BETHESDA NEWS
Welcome to Worship!
Sunday, November 8, 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.

WEEKLYCALENDAR

Sunday, November 8	Pastor Andrea at Next Gen Youth Conference 8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 a.m. Sunday School 10:40 a.m. Deacon Nominee Meeting with Current Deacons (During Sunday School Hour) 12:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Potluck Meal 6:00 p.m. Piano Night at the Lake – Viborg, S.D.
Tuesday, November 10	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 7:30 p.m. Board of Deacons and Pastors 8:00 p.m. Sunday School Committee
Wednesday, November 11	12:00 p.m. Bulletin Announcements Due 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Hometown Fresh Trailer in Bethesda Parking Lot – FINAL ONE UNTIL MARCH 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, November 13	Church Offices Closed
Sunday, November 15	8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship Message: Pastor J Epp Music: Sandra Quiring/Chancel Choir Offering to God 10:40 a.m. Sunday School 5:30 p.m. School Kit Night – Volunteers come at 4:00 p.m. to set up supplies; *Youth please come at 5:00 p.m. to set up meal; Taco Meal serving will start at 5:30 p.m.*

CHURCHFAMILY

Please keep in prayer those with health concerns, grief, or family needs: Rachelle Schweitzer, Bryan Bechtel, Veronica Friesen, Elly Siebert (Margie Siebert's granddaughter), Olivia Landis (Audrey Janzen's great-niece), and the family of Berdon Epp.

Death

Berdon Epp, age 73, passed away on Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at Bryan West Hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska. He is survived by his children, Jennifer Epp

of Post Falls, Idaho, Allison (Brian) Fehr of Manhatten, KS and William Epp of Henderson; grandchildren, Gabrielle, Henry and Caroline Fehr; siblings, Amanda (Marilyn) Fast of Goshen, IN, Arlene Pearsall of Sioux Falls, SD, LeRoy (Janette) Epp of Freeman, SD, Aldena (Ron) Ecklein of Salem, SD, and LaVonne (Rudy) Brockmueller of Freeman, SD. Please keep Berdon's family in your prayers

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.

Listed are the top names in alphabetical order (not in order of votes received). Please keep these individuals in your prayers as they seek to thoughtfully and prayerfully discern God's will: LaVonne Braun, Mike Friesen, Jay Goertzen, Phil Goertzen, Ron Goertzen, Daphne Hall, Lynn Hall, Brian Janzen, Jay Kroeker, Tara Maltsberger, Brian Peters, Burton Peters, Jeff Peters, Frank Steckly, John Steingard, Corbin Tessman and Mark Thieszen.

There will be a meeting today, Sunday, November 8 at 10:40 a.m. in the Powerhouse room for those members who were nominated through the process. The purpose of the gathering is to invite the nominated congregational members to meet with the current Board of Deacons to answer questions, and to review the roles and responsibilities of the position.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 8: Today following Sunday School, we will celebrate an early Thanksgiving as a congregation with a Thanksgiving Potluck!

Alan Janzen is providing the turkey, stuffing and gravy while members of the congregation will be bringing all of the side dishes, rolls and desserts.

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



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*

Buy your Krispy Kreme donuts today!



The Bethesda Preschool Students and Committee are once again selling Krispy Kreme donuts and bags of coffee! Malaina needs some new classroom shelves to replace some that are showing too much wear and tear. There is an order form and envelope for money located on the table outside the church office. You may also pay at pick up time. Orders are open until November 22nd and donuts will be available for pick up on Monday, December 1 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. during the Spirit of Christmas in the Fellowship Hall. The preschool greatly appreciates your continued support!



School Kit Night

Sunday, November 15: People of all ages are invited to come pack over 1,000 school kits on Sunday, November 15. Over the last 21 years we have packed kits for kids around the world in need of school supplies. Volunteers are needed by 4:00 p.m. to help set out the supplies. Youth please come at 5:00 p.m. to help set up for the meal and we will begin serving the taco meal at 5:30 p.m. and then start packing the kits. The meal is a free-will donation fundraiser for the 2027 Youth Service Trip. If you have any questions, call Lindy Siebert at 402-723-4376.

Mennonite Arts Weekend

February 5-7, 2027: Join us at Mennonite Arts Weekend, February 5-7, 2027, in Cincinnati, Ohio. This weekend celebrates the creativity and discipline of Anabaptist Mennonite artists. Presentations by musicians, visual artists, writers, and craftspeople start on Friday evening and conclude with Sunday morning worship. Activities and workshops designed specifically for children (pre-K - high school) are planned. Early-bird registration ends Nov. 30, 2026. Find the list of presenters and registration/location information at https://mennoniteartsweekend.org.



MCC Meat Canner Volunteers Needed

November 20, 21, 23 & 24: 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 20, 21, 23 and 24, 2026.

Set up for the canner is scheduled for Thursday, November 19 time TBD, and we could use some assistance with set up.

