

BETHESDA MENNONITE CHURCH

HENDERSON, NEBRASKA
Sunday, May 31, 2026, 9:30 a.m.

Prelude	Sandra Quiring, Pianist
"Come and Fill This Place"	Joy Steckly
Welcome & Call to Worship	Norm Yoder
**"Great is the Lord"	HWB 87 <i>(Children are invited to come forward on stanza 2.)</i>
Children's Focus	Tara Maltsberger
**"Guide me, O thou great Jehovah"	HWB 582
Congregational Prayer	Pastor Chelsea Vaught
Scripture Reading	Acts 15:1-21 Pastor J Epp Leader: This is the Word of God, for the people of God. People: Thanks be to God!
Message	"The Centrality of Jesus" Pastor J Epp
**"Will You Come and Follow Me"	See Bethesda News
Service of Communion Pastor Chelsea Vaught & Pastor J Epp	
<i>Service of the Bread</i> (The bread this morning is gluten-free)	
<i>Service of the Cup</i>	
"Table of grace"	Joy Steckly
"Great God, the giver of all good"	HWB 458
Announcements	Norm Yoder
Offering to God	Norm Yoder
Offertory	Sandra Quiring, Pianist

* Benediction

Pastor J Epp

* "Blessings" – Laura Story

Joy Steckly

** If you are able, you are invited to stand.*

All are invited to participate in the Christian Education Hour and to stop by the Coffee Spot in the Fellowship Hall.

Youth and adults are invited to the Fellowship Hall during the Christian Education Hour to join Pastor J, Pastor Chelsea and Pastor Andrea for Week 4 of the "Being God's Faithful Community" Sunday School Series.

Acts 15:1-21

The Council at Jerusalem

Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved. This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted.

This news made all the believers very glad. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses."

The apostles and elders met to consider this question. After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. God, who

knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. When they finished, James spoke up. "Brothers," he said, "listen to me. Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

"After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things' -- things known from long ago.

It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath."

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- When you are unable to attend worship, please join us via...
 - Radio at KOOL 103.5 FM
 - Livestream at <http://bethesdamc.org/watch-live>
 - Cobalt Cable Channel #3207
- Hearing Impaired Worshipers: If you need hearing assistance, feel free to sit in the front center seating to take advantage of our Hearing-Loop system. Williams units are also available in the rear of the sanctuary for your use.
- When you desire pastoral care outside of office hours, please call:
 - Pastor Andrea Wall: 402-710-3195 (cell) or email andrea@mainstaycomm.net
 - Pastor Chelsea Vaught: 402-363-7004 (cell) or email chelsea.vaught@bethesdamc.org
 - Pastor J. Epp: 402-366-7475 (cell) or email j.epp@bethesdamc.org

GOD, WHO
KNOWS
THE HEART,
SHOWED
THAT HE
ACCEPTED
THEM
BY GIVING
THE
HOLY SPIRIT
TO THEM,
JUST AS HE
DID TO US.

ACTS 15:8

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