

BETHESDA NEWS

Welcome to Worship!

August 9, 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

Pastor Chelsea Vaught: 402-363-7004

Pastor J Epp: 402-366-7475

andrea@mainstaycomm.net

chelsea.vaught@bethesdamc.org

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

BMC Faith Formation Website: www.bmcfaithformation.com

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.

WEEKLYCALENDAR

Sunday, August 9

8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:40 a.m. Sunday School
12:00 p.m. Potluck

Monday, August 10

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Bev Quiring
Covering the Office

Tuesday, August 11

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
10:30 a.m. Kevin Vaught Memorial Service
8:00 p.m. Sunday School Committee

Wednesday, August 12

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Bev Quiring
Covering the Office
12:00 p.m. Bulletin Announcements Due
2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Hometown Fresh Trailer set up
in Bethesda parking lot

Friday, August 14

Church Offices Closed

Sunday, August 16

8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet
9:30 a.m. Worship
Message: Pastor Chelsea Vaught
Music: Laura Steingard/Mixed Octet
Offering to God
10:40 a.m. Sunday School

CHURCHFAMILY

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

Rachelle Schweitzer, Bryan Bechtel, Alton Friesen, Elly Siebert (Margie Siebert's granddaughter), Bill Batson (Darrel Thiesen's brother-in-law), Nora Aycock (Lisa Friesen's sister), Joy Steckly, the Chad Wall Family and the Kevin Vaught Family.

Death

Thomas Bruce Mierau, age 79, died Friday, July 31, in Wichita, Kan. He was born on June 8, 1947, to Virgil Mierau and Lela Friesen Mierau and grew up in Henderson, Neb. He held a BA degree from Bethel College, North Newton, Kan., and a master's degree in educational psychology as well as a specialist degree in school psychology from Wichita State University. He spent his career teaching in special education classrooms, and the last 18 years, serving as a school psychologist. He was an avid genealogist and had several articles published in the journal Mennonite Family History.

He is survived by his wife, Lois Y. Barrett, of Wichita; their children, Barbara Kramer (Corey), of Wichita; Susanna B. Mierau (Martin Hernberg) of Weston,

Mass. and John B. Mierau of Wichita. Other survivors include four brothers, Ronald Mierau (Lien) of West Palm Beach, Fla.; Gary Mierau (Vicki) of Denver, Colo.; Bradley Mierau (Ann) of Tampa, Fla.; Michael Mierau (Carrie) of Gainesville, Fla.; one sister, Deborah Hori of Cambria, Calif.; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, August 8, at Mennonite Church of the Servant, 2401 North Woodland, Wichita, Kan. 67204.

Memorial gifts may be made to Mennonite Church of the Servant.

Death

Kevin V. Vaught, 65, of Aurora passed away on Friday, July 24, 2026. Left to cherish Kevin's memory are his wife, Kimberly Ann; sons, Blake and Kyla Vaught of Omaha and Chase and Madalyn Vaught of Aurora; grandchildren, James, Violet, Paige and Adrienne; sister, Nancy and Curt Friesen of Henderson; brothers, Bradley and Kimberly Vaught of Grand Island, Todd and Chris Vaught of Aurora, David K. and Virginia of Libby, Mont.; sister-in-law, Cheryl Vaught of Henderson; parents-in-law, Don and Jody Dailey of Kearney; sister-in-law, Tammy and Jim Purdum of Thedford; brother-in-law, Dennis Daily of Mullen and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Kevin was the uncle of Pastor Chelsea Vaught.

Celebration of Life services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at Bethesda Mennonite Church in Henderson. The family would like to request that everyone come in their favorite island or Hawaiian shirt. Kevin has been cremated so there will be no viewing, however, you may sign the guest book on Monday, August 10, 2026 from 1:00 – 9:00 p.m. and his family will greet friends and neighbors from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. that same day, all at Metz Mortuary in Henderson. In lieu of flowers or plants, memorials may be directed to his family for later designation.

Please remember to keep the family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of Kevin.

