

BETHESDA MENNONITE CHURCH

HENDERSON, NEBRASKA

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Second Sunday in Advent

BE
Amazed!

The scriptures for this year's Advent Series, "Be Amazed!" speak of dry bones, a fiery furnace, a mystic's monologue, and the birth and adult ministry of Christ. Together, these scriptures have a common theme, and that is "they are amazing!" In each of them, there is a common thread of God acting in powerful and astonishing ways. The response seen in many of these passages is that of awe. We are encouraged to be amazed! As we journey together through Advent, we pray that you will in your own unique ways find wonder in the work that God has done and is currently doing in your lives and in our midst.

Imagine a valley full of dry bones, with not a breath of wind. Then a noise, a rattling sound as the bones come together, bone to bone, tendon to tendon. In this miraculous vision given to the prophet Ezekiel, God breathes life into the bones so that they may dance again.

Come, Holy Spirit! We pray on this second Sunday of Advent for peace as a renewal of body, mind, and spirit.

Prelude Sandra Quiring, Pianist

"Call to Advent" - Williams Chancel Choir
Directed by Lynn Hall and accompanied by Sandra Quiring, Pianist

Welcome & Call to Worship Pastor J Epp
Based on Ezekiel 37:1-14 NRSVue

(Congregation read bold print)

God in our desert, you are our peace in all places.

Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.

Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."

Can these dry bones live?

The wind of God moves among these dry bones. Stand and live!
(Everyone stand)

We are the people of God, a vast multitude, filled with God's Spirit.

"I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live. I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

You are the only source of true life, O God. You breathe new life into our dry bones and fill us with your peace. We stand before you, ready to enter your story and be amazed.

*"O come, O come, Immanuel" (Stanzas 1, 4, 5, 6) HWB 172
(Children are invited to come forward on stanza 6)

Children's Focus Pastor Andrea Wall

*"Breathe on me, breath of God" HWB 356

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle: Peace Ryker Lewis
(Ryker is the son of Jason and Kori Lewis.)

(congregation read bold print)

We have been wandering in the dark, our spirits dry and cracked from conflict, aching for peace to pour into the crevices to revive us.

Come, Peace of the world. Come amaze us. May Your peace fill the cracks in our dry, brittle bones. Bind us together, strengthen and unite us, that we might dance!

"Come, Peace of the World" (see Bethesda News)

Parent Child Dedication Pastor Andrea Wall, Pastor Chelsea Vaught
Parental Commitment
Dedication
Child Blessing HWB 791
Prayer

Child	Birth Date	Parents
Orion Alan	July 24, 2025	Greg & Ashley Buller
Porter Lane	November 5, 2025	Parker & Kelsey Goertzen
Beaux Arthur	April 22, 2025	Tanner & Brianna Steingard

Bible For Little Ones Presentation Marge Siebert
(Presented on behalf of Bethesda Women's Ministries)

*"Child of blessing, child of promise" HWB 620

Congregational Prayer Norm Yoder

"Long, Long Ago" - Narverud Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14 Pastor Chelsea Vaught
Leader: This is the Word of God, for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God!

Message

Pastor Chelsea Vaught

"Be Amazed!: Peace in the Valley of Bones"

* "Come, thou long expected Jesus"

HWB 178

Announcements

Pastor J Epp

Offering to God
Offertory

Pastor J Epp
Sandra Quiring

* Benediction

Pastor Chelsea Vaught

* "Infant holy, infant lowly" (HWB 206) Trad. Polish Carol Chancel Choir

** If you are able, you are invited to stand.*

All are invited to participate in the Christian education hour
and to stop by the Coffee Spot in the Fellowship Hall.

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Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Phone: 402-723-4562
Email: bethesda@mainstaycomm.net or
treasurer@bethesdamc.org
Website: www.bethesdamc.org

- When you are unable to attend worship, please join us via...
 - Radio at KOOL 103.5 FM
 - Livestream at <http://bethesdamc.org/watch-live>
 - Cobalt Cable Channel #3207
- Hearing Impaired Worshipers: If you need hearing assistance, feel free to sit in the front center seating to take advantage of our Hearing-Loop system. Williams units are also available in the rear of the sanctuary for your use.
- When you desire pastoral care outside of office hours, please call:
 - Pastor Andrea Wall: 402-710-3195 (cell) or email andrea@mainstaycomm.net
 - Pastor Chelsea Vaught: 402-363-7004 (cell) or email chelsea.vaught@bethesdamc.org
 - Pastor J. Epp: 402-366-7475 (cell) or email j.epp@bethesdamc.org
- In addition to assistance from Bethesda pastors and deacons, domestic abuse support services are available to victims. Call (toll-free) 1-877-388-4673, 24 hours/day.

