

BETHESDA NEWS

Welcome to Worship!

November 30, 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 30</i>	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 a.m. Sunday School
<i>Monday, December 1</i>	2:00 – 7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Bookstore will be set up in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m. Church Council
<i>Tuesday, December 2</i>	9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Youth Fundraiser Meal 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Bookstore set up in the Fellowship Hall 4:00 – 7:30 p.m. Vendors in Fellowship Hall 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Spirit of Christmas Market 7:30 p.m. Board of Deacons & Pastors
<i>Wednesday, December 3</i>	12:00 p.m. Bulletin Announcements Due 6:30 p.m. High School Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Cornerstone 8:00 p.m. Messiah Rehearsal 9:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
<i>Friday, December 5</i>	Church Offices Closed
<i>Saturday, December 6</i>	10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal
<i>Sunday, December 7</i>	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship – Child Dedication Message: Pastor Chelsea Vaught Music: Sandra Quiring, Pianist/Chancel Choir Offering to God 10:40 a.m. Sunday School 6:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Program with Cookie Social to follow

CHURCHFAMILY

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

Death

Frank Steckly's father Maynard Steckly, age 88, of Seward, passed away on Thursday, November 20 in Seward. A funeral service was held Saturday, November 29 at 11:00 a.m. at the Seward United Methodist Church. Please keep Frank and Joy as well as the entire Steckly family in your prayers as they grieve the loss of Maynard.

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 today, Sunday, November 30, 2025.

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.



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

Handel's MESSIAH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Handel's Messiah

Sunday, December 14: The Bethesda Mennonite Church Choir will present Handel's Messiah on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. This free event will celebrate the birth of Christ in song this Christmas.

The choir, directed by Lynn Hall will be accompanied by the Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra and Pastor Chelsea Vaught, harpsichord. Soloists include: Richard Drews, Tenor; Kayelynn Lawson, Alto; Thomas Gunther, Bass; and Suna Gunther, Soprano.

The first presentation of Messiah at Bethesda was in 1969 under the direction of Don Peters with soloists and keyboard accompaniment. In 1981 the choir began a partnership with the Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra from Lincoln to accompany the performance. This relationship continues to the present day. Every three years, Bethesda makes the commitment to offer this type of outreach to the public. There is no cost for admission, and the service is supported by a free will offering.



Angel Tree

Check out the Angel Tree ministries tree by the church office. Pick your angels tags, write your name on the sheet by the names you took, and grab a caregiver pamphlet and age appropriate pamphlets for the kids. Have your gifts delivered or mailed by the second week of December. If you have questions please ask Tara Maltsberger or Cami Buller.

Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24: The Christmas Eve Committee will be holding Christmas Eve costume fittings on Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m. and rehearsal for the Christmas Eve program will be held on Saturday, December 20 at 9:00 p.m.

If anyone is interested in singing in the choir on Christmas Eve you are still welcome to join. Practices are held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. 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



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. Call Jennifer at 402.362.3516.
- **Help the Henderson Ministerial Buy a Cow!** Thank you to those who have given towards purchasing a cow (meat) for the food bank. We have matched the \$1,000 and have collected additional funds to help meet the need. With your help and the generous donation of processing feeds, we will be able to supply York County residents with much needed meat this holiday season. You are still welcome to contribute to the project if you would like by writing out your checks to Henderson Ministerial Association and giving them 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.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

High School Bible Study & Cornerstone

Cornerstone (Junior High) will have their final meeting of the year on Wednesday, December 3. They will next meet on Wednesday, January 7.

High School small groups will meet December 3 for a Christmas Party and our final gathering of the year will be on December 17.

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.

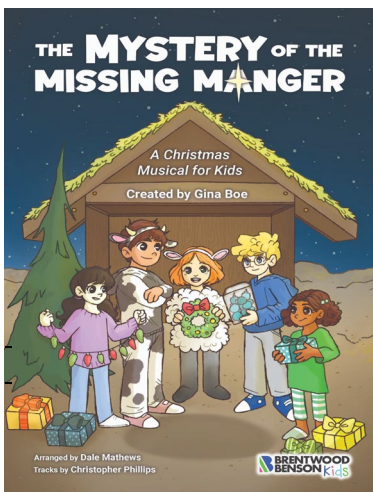
These funds will support the youth service trip for 2026. We will also be hosting the

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 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. 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 a program practice in the church sanctuary for all participants on:
*Saturday, December 6 – 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

The Project Offering will once again be Hygiene Kits. These items can be brought to the church the evening of the program:

Hygiene Kit Contents (New Items Only)

- 1 adult-sized toothbrush (in manufacturer's packaging)
- 1 large bar of bath soap (in original wrapper)
- 1 nail clipper (good quality)
- 1 hand towel (medium weight, dark or bright colors preferred); approximately 40 cm x 65 cm (16 inches x 26 inches)
- 1 wide-toothed comb; 15-20 cm (6-8 inches)

A Cookie Social will immediately follow the evening program. Parents of Pre-K through 6th Grade Students are asked to bring two dozen cookies to the church kitchen by 3:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon.



<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 (9:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.) plus local vendors (4:00 – 7:30 p.m.) – 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>	8:00 p.m. Messiah Rehearsal 9:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
<i>Saturday, December 13</i>	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
12:00 p.m. Potluck
7:30 p.m. Bethesda Chancel Choir and the
Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra present
Handel's Messiah

Sunday, December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Worship Service
*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.*

Wednesday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Community Pancake Feed

Sunday, December 28

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesday, December 31

6:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Service with
Communion

Swan Lake Christian Camp Winter Retreats

Swan Lake Christian Camp is hosting Winter Retreats this winter. 8th-12th grade retreat will be held January 9-11 and 5th-8th grade retreat will be held January 16-18.

Activities include Bible studies, campfires, worship, indoor games and hot chocolate. As weather permits kids can enjoy winter activities, sledding, outdoor games and fun on the ice.

The cost is \$100 and registration is necessary and needs to be in two weeks prior to the weekend. There is an additional fee for late registrations. You can register online at myslcc.com as well as find out more information on the weekend.



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>

GIVINGATTENDANCE

Sunday, November 23, Worship Attendance: 227

Sunday, November 23, Sunday School Attendance: 85

Worship Offering: November 23, 2025

Bethesda General Operating Receipts	\$12,448.00
Sunday School Offering	\$164.00
Total Sunday Offering	\$12,612.00

Come, Hope of the World

Musical notation for the hymn 'Come, Hope of the World'. The first line contains measures 1 through 8, and the second line contains measures 9 through 16. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Come, hope of the world. _____ Come, hope of the world. _____

9
Come re - new us, you a - maze us, Come, hope of the world. _____

The Fiery Furnace

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

Nebuchadnezzar
faithful
worship
furnace
angel

golden statue
Abednego
disobey
Meshach
idol

punishment
Shadrach
Babylon
Daniel
God

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

"Be Amazed!: Hope in the Furnace"

Pastor Andrea Wall

Daniel 3:1, 8-18 (NRSV)