Death

Chad Alan Wall, 63, of Lincoln passed away on July 14, 2026. Left to cherish his memory are his father, Marlowe and Shari Wall of York; brother, Brett and Marnie Wall of Dana Point, Calif.; sister, Traci and Brian Bruckner of Wayne and nephew, Sam Bruckner of Golden, Colo. Chad was also the nephew of Blaine and Karren Friesen and Don and Teresa Wall.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, August 22, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at Bethesda Mennonite Church in Henderson. Donations in Chad's memory can be made to the Nebraska Humane Society of Omaha.

Please remember to keep the family in your prayers as they continue to mourn the loss of Chad.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Office Hours

Kerri, the Secretary, will be on vacation starting August 5 through August 19 or thereabouts. Bev Quiring will be filling in at the office and will be available to assist you from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5; Monday, August 10; Wednesday, August 12 and Monday, August 17.

END OF SUMMER COOKOUT

Sunday, August 16: Bethesda Mennonite Church will be hosting an End of Summer Cookout on Sunday, August 16 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Come and join in for a delicious meal, games, and fellowship. The meal will be served on the church patio and is free for all and all are welcome!



Central Plains Women's Retreat

For a relaxing weekend get-away, plan to attend the Central Plains Women's Retreat at Swan Lake Christian Camp at Viborg, SD, September 19-20. Presenter will be Memee Yang sharing "My Beautiful Journey of Spiritual Transformation." You will remember that Meme, along with her husband Jonah, shared at Bethesda following their trip to Thailand accompanied by Alan Janzen. Memee and Jonah serve with Mennonite Mission Network, leading seminars and training that reach out to empower women, mend relationships between couples, and strengthen theological training for people in Southeast Asia. All sessions, lodging, and meals at Swan Lake's Still Waters Retreat Center – \$120 for the weekend. Register to attend at myslcc.com/register. More information and the sign-up sheet are on the BWM Bulletin Board. Contact Carol Janzen at 402-366-7984 if you have any questions.

YOUTHMINISTRIES

Calling All College Students

Your Bethesda family wants to stay in contact with you as you head off to college. You are encouraged to fill out the College Student Contact Form which can be found on the church website bethesdamc.org where you can scroll down until you find "Quick Links" and then click on the "College Student Contact Form" button. It will help us to have your most current contact information and you might even get some goodies sent to you during finals week.



3rd & 4th Graders Attend Swan Lake Christian Camp

Together again! James Janzen and Roddek Friesen were able to visit their friends at Templo Alabanza in Moline, Illinois again. The boys visited July 29-30 and went to Templo's Vacation Bible School on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. On Thursday they spent the day hanging out With the Templo boys, took a walk by the river, visited the John Deere Pavillion and went to a waterpark. The boys were thrilled to all be together once again!



New Sunday School Classes

Sunday, September 6: New Sunday School classes will begin on Sunday, September 6. Instilling a deeper understanding and love for God and His teachings in our children and youth is a rewarding task . If you are feeling called to teach, contact Tara Maltsberger (620-205-9463) or Melissa Goertzen (402-366-2147).

Wednesday Night Meals

The new year of high school youth group isn't too far away. For those interested in helping provide a meal for the youth on Wednesday nights please contact Ashley Buller at 402-710-2434.

NURSERY CARE

AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN AGES 3 & UNDER
DURING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

GIVINGATTENDANCE

Sunday, August 2, Worship Attendance: 220
Sunday, August 2, Sunday School Attendance: 22

Worship Offering: August 2, 2026

Bethesda General Operating Receipts	\$12,963.00
Sunday School Offering	\$11.00
Total Sunday Offering	\$12,974.00

MISSIONSLOCAL/GLOBAL

A Home Away From Home

The International Students Club at Bethel College is asking for help to welcome international students to Bethel by providing them with essential items that are difficult or impossible to bring in their luggage. The club has created a registry of these items, to be included in welcome baskets to help students feel cared for and at home from the moment they arrive. View the registry [here](#). Purchased items can be shipped to: **Bethel College**, 300 E. 27th St., North Newton, KS 67117, **ATTN: Karin Kaufman Wall, International Students Club Adviser**. (Items may also be dropped off at Leisy House, 24th St. & College Ave., North Newton, the advancement and alumni offices, Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Please mark any purchased items on the gift registry so we can keep track of what is still needed.) **If you would prefer to give financially, donations may be made to Bethel College with "International Students Fund" in the memo line.**

THE PARABLE OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE

♥ MATTHEW 13:44 ♥

Jesus said,
"The kingdom of heaven
is like treasure hidden
in a field. When a man
found it, he hid it again,
and then in his joy
went and sold all he had
and bought that field."

