BETHESDA NEWS
Welcome to Worship!
Sunday, October 25, 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, October 25	8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet
	9:30 a.m. Worship
	10:40 a.m. Sunday School
Monday, October 26	8:00 p.m. Church Council
Tuesday, October 27	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
Wednesday, October 28	12:00 p.m. Bulletin Announcements Due
	2:30 p.m. Legacy Square
	6:30 p.m. High School Small Groups
	7:00 p.m. Cornerstone – Junior High
	7:00 p.m. Midweek – PreK & Grade School
	8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
Friday, October 30	Church Offices Closed
Sunday, November 1	8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet
	9:30 a.m. Worship
	Message: Pastor Chelsea Vaught
	Music: Laura Steingard/Chancel Choir
	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, Bernard Anderson, Elly Siebert (Margie Siebert's granddaughter), Berdon Epp and the Veronica Friesen.

Birth



A son, Coogan Walter Kulhanek, was born on October 4, 2026 to Tim and Marli Kulhanek at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lincoln. Big sisters Lenin, age 6; Hattie, age 4; and Macklin, age 1 1/2 welcomed him home. Local grandparents are Marc and Kelli Peters and great-grandparents are Joe and Em Pankratz and Myron and Janet Peters.

Thank You

Dear Bethesda family and friends,

Thank you for the prayers, cards, and well wishes for Alton and myself over the past 5 months of hospitalization, rehab and surgeries.

Thank you, Pastor Chelsea, for your texts and visits continuing to check up on us. Thank you also, Bethesda Women's ministries for the prayer shawl. What a thoughtful gift!

Life is beginning to return to normal (at least our normal). It's been a challenging time but we have felt the love and healing prayers!!

Vickie and Alton Friesen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacon Nominations

The terms of Steve Michel and Mark Janzen as members of the Board of Deacons will expire in February. Steve has served two terms and is not eligible to serve another term. Mark has chosen not to serve another term. Both Steve and Mark's terms will need to be filled.

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 1, 2026, to begin the Deacon nomination process. Individuals do not need to be contacted for permission to be nominated. Each member may list two nominees. The Ballot Committee shall determine the top 15 names in order of nominations received. In the event of a tie or ties at the 15th position, the Ballot Committee shall determine the top 15 names and list them in alphabetical order.

Absentee ballots will be available Monday, October 19, and must be requested by the member in writing (email is permissible), in person or by phone. If we receive a phone request, ballots must be picked up and signed for by someone representing the member doing the requesting. Absentee ballots must be returned by Thursday, October 29, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

From the Treasurer



Committee Chairs are reminded to turn in their budgets by the end of October and we all boards are encouraged to meet in November for budget purposes.

-Kendra Switzer, Church Treasurer

CPMC Update

An update from Central Plains Mennonite Conference is available for you to pick up on the table in front of the office.

- Board of Deacons and Pastors

Hometown Fresh Trailer

Wednesday, November 11: The Wednesday, November 11 Hometown Fresh Trailer visit will be the final time the trailer comes to town until March.

From Kerri the Secretary

Deacons, (and Laura) there are Central Plains Mennonite Conference handbooks for you to pick up on the table outside of the office. And, if anyone

is in need of boxes, I have some… and generally always have some in the office so stop by if you are in need.

Piano Night at the Lake

Sunday, November 8: Join us for Piano Night at the Lake, a Swan Lake Christian Camp dinner and worship fundraiser.



A dinner will be served along with classical music followed by a time of worship in song in the camp's new facility on Sunday, November 8 starting at 6:00 p.m.

Free-will donations received from this event will go toward the completion of the worship center/dining hall. To reserve your seat call Judi at 605-326-5690 or email campoffice@myslcc.com.

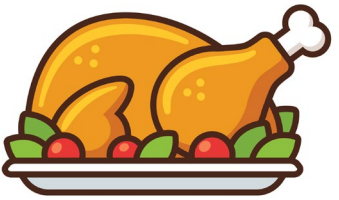
Service and Outreach Interest Form

In an effort to identify interest in current or future service and mission projects, the Board of Service & Outreach is requesting that those who have ever had an interest or a pull to serve on projects to please scan the QR code at left to complete our Service and Outreach Interest Form. This will help us share future projects with you directly as well as continuing communication on future projects church-wide.

Please scan and complete this form at your earliest convenience or contact Hillary Bechtel at 309.569.0471 with questions.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 8: On November 8 following Sunday School, we will celebrate an early Thanksgiving as a congregation with a Thanksgiving Potluck! Turkey will be provided, and you are all invited to bring part of the meal. In order to have all parts of the meal provided, here are suggestions for what to bring based on the first letter of your last name:



A to E: Salads or Appetizers (lettuce salads, fruit salads, pasta salads, deviled eggs, etc.)

