

# BETHESDA NEWS

## Welcome to Worship!

### December 7, 2025

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#### 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

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## MINISTRY TEAM

Pastor Andrea Wall: 402-710-3195

[andrea@mainstaycomm.net](mailto:andrea@mainstaycomm.net)

Pastor Chelsea Vaught: 402-363-7004

[chelsea.vaught@bethesdamc.org](mailto:chelsea.vaught@bethesdamc.org)

Pastor J Epp: 402-366-7475

[j.epp@bethesdamc.org](mailto:j.epp@bethesdamc.org)

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## CONTACT US

Bethesda Mennonite Church  
930 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:bethesda@mainstaycomm.net)

BMC Treasurer Email: [treasurer@bethesdamc.org](mailto:treasurer@bethesdamc.org)

BMC Website: [www.bethesdamc.org](http://www.bethesdamc.org)

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## 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, December 7</i>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship with Child Dedication 10:40 a.m. Sunday School 6:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Program followed by a Cookie Social
<i>Tuesday, December 9</i>	9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. Sunday School Committee
<i>Wednesday, December 10</i>	12:00 p.m. Bulletin Announcements Due 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m. Messiah Rehearsal Church Offices Closed
<i>Friday, December 12</i>	8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Messiah Dress Rehearsal
<i>Saturday, December 13</i>	with the Nebraska Chamber Symphony Orchestra
<i>Sunday, December 14</i>	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship Message: Pastor Andrea Wall Music: Marilyn Kroeker/Worship Band Offering to God 10:40 a.m. Sunday School 7:30 p.m. Bethesda Chancel Choir and the Nebraska Chamber Symphony Orchestra presents The Messiah

## CHURCHFAMILY

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Congregational Vote

Pastor Chelsea Vaught was affirmed for an additional five-year term, running from March 1, 2026 to March 1, 2031 following last Sunday’s Congregational Vote.



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.

## **From the Office**

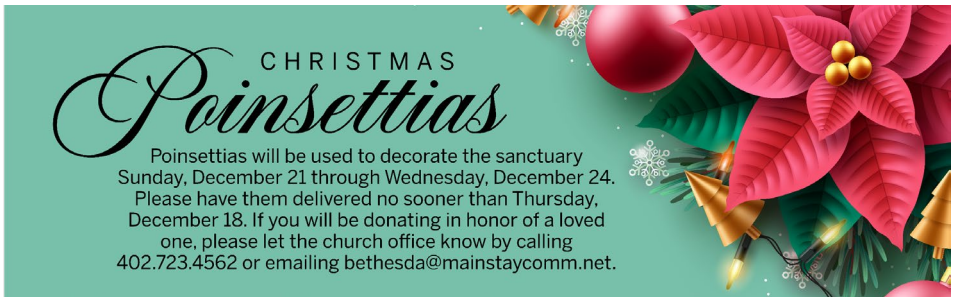
Just a reminder to all Committee Heads and Board Chairs to please get your 2026 Budgets to Kendra this week. Also, it's Annual Report time so please remember to get those to Kerri by January 15. Thanks so much!

## 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 a.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 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. 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](http://www.bvca.net).

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

### Swan Lake Christian Camp Winter Retreats

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

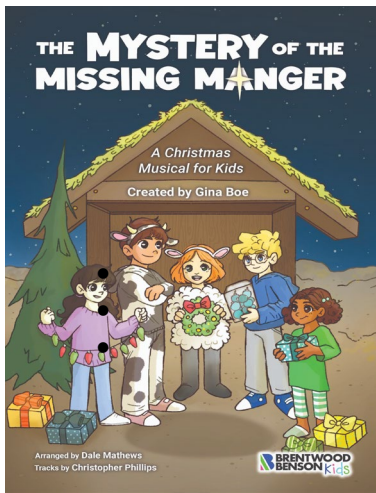
Activities include Bible studies, campfires, worship, indoor games and hot chocolate. As weather permits kids can enjoy winter activities, sledding, outdoor games and fun on the ice.

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](http://myslcc.com) as well as find out more information on the weekend.



**Children's Christmas Program**

**Sunday, December 7:** The Children's Christmas Program will be held tonight, Sunday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. The kids will be presenting



"The Mystery of the Missing Manger". 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 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students are asked to bring two dozen cookies to the church kitchen by 3:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon.



