

BETHESDA NEWS

Welcome to Worship!

May 10, 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 10

8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet
9:30 a.m. Worship – Parent/Child Dedication
10:40 a.m. Sunday School
10:40 a.m. Adult Sunday School Series – Week 1

Monday, May 11

2:00 p.m. Church Council Policy Meeting

Tuesday, May 12

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
7:30 p.m. Board of Deacons & Pastors

Wednesday, May 13

12:00 p.m. Bulletin Announcements Due
2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Hometown Fresh Trailer in Bethesda Parking Lot

6:30 p.m. High School Bible Study – FINAL MEETING

8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir – FINAL PRACTICE
Church Offices Closed

Friday, May 15

Saturday, May 16

8:00 a.m. MCC Golf Tournament at Centura Hills Golf Course in Cairo

Sunday, May 17

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
10:40 a.m. Adult Group Sunday School Series – Week 2

10:50 a.m. VBS Teachers Meeting
6:30 p.m. Bethesda Preschool Graduation

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, Alton Friesen and the family of Roger Friesen.

Birthday

Maxine Regier will be celebrating a very special milestone – her 95th birthday on May 17!

Help make her day even brighter by sending a birthday card and sharing your warm wishes. Your kindness will help make this incredible celebration even more meaningful!



Cards may be sent to: Maxine Regier, 913 Road 17, York, NE, 68467.

Birth

Mallory Kay Friesen was born on April 29, 2026 to Brandon and Amaly Friesen at Fillmore County Hospital in Geneva. Grandparents are Rodney and Pam Friesen of Henderson and Gary and Carol Reinsch of Geneva. Big sisters Hannah, age 7 and Bailey, age 4 welcomed her home.



A Meal Train has been set up to help out by taking some of the cooking off of their plates! Sign up now at <https://mealtrain.com/me49ok> to bring a meal as a sign of love and support.

Congratulations 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, Mathematics*
Mason Regier – *Wayne State, Computer Science*
Celesta Teijema – *Bethel College*



TODAY'S EVENTS

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?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Preschool Graduation

Sunday, May 17: All preschoolers and their families are invited to attend our end of the year program on Sunday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m. The preschoolers will perform a few songs and we will celebrate our preschool graduates! The celebration will take place in the Fellowship Hall. A social will follow the celebration.



Help Us Celebrate Connie & Bryan Bechtel's 40th Wedding Anniversary

Saturday, June 6: On June 6, 2026 Connie and Bryan Bechtel will celebrate 40 years of marriage – what an incredible milestone and testimony of faith, love and service!

For over four decades, Connie and Bryan have faithfully served God through our church, while selflessly caring for their family, friends and anyone in need. Time and again, they have put others before themselves.

This year, we have a special opportunity to celebrate them by serving them.

We are organizing a church family workday at their farm to help tackle projects that have been set aside due to health needs and their many acts of service to others. This is our chance to come together, bless them, and show our appreciation in a meaningful, hands-on way.

How You Can Help:

- Join us for the farm workday June 6th! (With more details and time coming in future weeks.)
- Bring tools, equipment, or simply willing hands.
- Pray for Connie and Bryan as they continue to walk faithfully with the Lord.

Let's rally together as a church family to honor this amazing couple and the legacy they are building.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." – Galatians 6:9

If you're able to help or would like more information, please reach out to Hillary and Logan Bechtel.

Let's show up BIG for Connie and Bryan!

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. As of today we only have four Sunday's to fill! We'd love to hear from you and will follow up!

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



Powered Down

May 28-29: The power in the entire education wing of the church will be turned off for repair work on Thursday, May 28 and Friday, May 29. Vacation Bible School volunteers take special note as VBS is the next week.

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

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

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

GIVING ATTENDANCE

Sunday, May 3, Worship Attendance: 243

Sunday, May 3, Sunday School Attendance: 80

Worship Offering: May 3, 2026

Bethesda General Operating Receipts	\$8,175.00
Sunday School Offering	\$100.00
Total Sunday Offering	\$8,275.00

Diane Harrison Memorials: \$678.00

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!**

Vacation Bible School Volunteers Meeting

Sunday, May 17: There will be a Vacation Bible School Volunteers Meeting on Sunday, May 17 after Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend if you are volunteering to help at VBS.

MISSIONSLOCAL/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>

Hebrews 8 Keyword Word Search

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

UNFAITHFUL	TABERNACLE	SANCTUARY	SUPERIOR	PROMISES
OBSOLETE	MEDIATOR	COVENANT	MAJESTY	FORGIVE
SHADOW	PRIEST	PEOPLE	ISRAEL	HEARTS
BETTER	JUDAH	KNOW	HIGH	COPY
NEW	LAW			

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
"A Covenant People"
Pastor Andrea Wall
Hebrews 8:6-13 (NRSV)