

BETHESDA NEWS

Welcome to Worship!

May 3, 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

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, May 3

8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet
9:30 a.m. Worship – Grad Sunday
10:40 a.m. Sunday School
10:40 a.m. Conscientious Objector (CO)
Information Meeting
12:00 p.m. Graduation Pancake Lunch
7:00 p.m. Alan Janzen/Jonah & Memee
Thailand Sharing

Monday, May 4

8:00 p.m. Church Council

Tuesday, May 5

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
7:00 p.m. BWM May Meeting
7:00 p.m. Preschool Committee

Wednesday, May 6

12:00 p.m. Bulletin Announcements Due
6:30 p.m. Youth Trip Parent/Student Meeting
7:00 p.m. Cornerstone – FINAL ONE
7:00 p.m. Music Committee
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
2:30 p.m. Legacy Square

Thursday, May 7

Church Offices Closed

Friday, May 8

8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet

Sunday, May 10

9:30 a.m. Worship – Parent/Child Dedication
Message: Pastor Andrea Wall
Music: Marilyn Kroeker/Worship Band
Offering to God
10:40 a.m. Sunday School
10:40 a.m. Adult Group Sunday School Series –
Week 1

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 Roger Friesen.

Death

Roger D. Friesen of Henderson, Nebraska died on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at the age of 83. Services were held at Bethesda on Wednesday, April 29, 2026. Roger is survived by his wife of 62 years, Kathy Friesen, of Henderson; sons, Shawn Friesen of Chongqing, China where he teaches English and Travis

(Dani Klecan) Friesen of Beatrice, who own and manage Friesen Landscaping in Lincoln and grandchildren, Hunter and Harper.

Congratulation Graduates

PRESCHOOL

Margo Armstrong
Meyer Friesen
Eloise Hiebner
Kali Janzen
Berkeley Richert
Ellie Smith
Arlo Steingard

HIGH SCHOOL

Mary Dente
Adilynn Duerksen
Samuel Friesen
Braden Janzen
Zachary Peters
Weston Panko
Hallie Tessman

*Those participating in
Youth Group activities

COLLEGE

Kaelyn Buller – *Creighton University, Occupational Therapy*
Benjamin Mestl – *University of Nebraska Medicine College of Pharmacy, Doctorate of Pharmacy*
Carson Ott – *University of Nebraska - Lincoln*
Alex Peters – *University of Nebraska – Kearney, Computer Science & Finance*
Celesta Teijema – *Bethel College*



TODAY'S EVENTS

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 Crossroads Coffee House following worship and resources will be provided for how to start a CO file.

Graduation Pancake Lunch

Sunday, May 3: Today we are celebrating our graduates with a pancake lunch following Sunday School. Please be sure to stop by the Fellowship Hall to greet the graduates and sign their "Oh the Places You Will Go" books given to them as a gift from the congregation.



Because of the Pancake Lunch the Northwest Sunday School Class will meet in the new blue room across from the Preschool Sunday School Room. The Northeast Sunday School Class will meet in the Conference Room.

Thailand Mission Sharing Night

Sunday, May 3: Alan Janzen and Jonah and Memee from Mennonite Mission Network will be sharing tonight on Thailand starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Jonah and Memee serve as mission associates with Mennonite Mission Network, leading seminars and training groups that focus on empowering women, men, restoring relationships between married couples, strengthening theological education, and developing leadership across Southeast Asia.

Their ministry is rooted in walking alongside Hmong, Laos, and Thai communities in the region. The Yangs' work includes Sister Care, Compassionate Care for Couples, and Brotherhood Care for men, along with participation in the AMBS Journey: Missional Leadership Development Program. Their ministry also extends to leadership development initiatives, hands-on ministry projects, and practical care such as feeding children in orphanages.

Through Sister Care, Compassionate Care, and Brotherhood Care, new opportunities have opened for women to step into church leadership and pursue further study through the AMBS Journey Program, and leadership development training.

Each year, Jonah and Memee travel to Southeast Asia to facilitate requested seminars and training. Over the past six years, their work has contributed to meaningful transformation — lives have been changed, relationships have been restored, reconciliation has taken place, and forgiveness has been extended.

