

BETHESDA NEWS

Welcome to Worship!

November 23, 2025

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.

WEEKLYCALENDAR

<i>Sunday, November 23</i>	8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 a.m. Sunday School
<i>Monday, November 24</i>	6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. MCC Mobile Meat Canner 8:00 p.m. Church Council
<i>Tuesday, November 25</i>	6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. MCC Mobile Meat Canner 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
<i>Wednesday, November 26</i>	12:00 p.m. Bulletin Announcements Due 2:30 p.m. Legacy Square 7:00 p.m. Messiah Rehearsal 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
<i>Thursday, November 27</i>	THANKSGIVING Church Offices Closed
<i>Friday, November 28</i>	Church Offices Closed
<i>Sunday, November 30</i>	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship Message: Pastor Andrea Wall Music: Sandra Quiring, Pianist Offering to God 10:40 a.m. Sunday School

CHURCHFAMILY

Please keep in prayer those with health concerns, grief, or family needs:
Rachelle Schweitzer, Lisa Friesen, Bryan Bechtel, Wyona Friesen, Kathy Epp, Maynard Steckly and Blanche Franz.

Thank You

The family of Adeline Huebert would like to thank you for the many kind deeds shown to us during Adeline’s illness and passing. The prayers, food, cards and memorials to name a few meant so much to the family.

The Adeline Huebert Family

Thank You

Thank you for many different expressions of gratitude offered during Pastor Appreciation Month. We are grateful to you as a congregation for your ongoing care.

Pastor Andrea, Pastor Chelsea and Pastor J



Birth

A daughter, Dorothea Mae Janzen, was born on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 to Pastor Josh and Steph Janzen. Local grandparents are Mark and Shelley Janzen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Affirmation Vote

As Pastor Chelsea Vaught will complete her first five-year term on March 1, 2026 as a part of our ministry team serving God and the Bethesda congregation the Board of Deacons have unanimously voted to recommend that the Bethesda congregation call Pastor Chelsea for an additional five-year term, running from March 1, 2026 to March 1, 2031. The Deacon Board recognizes and appreciates the many gifts God has given Pastor Chelsea and are excited for her to continue her ministry in our congregation and the wider community, especially with her gift of congregational care and grief counseling. A congregational vote will be held following the worship service on Sunday, November 30, 2025.



THE BETHESDA MENNONITE CHURCH CHANCEL CHOIR
AND THE NEBRASKA SYMPHONY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
TO PRESENT

Handel's MESSIAH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Messiah Chorus Rehearsals

Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.: Messiah Chorus rehearsals are currently underway but it's not too late to join! All rehearsals will be from 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. each Wednesday until the performance. Chancel Choir rehearsal will follow from 9:00 - 9:30 p.m. The Messiah performance will take place on Sunday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m.

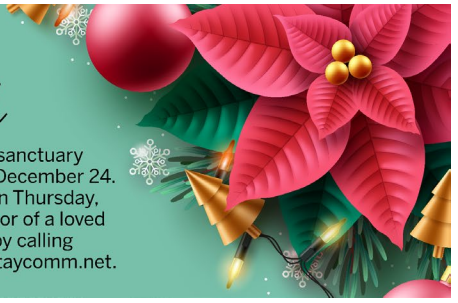
Christmas Eve Choir

Wednesday, December 24: Looking for volunteers of all ages to participate in a choir on Christmas Eve. Practices began on Wednesday November 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room but you are still welcome to join. If you love Caroling or haven't for a while, this will be a warm experience (i.e. indoors). Thank you!

The Christmas Eve Committee

CHRISTMAS *Poinsettias*

Poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary
Sunday, December 21 through Wednesday, December 24.
Please have them delivered no sooner than Thursday,
December 18. If you will be donating in honor of a loved
one, please let the church office know by calling
402.723.4562 or emailing bethesda@mainstaycomm.net.



Food insecurity in York County

Blue Valley Community Action has seen a sharp rise in need for food in York County. Henderson Ministerial Pastors (Bethesda, FEBC and Living Hope) met together with Lisa Epp who works for Blue Valley out of York. She offered pastors resources and shared about some of the most effective ways to provide support to anyone who may struggle with food needs. If you would like to help, consider these following ways of getting involved:

- **Salvation Army Bell Ringing in York.** Did you know that 90% of the money donated in the red buckets in York during the holiday season is donated to Blue Valley, which serves York County? It is fun to bundle up and ring bells with friends or family for an hour to thank those donating to support local food needs. Oh and you can donate this way too! If you are interested in bell ringing give your contact information to the church office and someone from Blue Valley will be in touch.
- **Help the Henderson Ministerial Buy a Cow!** The ministerial will match any donations up to \$1,000 to help buy a cow for the food bank. Blue Valley is in need of meat donations and already have the processing fees donated. So your donations to the Henderson Ministerial Association will be more than doubled. So our question to you is, "Where's the beef?" Checks written out to the Henderson Ministerial Association can be given to any of the pastors at Bethesda, FEBC or Living Hope.
- If you know of someone who may be in need of food, please contact one of the ministerial pastors. There is a food available:
 - Blue Valley in York hosts a food pantry once a month, which participants will need to provide contact information to participate.
 - Blue Valley also hosts the Feeding America Program Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30-10 a.m. You may pick up bakery items, bread, eggs and many other items.