Matthew 13:44



The kingdom of heaven is very valuable.
It is worth more than anything else!



The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field." Matthew 13:44 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on Matthew 13:44 (NIV)

Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.

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

FOUND
HEAVEN
JOY

KINGDOM
SOLD
FIELD

PARABLE
MAN
TREASURE

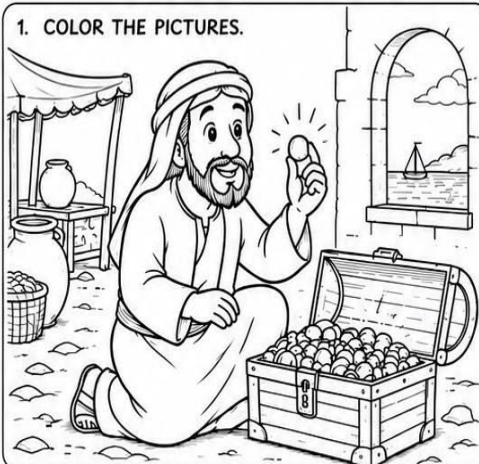
BOUGHT
HIDDEN
FIELD

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

MATTHEW 13:45-46

"The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls."

1. COLOR THE PICTURES.



2. MATCH THE PICTURES TO THE MEANINGS.



●

● The merchant sold everything he had.



●

● He found a pearl of great value.



●

● The pearl was more valuable than anything else.



●

● He bought the pearl with all his money.

3. FILL IN THE BLANKS.

Use the words in the box to complete the sentences.

pearl merchant sold treasure

1. A _____ was looking for fine pearls.
2. He found a pearl of great _____.
3. He _____ everything he had.
4. He bought the pearl with all his money.

4. TRUE OR FALSE.

Circle TRUE or FALSE for each sentence.

1. The merchant was looking for fine pearls. TRUE FALSE
2. The merchant found a pearl of great value. TRUE FALSE
3. He sold everything he had to buy the pearl. TRUE FALSE
4. The pearl was not very valuable. TRUE FALSE
5. Jesus told this story to teach us about the kingdom of heaven. TRUE FALSE

5. PUT THE STORY IN ORDER.

Write 1, 2, 3, 4 to show what happened first, next, then, and last.

- ☐ He bought the pearl with all his money.
- ☐ He sold everything he had.
- ☐ He found a pearl of great value.
- ☐ A merchant was looking for fine pearls.



6. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

- A. What was the merchant looking for?

- B. What did he find?

- C. What did he do?

- D. What does this story teach us?



