BETHESDA NEWS
Welcome to Worship!
Sunday, November 15, 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 15	8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship 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.*
Tuesday, November 17	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 8:00 p.m. Board of Business 8:00 p.m. Board of Education 8:00 p.m. Board of Service & Outreach
Wednesday, November 18	12:00 p.m. Bulletin Announcements Due 6:30 p.m. High School Youth Progressive Thanksgiving Dinner 7:00 p.m. Cornerstone – Junior High 7:00 p.m. Midweek – PreK & Grade School – Karaoke & Hot Chocolate Midweek End-of-Year Celebration 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
Thursday, November 19	8:00 a.m. MCC Mobile Meat Canner Set Up
Friday, November 20	Church Offices Closed 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. MCC Mobile Meat Canner
Saturday, November 21	6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. MCC Mobile Meat Canner
Sunday, November 22	8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship Message: Pastor J Epp Music: Marilyn Kroeker/Worship Band Offering to God 10:40 a.m. Sunday School
Monday, November 23	6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. MCC Mobile Meat Canner
Tuesday, November 24	6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. MCC Mobile Meat Canner

CHURCHFAMILY

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

Thank You

I want to express my gratitude to Bethesda for the care and prayer demonstrated for me since my recent knee surgery.

To Mission Circle for the Prayer Shawl and devotional book by Adrian Rogers, providing physical warmth and spiritual comfort.

A special thanks to Pastor Chelsea for the timely phone contacts and personal visits – and for the autographed copy of her authored devotional.

-Veronica A. (Mrs. Mark) Friesen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacon Nominee Preference Vote

Sunday, November 8, 2026, the congregation nominated Bethesda members to fill the terms of Steve Michel and Mark Janzen as members of the Board of Deacons. Steve has served two terms and is not eligible to serve another term. Mark has chosen not to serve another term.

We are in the process of contacting individuals regarding their acceptance of the nominations. The next vote will take place on Sunday, December 20 to select our two new deacons. Please keep the nominees in your prayers as they discern.



School Kit Night

Sunday, November 15: People of all ages are invited to come pack over 1,000 school kits TONIGHT, 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.

Guatemala Service Trip

In March of 2027, Amanda Goertzen and Hillary Bechtel will be traveling to Guatemala! They are traveling with members from the Augusta United Methodist Church in Augusta, Kan. Hillary has family connections within this church which has created the opportunity to travel and work alongside them in ministry to God. They will be working with the Stove Builders of Guatemala to bring safe cooking into the homes of Mayan people.

The project:

Stove Builders of Guatemala is a community-driven project that trains local people to construct fuel-efficient, smoke-free masonry cookstoves for impoverished Mayan families, using locally sourced materials and labor. Founded in 2011 after a 2009 visit by members of First United Methodist Church in Wichita, Kan. the project was inspired by the health risks posed by cooking over open fires in windowless kitchens. It partners with trained Guatemalan builders, to teach others, ensuring the program continues after volunteer teams leave.

Key features of the stoves include:

- Built from local materials (cement blocks, bricks, 6" cement pipe) to support the local economy.
- Fuel-efficient: use less wood than open fires, reducing deforestation and household fuel costs.
- Smoke-free cooking: vented design keeps fire off the ground and smoke out of the home.
- Community involvement: each family contributes $20, moves materials, and helps on build day.

Raffle to Help Raise Funds

Over the coming weeks, Amanda and Hillary are planning some opportunities to raise funds for this mission trip. They will be holding a raffle which will end on Monday, November 23 and will award two winners with 15 lbs. of ground beef ($100.00 value) EACH. That means **TWO** individuals will go home with 15 lbs. of ground beef to stock their deep freezes for the winter months ahead!

Tickets will be sold until November 23 for $15.00 each or you can buy three tickets for $35.00. Tickets will be available for purchase in the church office from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Hillary and Amanda would greatly appreciate the support and prayers of the congregation! If you are interested in donating toward their service trip please contact Hillary Bechtel at 309-569-0471.

Longest Night Service

Sunday, December 20: A Longest Night service is a quiet, reflective worship service held during the Advent season. While Christmas is a season of joy and celebration, it can also be a difficult time for those experiencing grief, loneliness,

illness, or other challenges. This service offers space to acknowledge those feelings, find comfort in God's presence, and be reminded of the hope and light that Christ brings, even in life's darkest moments. We will be holding a Longest Night Service on Sunday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

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!

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.

Spirit of Christmas at Bethesda



Monday, December 1: We will again be participating in Henderson's Spirit of Christmas night on Monday, December 1. Please join us for:

- Soup Meal from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. – Free Will Donations will go towards the 2027 Youth Service Project
- Vendors including: Hey Kerri P and Kris Newman's Creations, Creations by DGH (Dee Hanson), Balabans, Ten Thousand Villages
- Bethesda Preschool Krispy Crème Donuts Fundraiser (order ahead)
- Free Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides between Bethesda and Main Street Activities
- Tour the Minis-TREES of Bethesda: This year we will have a tour of trees in the fellowship hall. Each tree will be decorated to represent a different ministry of the church. Come and enjoy learning the about the different ways we connect, equip and serve people in the name of Christ. We will even be announcing the 2027 VBS theme!