- The York Mission also provides a food basket once a month if you attend a chapel service. Sign up for a Thanksgiving Basket before November 21. Contact the Hope Gospel Rescue Mission at 402-362-0127.
- The Henderson Ministerial will also be funding vouchers for Blue Valley to give out for milk at the Henderson Pharmacy. You may find them at Blue Valley in York.

For more information on other resources provided by Blue Valley Community Action you may call them at 402-362-3516 or find them online at www.bvca.net.

Parent Child Dedication

Sunday, December 7: If you would like to have your child dedicated, please contact Pastor Andrea at 402.710.3195 or at andrea@mainstaycomm.net or the church office at 402.723.4562 or at bethesda@mainstaycomm.net. Parent Child Dedication will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2025.



MCC Meat Canner Volunteers Needed

November 21, 22, 24 & 25: Every year MCC's Mobile Meat Canner travels across the United States and Canada meeting volunteers who prepare cans of turkey, beef, chicken, and pork to be sent around the world. Over 30,000 people a year volunteer to fill, weigh, wash and label every can. This year, the canner will be coming to Bethesda Mennonite Church November 21, 22, 24 and 25, 2025.

Workers for the canner truck will be needed Monday and Tuesday. The plan this year is to can four rounds of meat per day, compared to the five rounds we usually do, so we should be finished earlier in the day compared to previous years. We also need people to grind meat, make boxes, dry cans, and move cans to the truck. We have jobs for people of all ages, and you can come and go as you please. Please join us for this rewarding and fun project.

Information is posted on the Bethesda Mennonite MCC Meat Canning Facebook page (@BethesdaCanning), on Twitter (@BethesdaMcc) including the work to be done, truck start times, and when assistance is needed. Please follow, and share. Questions to Jay Dee Janzen, 402-362-0512 or Jason Lewis 402-363-9745.

AMBS Online Short Courses

Have you ever considered taking a course at AMBS but enrolling and learning on campus was not an option for you? Did you know that AMBS offers online short courses. This is just one available for 2026. "Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: What's Different and Why?" taught by Laura Brenneman-Fullwood, PhD, and David Cramer, PhD.

In the 16th century, Anabaptists approached Scripture in ways that were both similar to and different from Catholics and other Protestants. This course will seek to understand those similarities and differences in light of today. What historical and theological developments in the centuries since the 16th century have influenced today's Mennonites more profoundly than did the Reformation?

Students read assigned materials and complete short assignments, writing in an online discussion forum on their own time to meet assignment deadlines. Includes an optional video conference meeting with professors each week of the course, also recorded for participants to watch at their convenience.

The course will be offered January 28 through March 10, 2026. The early registration deadline is January 7, 2026 and the cost is \$300. The final registration deadline is January 21, 2026 and the cost is \$350. Participants should expect to pay for one or two textbooks.

If you want to know more, contact AMBS or Carol Janzen your AMBS Advocate 402-366-7984.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Spirit of Christmas Youth Fundraiser Meal

Tuesday, December 2 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.:

Mark your calendars for the Spirit of Christmas youth fundraiser meal in the Bethesda Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, December 2.

The youth will be serving from 4:30-6:30 p.m. or until we run out – so be sure to come early.

These funds will support the youth service trip for 2026. We will also be hosting the

Faith and Life Bookstore again and other local vendors including Balaban's – 10% of all sales will also support the youth trip. If you or someone you know would like to be a vendor please contact the church office.



Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 7: The Children's Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 7 at Bethesda. This year the kids will be presenting "The Mystery of the Missing Manger".

Sunday School classes have been rehearsing during Sunday School but it's

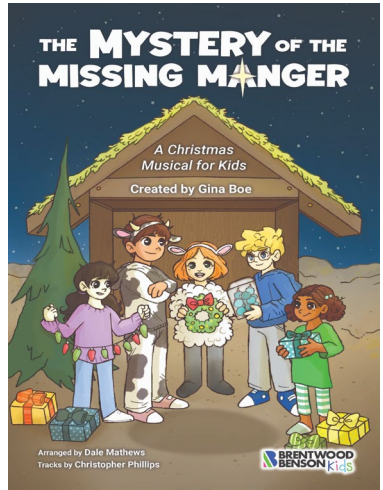
very important that you rehearse with your children at home. All of the music can be found on the Bethesda Mennonite Church website, bethesdamc.org, just click on the Menu bars in the upper right corner and then click on "MINISTRIES" and then "Children" and all of the songs will be there.