<i>Sunday, December 7</i>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - Parent Child Dedication 10:40 a.m. Sunday School 6:30 p.m. Children’s Christmas Program <i>Cookie Social to follow.</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 10</i>	6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal 8:00 p.m. Messiah Rehearsal Church Offices Closed
<i>Friday, December 12</i>	
<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>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>

	9:30 a.m. Worship Service
	10:40 a.m. Sunday School
	12:00 p.m. Potluck
	7:30 p.m. Bethesda Chancel Choir and the Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra present Handel's Messiah
<i>Wednesday, December 17</i>	6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal
<i>Thursday, December 18</i>	7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Costume Fittings
	Poinsettia's may be delivered to the church to be displayed December 21 through December 24. <i>If you will be donating a poinsettia in honor of a loved one, please let the church office know.</i>
<i>Friday, December 19</i>	Church Offices Closed
<i>Saturday, December 20</i>	9:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Program Rehearsal
<i>Sunday, December 21</i>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
	9:30 a.m. Worship Service
	10:40 a.m. Sunday School
<i>Wednesday, December 24</i>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>
	Church Offices Closed
<i>Thursday, December 25</i>	7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>
<i>Friday, December 26</i>	9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Community Pancake Feed
<i>Sunday, December 28</i>	Church Offices Closed
	<b>FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS</b>
	9:30 a.m. Worship Service
	10:40 a.m. Sunday School
<i>Wednesday, December 31</i>	6:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Service with Communion
<i>Thursday, January 1</i>	Church Offices Closed
<i>Friday, January 2</i>	Church Offices Closed

## MISSIONSLOCAL/GLOBAL

### Intergenerational Advent Devotional is here!

Advent is underway and MC USA invites you to deepen your worship at home with our 2025 **Advent at Home** guide. This year's theme, "Be Amazed," follows MennoMedia's Leader magazine and offers weekly reflections and practices for individuals, families and households of all ages.

The devotionals were given out last week but if you would still like to participate the devotionals are available on the table outside of the church office, feel free to take one home with you.

### **The Great Menno Give!**

There's still time to join The Great Menno Give! MC USA staff, Mennonite Mission Network, and MennoMedia are coming together during this season of giving for a special initiative: The Great Menno Give. We invite you to join with others across our church family in a collective act of generosity that empowers mission, education and faith formation. Please give here: <https://bit.ly/4ohMber>

### **Changes ahead**

Big changes are coming to the health coverage market in 2026. Are you ready? Watch MC USA's recorded webinar, "**Navigating Change: Health Coverage in 2026**," about what's ahead and how it could affect your premiums. The first half is a broad overview of market shifts in 2026 and the second half focuses on The Corinthian Plan, MC USA's healthcare plan for pastors and church workers. View it here: <http://bit.ly/4qv8jV5>

### **MCC Christmas Giving**

Choose gifts that honor your loved ones and change lives across the globe. MCC has 20 alternative gift options for you to choose from this Christmas season starting at just \$12. Cards and e-cards are available to accompany your gift. Start here [mcc.org/christmas](http://mcc.org/christmas) and if you have any questions please contact the MCC Central States office at [centralstates@mcc.org](mailto:centralstates@mcc.org) or 316.283.2720.



# GIVINGATTENDANCE

Sunday, November 30, Worship Attendance: 165

Sunday, November 30, Sunday School Attendance: 69

Worship Offering: November 30, 2025

Bethesda General Operating Receipts	\$7,831.00
Sunday School Offering	\$74.53
Total Sunday Offering	\$7,905.53

Bethesda Operating Fund	
January 1 through November, 2025	
2025 -- Approved Annual Operating Budget	1,059,046
Bethesda Income	746,624
** We have received 70.5% of our approved budget.	
Operating Expenses	836,669
** We have spent 79% of our approved budget.	
Income Minus Expense	-90,045

## Come, peace of the world



Come, peace of the world. \_\_\_\_\_ Come, peace of the world. \_\_\_\_\_

9



Come re - new us, you a - maze us. Come, peace of the world. \_\_\_\_\_

# Ezekiel: Visions

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

## Word List:

EZEKIEL  
LIGHTNING  
BRONZE  
TOPAZ  
DIRECTION  
BRILLIANT  
LIKENESS  
ISRAEL  
LISTEN  
SPIRIT

KEBAR  
GLOWING  
EAGLE  
CLOUD  
CRYSTAL  
RAINBOW  
PROPHET  
LAMENT  
ANCESTORS  
ALMIGHTY

BABYLONIANS  
ANGELS  
CREATURE  
NORTH  
SPARKLING  
CLOUDS  
OBSTINATE  
MOURNING  
SCORPIONS  
RUSHING

WINDSTORM  
WINGS  
FLASHING  
WHEEL  
VAULT  
RADIANCE  
STUBBORN  
REBELLIOUS  
FACEDOWN  
THRONE

# 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...

# **MESSAGE**NOTES

## **"Be Amazed! Peace in the Valley of Bones"**

**Pastor Chelsea Vaught  
Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NRSV)**