Due to scheduling the Faith and Life Bookstore will not be able to attend, but we are looking forward to them joining us again the future.



CHILDREN&YOUTH MINISTRIES

Fall Midweek

Wednesday, November 18:

High School: We will meet at 6:30 p.m. for our annual Progressive Thanksgiving Dinner.

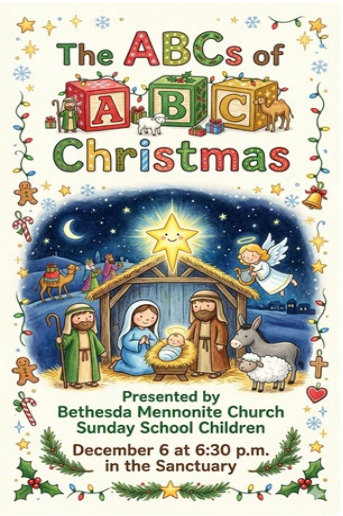
Junior High Midweek: Will meet in the Upper Room at 7:00 p.m.

Preschool – 6th Grade Midweek: We will hold our Midweek End-of-Year Celebration with a night of Karaoke & Hot Chocolate! The kids have been working hard to memorize their verses each week through singing! All are invited to come and hear them perform their songs and enjoy a hot chocolate bar at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Children will start in their classrooms while parents grab a cup of hot chocolate in the Fellowship Hall.

This will also be the last night of Midweek for 2026, we will resume in January.

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.

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 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 program will start at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by a cookie and punch social in the Fellowship Hall.

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 8, 2026 Worship Attendance: 189
Sunday, November 8, 2026, Sunday School Attendance: 75

Worship Offering: November 8, 2026

Bethesda General Operating Receipts	**$7,753.25**
Sunday School Offering	**$128.00**
Total Sunday Offering	**$7,881.25**

Bethesda Operating Fund

January 1 through November 10, 2026

2026 – Approved Annual Operating Budget **$1,163,268**

Bethesda Income **$591,351**

**We have received 50.84% of our approved budget.

Operating Expenses **$851,344**

** We have spent 73.19% of our approved budget.

Income Minus Expenses **-$259,993**

Karaoke & Hot Chocolate!

Midweek End-of-Year Celebration

The kids have been working hard to memorize their verses each week through singing! Join us next Wednesday to hear them perform their songs and enjoy a hot chocolate bar!

Wednesday, November 18th

7:00 PM

Fellowship Hall

This will be the last night of Midweek for 2026, we will resume on January 6th!

CHRISTMAS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



Wednesday, November 18	7:00 p.m. Karaoke & Hot Chocolate: Midweek End-of-Year Celebration – Fellowship Hall
Thursday, November 26	THANKSGIVING – Church Offices Closed
Sunday, November 29	***First Sunday of Advent*** 9:30 a.m. Worship Service
Sunday, November 29 – Tuesday, December 1	Minis-TREES set up (Sunday evening – Tuesday at 3:00 p.m.)
Tuesday, December 1	4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Spirit of Christmas Youth Fundraiser Meal. Bethesda Minis-TREES on display plus local vendors – Fellowship Hall
Saturday, December 5	10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal - Sanctuary
Sunday, December 6	***Second Sunday of Advent*** 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 6:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Program *Cookie Social to follow.*
Sunday, December 13	***Third Sunday of Advent*** 9:30 a.m. Worship Service
Sunday, December 20	***Fourth Sunday of Advent*** 9:30 a.m. Worship Service featuring the music of A*Men 7:00 p.m. Longest Night Service *Poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary Sunday, December 20 through Thursday, December 24. Please have them delivered no sooner than Thursday, December 17. If you will be donating in honor of a loved one, please let the church office know.*
Thursday, December 24	7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
Friday, December 25	9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Community Pancake Feed
Sunday, January 3	9:30 a.m. Epiphany Sunday – New Year's Communion

Called as Partners in Christ's Service



TEXT: Jane Parker Huber, 1981
MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870
Text © 1981 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

CCLI #1410480

BEECHER
8.7.8.7.D
(alternate tune: EBENEZER)

The Parable of the Talents

But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Matthew 25:18

Based on Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV)



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

JOURNEY	WORTHLESS	TALENT	MASTER
SERVANT	PROPERTY	SHARE	MONEY
ABILITY	WICKED	FAITHFUL	WEEPING
GAINED	HAPPINESS	LAZY	ENTRUSTED

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

"Being Faithful With What You Are Given"

Pastor J Epp

Matthew 25:14-30 (NRSV)