There will also be two program practices in the church sanctuary for all participants on the following dates:

*Saturday, November 29 – 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

*Saturday, December 6 – 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

The Project Offering will once again be Hygiene Kits and kids were given letters to bring home with all the details.



Christmas

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<i>Wednesday, November 26</i>	7:00 p.m. Messiah Rehearsal 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
<i>Thursday, November 27</i>	THANKSGIVING – Church Offices Closed
<i>Saturday, November 29</i>	10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal – Sanctuary
<i>Sunday, November 30</i>	First Sunday of Advent 9:30 a.m. Worship Service
<i>Tuesday, December 2</i>	4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Spirit of Christmas Youth Fundraiser Meal. Faith and Life Bookstore plus local vendors – Fellowship Hall
<i>Wednesday, December 3</i>	8:00 p.m. Messiah Rehearsal 9:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
<i>Saturday, December 6</i>	10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal - Sanctuary
<i>Sunday, December 7</i>	9:30 a.m. Worship Service - Parent Child Dedication <i>If you would like to have your child dedicated, please contact Pastor Andrea or the church office at bethesda@mainstaycomm.net or by calling 402.723.4562</i>

	6:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Program <i>Cookie Social to follow.</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 10</i>	7:00 p.m. Messiah Rehearsal
<i>Saturday, December 13</i>	8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
	8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Messiah Rehearsal with Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra
<i>Sunday, December 14</i>	Third Sunday of Advent
	9:30 a.m. Worship Service
	7:30 p.m. Bethesda Chancel Choir and the Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra present Handel's Messiah
<i>Sunday, December 21</i>	Fourth Sunday of Advent
	9:30 a.m. Worship Service
	<i>Poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary Sunday, December 21 through Wednesday, December 24. Please have them delivered no sooner than Thursday, December 18. If you will be donating in honor of a loved one, please let the church office know.</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 24</i>	CHRISTMAS EVE
	7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
<i>Thursday, December 25</i>	CHRISTMAS DAY
	9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Community Pancake Feed

MISSIONSLOCAL/GLOBAL

Hurricane Melissa Relief

You can help make a difference for those impacted by Hurricane Melissa!

Hurricane Melissa struck Cuba, bringing heavy rain and strong winds, causing severe flooding and damage to the province of Santiago de Cuba. MCC is responding with emergency food assistance and distribution of other emergency supplies, such as MCC relief kits and canned meat.

Every donation helps provide vital supplies to people in crisis. Make a donation today at <https://mcc.org/get-involved/giving/designations/hurricane-melissa-response>

Save the Date!

Central Plains Mennonite Conference and the Ecuador Partnership will host an 11-day service trip and learning tour to Riobamba and Quito, Ecuador, from March 13 - March 23, 2026. We are looking for up to 10 volunteers. The group will assist the Anabaptist Mennonite Christian Church of Ecuador (ICME) churches in Riobamba with building projects for their respective facilities.

More details will be coming soon. If you have any interest, please complete the following Google Form: <https://forms.gle/N1HEzfSxKjs5Msb98> by **November 23**, so we can add you to the list and ensure you receive all future communications regarding the trip. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Joel Beachy (joel.beachy@eastunionmennonite.org).

Volunteer Needed

The MC USA Archives is seeking a volunteer to manage and update MennObits, the online searchable public database of Anabaptist/Mennonite related obituaries. The primary task is entering information into the database. The volunteer would also review newspapers and funeral home websites in regions of concentrated Anabaptist/Mennonite populations to find related obituaries to enter. Managing MennObits requires your own computer and about 12 to 16 hours of time per month working from your own home. An Archives staff person will provide training and orientation. If interested, please contact Devon Miller at DevonM@MennoniteUSA.org.

GIVINGATTENDANCE

Sunday, November 16, Worship Attendance: 238

Sunday, November 16, Sunday School Attendance: 100

Worship Offering: November 16, 2025

Bethesda General Operating Receipts	\$11,667.00
Sunday School Offering	\$189.00
Total Sunday Offering	\$11,856.00

Unto the Least of These

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' " Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 25:31-46 (NIV)



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

CLOTHED
LEAST
GLORY
BROTHERS

SHEPHERD
BLESSED
LIFE
FATHER

HUNGRY
THRONE
ANGELS
ETERNAL

KING
SICK
DRINK
PRISON

STRANGER
EAT
THIRSTY
COME

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

"Serve Like You Mean It"

Pastor J Epp

Matthew 25:31-46 (NRSV)