Workers for the canner truck will be needed starting Friday at 6 a.m. and then throughout the day Friday and Saturday, Sunday we will be off, and then 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.

CHILDREN&YOUTH MINISTRIES

School Kit Night Fundraiser Meal

Sunday, November 15: The youth will be serving a meal for the evening of School Kit assembly on November 15. Donations of bars are needed. Also needed are youth to help serve and clean up. If you have any questions please contact Lavonne Braun 402-362-9264.

Fall Midweek

Wednesday, November 11:

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

FALL MID WEEK

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. This year the kids will again 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.

Just an FYI, Wednesday, November 18 will be the final Midweek for kids age Preschool through 6th Grade until the start of the new year.

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.



Progressive Thanksgiving Dinner

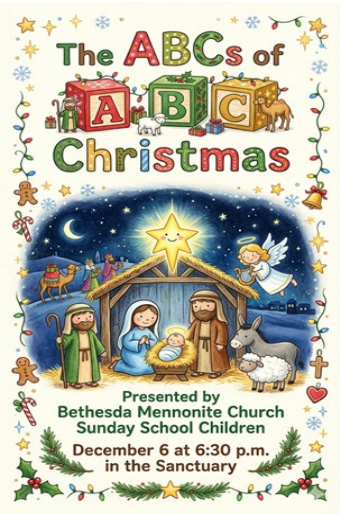
Wednesday, November 18: The high school youth are having their annual Progressive Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday, November 18 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to host a dessert at their house OR contribute a side dish for their main meal held at church. If you 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!

Children's Christmas Program



Sunday, December 6: It's time to start Practicing for the Children's Christmas Program planned for Sunday, December 6 at Bethesda. This year the kids will be presenting "The ABCs of Christmas".

Practices will be held during the Sunday School hour and there will also be be a run-through in the church sanctuary on Saturday, December 5 from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Please have your children there a little early and plan to stay if possible.

All children can wear nice church clothes to the program and all families will need to bring two dozen cookies to the church kitchen by 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 6.

The Project Offering will once again be Hygiene Kits and kids will be given letters to bring home today with all the details, so inspect your children following Sunday School.

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, November 1, 2026 Worship Attendance: 184
Sunday, November 1, 2026, Sunday School Attendance: 94

Worship Offering: November 1, 2026

Bethesda General Operating Receipts	**$9,709.00**
Sunday School Offering	**$188.00**
Total Sunday Offering	**$9,897.00**

MISSIONSLOCAL/GLOBAL



God is Good — All the time. All the time — God is Good!

Over Labor Day weekend, I was able to get together with several of my college friends. We have a special friendship that has grown stronger over the last 46 years.

On Sunday morning, we all went to church together. West Zion was the church that Judi and I attended when we were living in Moundridge, Kansas. So, it was great to see people that we knew over thirty years ago.

Pastor Mike shared this message. There are three ways in which we receive healing: through divine healing, through the gifts of skilled physicians, or in eternity. Mike shared his personal story of having caught a nail through his eye as a young carpenter in an accident which he did not describe. The whole church came and laid hands on him and prayed for miraculous healing.

Mike was not healed in this manner. Throughout the next year or so, he had three surgeries to restore his sight in that eye. Each one was anticipated with great hope and yet Mike was not healed through the hands of these very skilled physicians.

All throughout scripture, we are commanded to give thanks to the Lord. Psalm 9:1 says, “I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. Mike shared that he is confident that in his resurrected body, his sight will be restored. This was not an instantaneous understanding, but one that he has come to embrace through the faith of his parents, his study of the bible, and his own spiritual maturing.

Mike has learned to give thanks even in his one-eyed vision. He made this statement that was so powerful to me. “You would not believe how many

people I have been able to share God's goodness with who are blind in their left eye."

That shared experience lends credibility to his faith in God. Now, I have sight in both eyes albeit not at the level that I once enjoyed. So, I feel compelled to share of God's goodness in other areas. I have seen lives changed at camp through the miracles of the Holy Spirit. I have seen financial needs met when it seemed improbable. I have seen God take a group of nineteen-year-old knuckleheads and turn them into men who boldly proclaim God's sovereignty in the next breath after recalling some harmless but stupid prank pulled at the expense of the girls who lived one floor beneath us.

God is good all the time and I feel uplifted when I share the stories of God moving in my life even in the times when I can't see Him.

-Jerry Kroeker
Director, Swan Lake Christian Camp

Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids



Give Me Oil In My Lamp

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. Matthew 25:13 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV)



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

FOOLISH	MEET	DROWSY	VIRGINS	BANQUET
MIDNIGHT	WEDDING	TRIMMED	RANG	KINGDOM
BRIDEGROOM	LAMPS	WISE	WATCH	COME
DOOR	ASLEEP	HEAVEN	OIL	WOKE

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 Way of Readiness"

Pastor Chelsea Vaught

Matthew 25:1-13 (NRSV)