F: Bread or rolls

G to P: Vegetables or Side Dishes (potatoes, stuffing, green beans, corn, casseroles, etc.)

Q to Z: Desserts (pies, cakes, bars, cookies, crisps, etc.).

Please take responsibility of having your food prepared and ready if it needs heated during the church service and/or the Sunday School hour as there will not be help in the kitchen at that time.

We look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving together as a church family!

- Board of Deacons and Pastors



October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Pastor Appreciation Month is a time set aside each year to honor and give thanks for our pastors who give, care, and serve us and our community in remarkable ways! If you need a few pastor appreciation ideas we're here to help!

- Invite your pastor to your home for a meal.
- Gift cards for coffee, restaurants, grocery store, sporting events, bookstore, hobbies, or pastimes.
- Share your season tickets.
- Treat the pastor's spouse.
- Write a personal thank you letter or card.
- Offer to babysit while the pastor and spouse have date night.
- Drop off a homemade dessert.
- Pray for your pastor daily.

BETHESDA WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

BWM November Meeting

Tuesday, November 3: Bethesda Women's Ministries will hold their November meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Come and join us at 7:00 p.m. as Lisa Epp shares on Blue Valley Community Action in York. Blue Valley supports families through programs like emergency rent and utility assistance, food pantries, early childhood education (including Head Start and BRELA), and nutritional counseling. Serving as the community's resource hub, it's where neighbors go when weathering tough times or seeking reliable support with dignity.

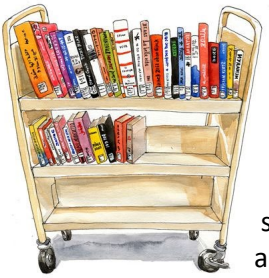
CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Progressive Thanksgiving Dinner

Wednesday, November 18: The high school youth are having their annual Progressive Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday, November 18 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to host a dessert at

their house OR contribute a side dish for their main meal held at church. If you are interested or have questions, contact Ashley Buller at 402-710-2434.

Visit the Book Cart!



In the back of the sanctuary is a library cart with books for children and youth to read during worship. Feel free to grab a book before worship, during worship or after. If you want to take it home, check it out by writing your name on the card and placing the card in the clear box on the cart. The top shelf is Shalom Readers Books – read 7 of these books and write them on the Shalom sheet on the side of the cart and turn it in to earn a free book. Enjoy reading!

Fall Midweek

Wednesday, October 28:

High School: We will meet starting at 6:30 p.m. with a meal in the Crossroads Coffeehouse. If you would like to join the text list please contact the office.

Junior High Midweek: Will meet in the Upper Room at 7:00 p.m.

Preschool – 6th Grade Midweek: Will meet in the "Music Room" (in the upstairs Grade 2-3 classroom) at 7:00 p.m. The kids will again this year be broken into age groups for conversations and activities following our "Sing the Bible" time and will conclude with games in the Fellowship Hall where they can be picked up.

Join the Text List: If you or your youth would like to be on the contact list to be notified each week about when, where and what we are doing for Midweek please contact Kerri in the office with your cell phone number and email to join the list.

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.

Parent and Volunteer Forms

For the safety of our children, it is very important that parents and any volunteers fill out our child protection forms that are available online. There are

three separate forms to be filled out: Child/Youth Trip Permission Waiver Form; Volunteer For Children/Youth; Driving History/Record Release Form. Please scan the QR codes below to get to the forms in order to fill them out online. Or go to the church website at bethesdamc.org and click on "Child Protection" in the menu.

Child/Youth Trip Permission Waiver

Volunteer for Children/Youth

Driving History/ Record Release



GIVINGATTENDANCE

Sunday, October 18, 2026 Worship Attendance: 153
Sunday, October 18, 2026, Sunday School Attendance:

Worship Offering: October 18, 2026

Bethesda General Operating Receipts	**$5,743.00**
Sunday School Offering	**$66.00**
Total Sunday Offering	**$5,809.00**

MISSIONSLOCAL/GLOBAL

Mennonite Mission Network SOOP Program

Looking for a meaningful way to use your gifts while building new friendships? Want a truly different kind of family vacation? Mennonite Mission Network's SOOP program is for you! Service Opportunities with Our Partners (SOOP) offers flexible service terms at 60 locations for individuals ages 25+ and families of all ages. Housing and meals are sometimes provided. Discover the joy of working together, growing in faith, and creating lasting memories! Visit MennoniteMission.net/SOOP to learn more.