Jonah and Memee currently live in North Branch, Minnesota with their children. They attend Emmanuel Mennonite Church, where Jonah occasionally serves in the pulpit, preaching once or twice a month during Sunday worship services. Jonah is also currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree through AMBS.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Sunday School Series

May 10-31: Everyone is invited to join Pastor J, Pastor Chelsea and Pastor Andrea as they lead a four-week Sunday school series May 10-31 in the fellowship hall, called "Being God's Faithful Community." The series will pair with the Sunday morning sermon and provide a space to go deeper in the scriptures and discussion around the following topics:

Week 1: What does it mean to be a covenant people?

Week 2: What is the role of the Holy Spirit in Forming us as God's People?

Week 3: What spiritual practices form us into Christ's body, the church?

Week 4: How do we trust the Holy Spirit to be at work among us when we face difficult issues?

Summer Music

The Music Committee is starting to plan for summer music! If you'd like to sing or play an instrument for special music, or if you have ideas of people we should invite, let us know. We'd love to hear from you and will follow up!

— Kelsey Bergen, Joy Steckly, Dale Steingard, Pastor Chelsea

MCC Golf Tournament Sign Up

Saturday, May 16: It's time to sign up for the 2026 MCC Golf Tournament which will be held at the Centura Hills Golf Club in Cairo on Saturday, May 16. The tournament is a 2 Person Scramble with cart, lunch, awards, and flag prizes included. Look for the poster in your church or at facebook.com/NebraskaMCCGolf for details. Email NebraskaMCCGolf@gmail.com or contact Glen at 402-560-7818 via voice or text to sign your team up. Signup prior to May 8 is preferred.



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.

Listening For the Spirit of Jesus Workshop

May 29-31: Please join Bellwood Mennonite Church for a workshop with Meghan Larissa Good entitled, *Listening For the Spirit of Jesus*. The interactive gathering will be held on May 29-31. The tentative schedule is as follows: Friday, May 29: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.; Saturday, May 30: 9:00 – 10:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.; Sunday, May 31: Sunday morning worship at 10:00 a.m. There is no charge for registration and attendees are responsible for meals and lodging.





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.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

BWM Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, May 5: Bethesda Women's Ministry will hold their May meeting on Tuesday, May 5 in the Fellowship Hall. Cindy Friesen and Nicole Wetjen will be giving a presentation on Henderson's Community Garden. Please join us for an inspiring meeting on gardening.



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!

BWM Day Trip to Newton

Bethesda Women's Ministry is hosting a Day Trip to the MCC Material Resource Center in Newton, KS. As volunteers for the day, we may process a variety of projects from packing Relief Buckets, checking School Kits, or folding Comforters for the baling machine.



WHEN: Monday, May 18, 2026

TIME: Leave the church parking lot at 6:00 a.m.
Return around 8:30 p.m.

HOW: Sign up on BWM bulletin board in east hallway.
Travel in church van.

QUESTIONS: Contact Carol Janzen at 402.366.7984

The Material Resources Center functions to process and ship quality material resources for MCC both domestically and internationally. Volunteers provide the manpower while taking part in MCC's ministries. The MRC also offers educational opportunities to visitors and volunteers alike.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

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.

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

Final Midweek & Cornerstone

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

Wednesday, May 13: Wednesday, May 13 will be the last day of High School Small Groups and we're having a Bowling Night in York in celebration!

Children's Midweek is done for the school year. Here's to next year!

GIVING ATTENDANCE

Sunday, April 26, Worship Attendance: 222

Sunday, April 26, Sunday School Attendance: 58

Worship Offering: April 26, 2026

Bethesda General Operating Receipts	\$6,507.00
Sunday School Offering	\$155.65
Total Sunday Offering	\$6,662.65

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. If you are interested in helping with VBS please fill out the 2026 VBS Volunteers form on the bethesdamc.org website or visit with committee members Taylor Chrisman, Lisa Peters, Brie Steingard, Joy Friesen or Lindy Siebert. **Please sign up by May 10 in order to get a t-shirt!**



MISSIONS LOCAL / GLOBAL

Gator Bites Spring 2026 Newsletter

Returning to Camp

My name is Owen D'Auria; I am 19 years old and a current employee at one of the greatest Christian organizations of Southern Florida. Gator Camp has saved my life and my relationship with my family not once, but twice. In this article, I will be giving my testimony on exactly how Camp grew me and amazingly helped to execute this miracle.

