. For more information and to apply, visit [mcc.org/careers](http://mcc.org/careers). Or contact [RoxyReyes@mcc.org](mailto:RoxyReyes@mcc.org)

# Covenants

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

DEATH OF FIRST BORN  
RIVER NILE  
PHARAOH  
CANAAH  
HAGER  
STARS  
GOD

PROMISED LAND  
COVENANT  
PLAGUES  
HEBREW  
ISAAC  
LAND

CIRCUMCISION  
ABRAHAM  
RAINBOW  
AARON  
MOSES  
NOAH

ISRAELITES  
ISHMAEL  
RED SEA  
EGYPT  
SARAH  
ARK



“I have set my rainbow  
in the clouds, and it  
will be the sign of the  
covenant between me  
and the earth.”

-Genesis 9:13



# 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**

## **"Who Are We? A Covenant People"**

**David Boshart**

**Selections from Genesis 9, 17; Jeremiah 31;  
Ezekiel 36; Hosea 2; Luke 22 (NRSV)**