

# BETHESDA NEWS

## Welcome to Worship!

### April 19, 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 19*

8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet  
9:30 a.m. Worship  
10:40 a.m. Sunday School  
7:00 p.m. Ron Goertzen Sharing on Congo Trip

*Tuesday, April 21*

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

*Wednesday, April 22*

12:00 p.m. Bulletin Announcements Due  
2:30 p.m. Legacy Square  
6:30 p.m. High School Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. Cornerstone  
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

*Friday, April 24*

Church Offices Closed

*Sunday, April 26*

8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet  
9:30 a.m. Worship – Pastor J Epp Installation  
Message: Susan Janzen  
Music: Marilyn Kroeker/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, Bryan Bechtel, Dean Brehm, Elly Siebert (Margie Siebert's granddaughter), Margaret Hiebner, Mike Harrison and the family of Diane Harrison.


### **Death**

Diane Harrison, 72, passed away on Friday, April 10, 2026, in Aurora, Nebraska. She is survived by her husband, Mike; children: Thomas "TJ" Harrison of Henderson and Dawn (Joe) Muhs of Omaha; grandchildren: Bruce (Maddie) Ketelsen, Jacob Harrison, Piper Colin and Holly Muhs. She is also survived by her brother, Donovan Friesen; niece Denise Friesen; nephew, Eric Friesen; aunt, Lavina Quiring; brother-in-law, Paul Harrison; sister-in-law, Sylvia Warren and several other nieces, nephews and cousins. Please remember to keep Diane's family in your prayers.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Radio Broadcast

Starting today (Sunday, April 19) there will be a bit of change to our radio broadcast on 104.9 Max Country/Kool Radio. At the radio station's request, our Sunday morning broadcast will no longer be live on air but a recording of our worship service that will be broadcast at 11:00 a.m. Our livestream, however, will continue to be live (as it says in it's name "live"stream) starting at 9:30 a.m.



## 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.

## Volunteers and Ladders Needed

**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 this afternoon. 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!

## 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.

## 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.

**Sunday, May 3:** Alan Janzen and Jonah and Mimi from Central Plains Conference in Minneapolis, Minn. working with Mennonite Mission Network – Thailand Sharing at 7:00 p.m.

**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.

## 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.

## Celebrating Our Grads!

Please remember to notify the church office if you have a graduate in the family. Whether preschool, high school, college or graduate school we want to recognize them all! Contact Kerri at [bethesda@mainstaycomm.net](mailto:bethesda@mainstaycomm.net) or call 402.723.4562. Help keep our records up to date and look for our list of 2026 Graduates in upcoming editions of the Bethesda News.



### 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

## 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.



# 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!

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

### 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.



### Youth Trip Parent/Student Meeting

**Wednesday, May 6:** On Wednesday, May 6 during our normal small group time high school parents and youth will meet to discuss the upcoming trip to San Angelo, Texas. Please arrive at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and a meal will be provided.

### Conscientious Objector (CO) Information Meeting

**May 3, 2026 (during Sunday School):** With the upcoming military draft registration changes in December for boys age 18, an informational meeting will be held during the Sunday School hour on May 3. Parents of young children, parents of draft age children 18-25 or those curious about the changes are welcome. We will meet in the Powerhouse Room following worship and resources will be provided for how to start a CO file.

### 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

### 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. Here's to next year!

## GIVING ATTENDANCE

Sunday, April 12, Worship Attendance: 182

Sunday, April 12, Sunday School Attendance: No attendance taken

Worship Offering: April 12, 2026

Bethesda General Operating Receipts	<b>\$7,718.00</b>
Sunday School Offering	
<b>Total Sunday Offering</b>	<b>\$7,718.00</b>

## MISSIONS LOCAL/GLOBAL



### 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

confidentialities. 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.

### **Wigginton-Bravo Family Update and Prayer Request**

**April 11, 2026**

**Dearest friends and family**

We would like to share with you a situation we have been going through over the past few weeks, and for which we are deeply grateful for your prayers.

Delicia's mother, Federica, had to be admitted to the hospital as an emergency. After several tests and a period of great uncertainty, the doctors decided to perform emergency surgery. During the procedure, they found a blood clot in her brain, confirming that she had suffered a thrombosis, which caused her critical condition.

She remained in intensive care from Saturday the 28th until Wednesday the 8th, and was then transferred to a regular care unit, where she has been gradually regaining strength and beginning to walk again. We thank God for each small improvement we have seen in these days.

During this time, we were also waiting for the results of several tests, as the doctors found it unusual that two sisters would have similar clotting issues (Delicia's aunt was also recently hospitalized due to cardiac arrests). The results ultimately confirmed that this is a hereditary condition that creates a tendency to form blood clots.

This past week, further tests also revealed that Federica has a blood clot in her lung as well. On Friday she had a moment of instability, which concerned us greatly, but thank God she is now stable again and continuing to recover.

We ask that you continue praying for her full healing, for strength for her and the whole family, and for wisdom for the doctors as they determine the next steps in her treatment.

We are deeply grateful for your prayerful support during this time.

With gratitude,  
Peter, Delicia, Aliyah, and Ariana

# Jesus Appears to His Disciples

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25

Based on John 20:19-31 (NIV)



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

JESUS

TOGETHER

DOUBTING

RECORDED

MIRACLES

SIGNS

SHOWED

BELIEVED

DOORS

LIFE

HANDS

DISCIPLES

TOUCHED

THOMAS

SIDE

LOCKED

# 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**  
**"My Lord and My God"**  
**Pastor Chelsea Vaught**  
**John 20:19-31 (NRSV)**