Central Plains Mennonite Conference: The Sower – For Your Prayers

We pray for those in our conference who are taking or considering classes in seminary and/or exploring calls to ministry. We give thanks for the nudgings of the Spirit, and pray for fortitude and courage for those who are studying, praying, and discerning the ministries to which God has called them.

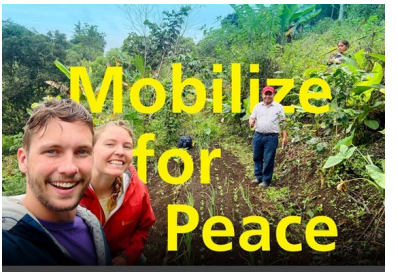
Mennonite Mission Network:

How SEMILLA partners with Mission Network in Guatemala

SEMILLA — Spanish for "seed" — is based in Guatemala City. Its mission is clear:

To prepare men and women to follow and serve Jesus Christ faithfully, and thus to live out the reign of God with justice and peace today.

Founded in the early 1980s by Central American Anabaptist leaders amid regional conflict, today it provides biblical, theological and leadership training — in-person and remote — to hundreds of adult learners across Latin America, the Caribbean, and beyond each year, serving multiple Anabaptist/Mennonite conferences.



To prepare them for a year of service in Guatemala, SEMILLA's CASAS program provided Mission Network workers Seth and Stephany Rudeen (left) with language study, cultural orientation, history lessons, and a short immersion with a host family in a Q'eqchi' area.

SEMILLA's core seminary work equips church leaders in context, yet it also operates several additional programs including:

- CASAS (Central American Study and Service) offers Spanish-language study, cultural immersion, intercultural education, lectures, trips, and homestays.
- Casa Emaús provides hospitality that supports both the seminary and visiting groups. These elements create a soft landing for newcomers while generating resources that sustain theological education.

How the CASAS program prepares Mission Network workers for service in Guatemala and the broader region

A current example is Seth and Stephany Rudeen. After intensive language study, cultural orientation, history lessons, and a short immersion with a host family in a Q'eqchi' area through CASAS, they moved into service at the Q'eqchi' Bezaleal Mennonite Educational Center (near San Pedro Carchá in Alta Verapaz). There they supported English learning, practical activities and relationships within the school and the wider Q'eqchi' Mennonite Church community.

Prioritizing mutuality over one-sided "fixing"

As Vásquez explains, North American (and other international) workers are not arriving to repair a broken country or community. They come to serve and to learn – adapting to local needs, building reciprocal relationships, and allowing the community to shape how they contribute. CASAS softens the cultural and linguistic immersion so that service can be more effective and respectful from the start.

This approach reflects SEMILLA's broader vision of seeds of hope: theological formation rooted in Anabaptist values of peace, justice, and community combined with practical intercultural exchange that benefits both Latin American churches and international participants. Funds and connections generated through CASAS and hospitality help sustain the seminary's work with local leaders. For visitors, students, and mission workers alike, the experience often deepens understanding of Guatemalan (and wider Central American) history, Indigenous cultures, faith expressions, and daily realities.

Through formal seminary studies for regional pastors and leaders, and all their programs, the result is relationships marked by shared learning, service shaped by local priorities and a lived witness to justice and peace in the present.

Mennonite Central Committee

Mennonite Central Committee is evaluating, working with local partners, and responding to recent disasters, please join us in supporting:

Nepal flooding response: MCC is responding to the impact of deadly flooding in Nepal. Please pray for the people who have been affected by this disaster. MCC is working with local partners to provide food, supplies and trauma support to those in need. We welcome your donations. Donate to MCC's response at **mcc.org/nepal-flooding**

Colombia earthquake: MCC is also providing emergency relief in Colombia following the 7.4-magnitude earthquake. Donate to MCC's response at **mcc.org/colombia-earthquake**



SCHOOL KIT NIGHT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Mark your calendars for this year's School Kit Night. We will gather for a fundraiser meal for the high school youth 2027 service project. Then together we will pack school kit bags with pencils, notebooks and more. More details to follow.