7. DRAW A PICTURE.

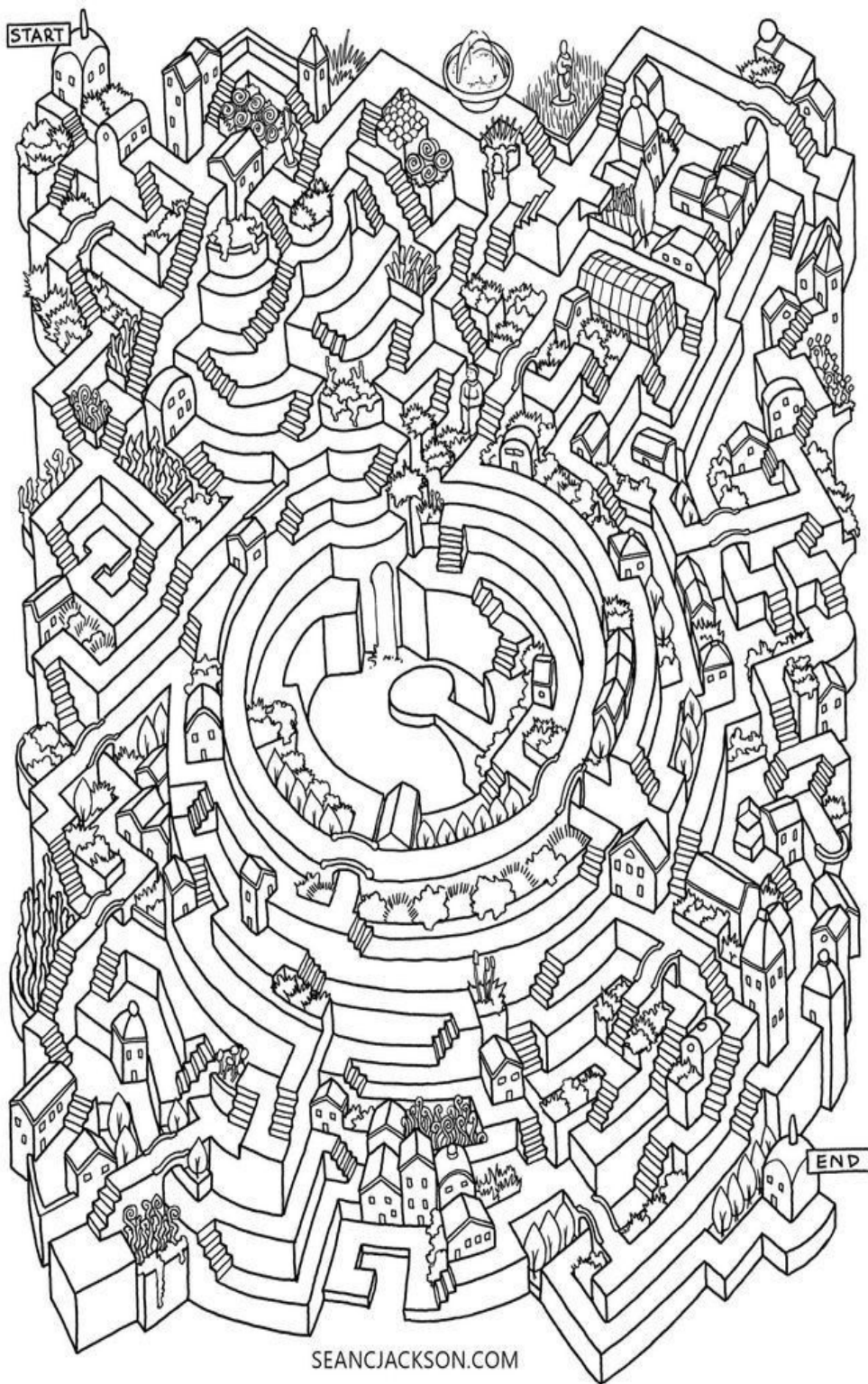
Draw a picture of the merchant finding the pearl of great price.



THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS WORTH MORE THAN ANYTHING!



START



END

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE BOOKS

Fill in the Blanks in the Bible Book Names

G_n_s_s

Ex__u__

Lev__cu__

N__be__

De__ro__my

Jo__a

Ju__e__

__th

1_a__e__

2__ue__

1K__g__

2__gs

1C_ro__les

2C_ro__les

E__

__b

P_a__

__ver__

__les__te__

So__o__ So__on

_s__h

J__mi__

La_e__ti__s

__ek__

Da__e__

H__a

__l

A__s

O_a__h

__ah

M__h

__hu__

H__a__uk

Z__h__ia__

H__g__i

Ze__a__a__

M__a__i



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:

- ☐ Children’s Programs
- ☐ Youth Programs
- ☐ Bible Studies
- ☐ Choirs
- ☐ Serving
- ☐ Baptism
- ☐ Membership
- ☐ 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:

- ☐ Elementary School
- ☐ High School
- ☐ Adult
- ☐ Junior High
- ☐ College

Comments/Bulletin Announcement...

MESSAGENOTES

"The Parable of the Hidden Treasure"

Pastor J Epp

Matthew 13:44-52 (NRSV)