I grew up in Central Florida in a city located near Orlando. I was raised in a Christian household where I was taught to respect my parents and love one another but most of all, put God first. I am an adoptee to loving parents who have shown me nothing but unconditional love and grace.

Although the community I was sheltered in was a positive one, outside those boundaries I was exposed to a lot of negative, ungodly lifestyles just because of the location and culture the other side of town had. I was always a people pleaser and tried fitting in with everyone, but something drew me into the gang lifestyle of drugs, money and get-it-yourself culture.

I started straying away from God and began leading a life of sin and struggles. Around the age of 13, my parents could no longer help me. They were at the last option and didn't want me to end up like the rest of the people I was hanging around with who were either dead or incarcerated.

Camp was the last option before the consequences of my actions got out of hand. I came to Gator Camp in July of 2020 and proceeded to have life-altering experiences that made me believe that there was more to life than I saw. I completed the program by April 2022 and was ready to be a part of society again, or so I thought.

I actually ended up staying at Camp a little longer than planned because I wanted to get into a better school and wanted a new start to this chapter of my life. I thought I had it all figured out until my sophomore year where I was reintroduced into the same lifestyles I had previously been exposed to. I began to slip back into my old ways, but it was getting worse as I grew older, and the consequences got worse, which was the initial fear my parents had. I struggled to the point of my senior year where my parents and I came to the agreement that it was time for me to move out.

I was working part time at Little Caesars and used the tools of Camp (work ethic and structure) to climb my way up to the manager position at just 18 years old. I was still attending high school without a car, and Ubered myself to work and from an abandoned apartment that my friend's recently deceased father owned, located in the heart of the slums. I was running out of money and skipping school to keep myself fed. I ended up surprisingly graduating high school with a diploma, but I was still struggling. I ended up getting evicted at the time and was sleeping at a local bus stop, homeless for 2 weeks. I was humiliated and tried finding a better way to make quick money. I began drug dealing. It was ironically supporting me and giving me a little cash to have fun with. I moved in with my friend in his house as a tenant to his mom, but I was still living a wild lifestyle.

Where it all turned around is the day I was stabbed in the chin and lost my friend in a drug deal gone wrong. I should have died. I got a second job at Chipotle and after just 2 weeks, became a manager there as well, in order to lay low.

I started feeling like life was meaningless and I needed to turn back to the One who saved my life. My mind immediately went back to Camp. I started praying about it and called Chief Greg around October and explained everything. I told him about the way I wanted to live, and I expressed my interest in becoming a chief as I had always dreamt of as a camper.

Fast forward a few months and I am currently working here at Camp where I am more than fed and confident I won't be homeless. I am expanding my knowledge every day and learning new skills for maintenance as a Graduated Camper Intern.

I love my job and love supporting Camp. I came back to do something positive in my life and hopefully help others as I once was helped. I am in love with the community and culture we have here, and I yearn to work as hard as

physically and mentally possible for as long as God calls me to and as long as Camp allows.

Camp doesn't change a boy, but gives boys tools to change.

The rest of the Gator Wilderness Camp School Spring 2026 Newsletter can be found at <https://files.constantcontact.com/e6e78e0b901/bd0c93ef-ab47-4754-b53c-83a0ed224abf.pdf>

Feed My Sheep

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. John 21:17 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 21:15-19



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

EATING
SAID
SHEEP

JESUS
PETER
THINGS

TRUTH
HURT
LOVE

CARE
GLORIFY
THIRD

MORE
FEED
LAMBS

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

"Love Spoken, Love Lived"

Pastor J Epp

John 21 (NRSV)