The Parable of the Tenants

Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. Matthew 21:37 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 21:33-46 (NIV)



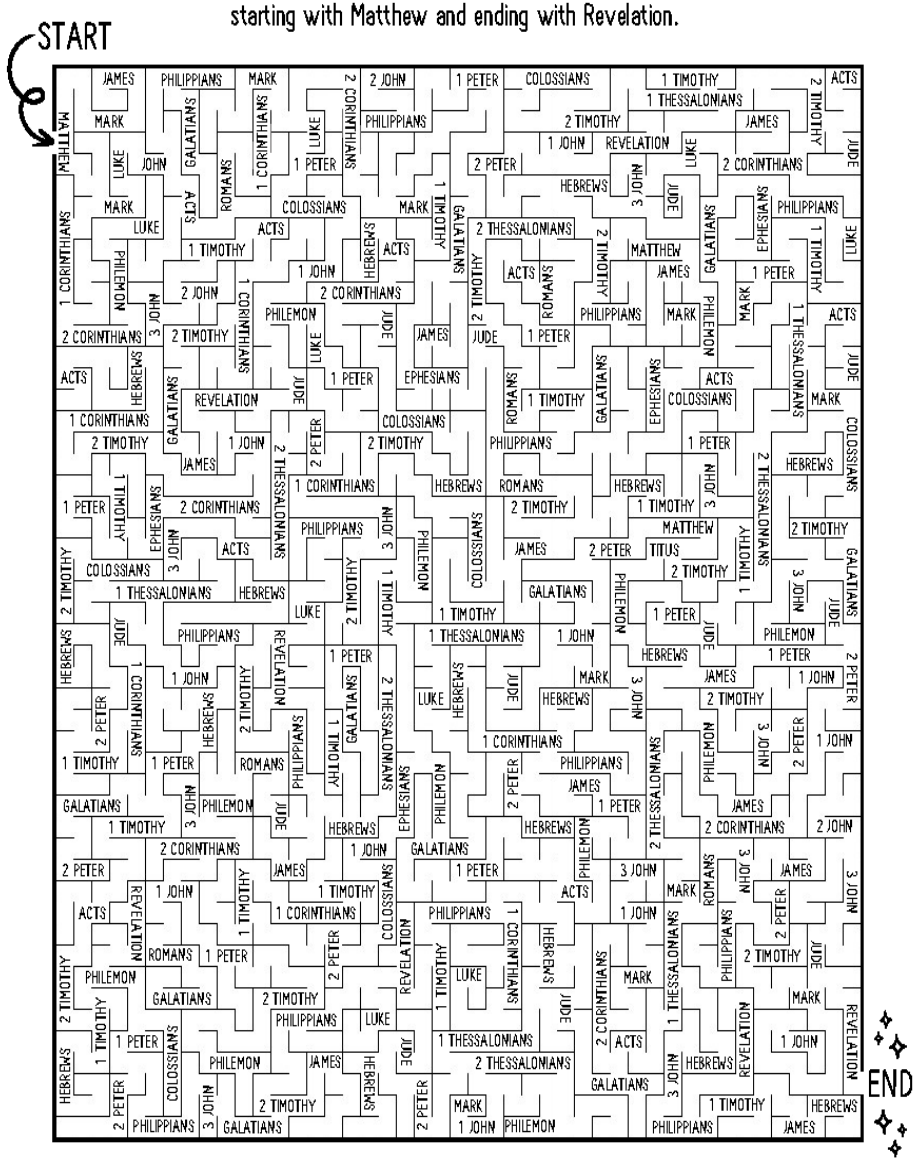
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S T S S T W V I N E Y A R D T

LISTEN	WATCHTOWER	PARABLE	SON	SERVANTS
SENT	WALL	HARVEST	KILLED	COLLECT
BUILT	LANDOWNER	LAST	TIME	FARMERS
DUG	FRUIT	REJECTED	VINEYARD	JOURNEY

Books of the Bible

NEW TESTAMENT MAZE

To solve the maze, follow the books of the Bible in order starting with Matthew and ending with Revelation.




GOD
BLESSES
THE HARVEST.
Psalm 67:6

Seek & Find

A BIBLE SEARCH GAME

V.1



- [ ] Tent
- [ ] Manger
- [ ] Table
- [ ] Lion
- [ ] Bones
- [ ] Tower
- [ ] Frog
- [ ] Bear
- [ ] Door
- [ ] Fox
- [ ] Mountains
- [ ] Throne
- [ ] Pillow
- [ ] Cross
- [ ] Ox (Cow)
- [ ] Wings
- [ ] Grapes
- [ ] Ladder
- [ ] Boat
- [ ] Bread
- [ ] Well
- [ ] Palm Tree
- [ ] Sheep
- [ ] Nest
- [ ] Star

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

"Rooted in Hope, Sent in Love"

Pastor J Epp

Matthew 21:33-46 (NRSV)