

# BETHESDA NEWS

## Welcome to Worship!

### December 14, 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 14</i>	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 a.m. Sunday School 12:00 p.m. Potluck 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir presents Handel's Messiah with the Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra
<i>Tuesday, December 16</i>	9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. Board of Business 8:00 p.m. Board of Education 8:00 p.m. Board of Service & Outreach
<i>Wednesday, December 17</i>	12:00 p.m. Bulletin Announcements Due 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Costume Fittings
<i>Thursday, December 18</i>	<i>Poinsettia's to be delivered to church</i>
<i>Friday, December 19</i>	Church Offices Closed
<i>Saturday, December 20</i>	9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Program Rehearsal
<i>Sunday, December 21</i>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship Message: Pastor J Epp Music: Laura Steingard, Organist Offering to God 10:40 a.m. Sunday School

## CHURCHFAMILY

**Please keep in prayer those with health concerns, grief, or family needs:**  
Rachelle Schweitzer, Lisa Friesen, Bryan Bechtel, Wyona Friesen, Blanche Franz, Elly Siebert (Marge Siebert's granddaughter) and Diane Harrison.

### Death

Sherman Kauffman, 82, died at his home on Saturday, December 6, surrounded by his wife and children, after a long battle with pulmonary fibrosis.  
A visitation has been scheduled for Friday, Dec. 26 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship in Goshen, Ind. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 27 at Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Pastor Chelsea Sabbatical**

A little over five years ago, the Holy Spirit was leading our pastor search committee in making decisions that would take us to a place that we would not have thought of at the time. The Holy Spirit was also very busy guiding Chelsea Vaught to a place where she would have never imagined. When Blaine Friesen and Linda Goertzen met with Chelsea in August of 2020, Chelsea later said that if they would have contacted her a month earlier, she would have said no, but God picked the perfect time when Chelsea was ready to take this next step in her life's journey. On March 1, 2021, Chelsea started her service to Bethesda as a part of our ministry team.

Pastor Chelsea is in the process of finishing her 5<sup>th</sup> year at Bethesda. She was strongly affirmed for an additional five years by the congregational vote on November 30. One of the very beneficial benefits that we offer to our full-time pastors is a three-month sabbatical during the 5<sup>th</sup> year of service and every five years after that. As Pastor Chelsea has recently dealt with the unexpected passing of her Dad, Rick, she has chosen and the Deacon Board has unanimously approved, the dates of December 15, 2025 through March 15, 2026 for her sabbatical.

The purpose of a sabbatical is to encourage personal growth and family renewal, growth in ministry and the likelihood of longer pastoral tenure. I would remind the congregation that it is crucial that Pastor Chelsea not be contacted for pastoral care or other needs during this time. It is vitally important that a pastor be able to step away from the day-to-day stresses that come with the work they do.

The Deacon Board has been amazed to see and hear how Chelsea has been able to walk along side suffering members and their grieving families in such a caring and Godly manner. During the past year and a half, we also have enjoyed watching her discover gifts that she didn't know she had; such as organizational and administrative talents, which have allowed her to show leadership qualities when needed.

The time is right for Pastor Chelsea to intentionally take time to refresh and renew herself, as she looks forward to ministering to this congregation for at least another five years. Pastor Chelsea's Sabbatical sending will be held during the worship service today, December 14.

## **Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed**

Henderson Health Care is in desperate need of volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels weekdays at 11 a.m.

Deliveries are ONLY in Henderson. It takes 15 minutes or less. You choose the day(s)!

Contact Tyler at (402) 723-4512 for more information.

# Angel Tree

## Angel Tree

Thanks to all who participated in providing for the Angel tree ministry this season. If you have gifts to deliver or mail, please do so within the coming week.

## Meal Train for Joel & Connie Heinrichs

Hey everyone, Joel and Connie could use just a bit of assistance.

Connie recently had hip replacement surgery after admittedly waiting a bit too long to get it fixed and although Joel is joking about them having a walker race they could really use some help in the meal department as neither of them are feeling up to cooking at the moment.

So we've started up a Meal Train (Whoo! Whoo!) on their behalf. Sign up for a spot today. The link can be found on the Bethesda Mennonite Church Youth and Bethesda Mennonite Church Facebook pages. I wasn't totally sure of their meal preferences but do know Joel likes braunschweiger... does that help anybody out?



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 this evening 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.

### 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. please meet in the Powerhouse Room (Old Choir Room). 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 Powerhouse 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

A decorative banner with a dark background and vibrant red poinsettias and green leaves. The text is centered and reads: "Last call for Poinsettias. 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 by calling 402.723.4562 or emailing bethesda@mainstaycomm.net."

Last call for  
**Poinsettias**  
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or emailing [bethesda@mainstaycomm.net](mailto:bethesda@mainstaycomm.net).

### From the Office

Just a reminder to all Committee Heads and Board Chairs, if you haven't gotten your 2026 Budgets to Kendra please do so. Also, it's Annual Report time so please remember to get those to Kerri by January 15. Thanks so much!

Also, there has been a gray sweater/coat hanging on the coat rack at the East entrance for many months. It is embroidered with a patch that says "Hampton by Hilton". If it is yours or you know who it belongs to please come and claim it before it gets donated to Etc. Thank you!



### 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).

The Deacon Board

# 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.



*Sunday, December 14*

### **Third Sunday of Advent**

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

*Wednesday, December 17*

6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Costume Fittings

*Thursday, December 18*

Poinsettia's may be delivered to the church to be displayed December 21 through December 24. *If you will be donating a poinsettia in honor of a loved one, please let the church office know.*

*Friday, December 19*

Church Offices Closed

*Saturday, December 20*

9:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Program Rehearsal

*Sunday, December 21*

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:40 a.m. Sunday School

*Wednesday, December 24*

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

*Thursday, December 25*

*Friday, December 26*

*Sunday, December 28*

*Wednesday, December 31*

*Thursday, January 1*

*Friday, January 2*

Church Offices Closed

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

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

Church Offices Closed

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:40 a.m. Sunday School

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

Church Offices Closed

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](https://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, December 7, Worship Attendance: 235  
Sunday, December 7, Sunday School Attendance: 122

Worship Offering: December 7, 2025

Bethesda General Operating Receipts	\$10,792.00
Christmas Program Offering	\$653.00
Sunday School Offering	\$155.00
Total Sunday Offering	\$11,600.00

**Come, Joy of the World**

The image displays a musical score for the hymn "Come, Joy of the World" in 2/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written with eighth and quarter notes. Below the staff, the lyrics are: "Come, oh joy, come, oh, joy. Joy of the world. — Come, oh joy, come, oh joy. Joy of the world. —". The second staff starts with a measure rest followed by a quarter note, then continues with the melody. Below this staff, the lyrics are: "Come and free — us, you a - maze — us. Come, oh joy, come, oh joy. Joy of the world." The score concludes with a double bar line.



DECEMBER 25

**FREE**  
*Christmas Day*  
**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

BETHESDA MENNONITE CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP HALL • 9:00 TO 11:00 A.M.

ALL ARE WELCOME • OUR GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY

# Isaiah foretold the birth of Jesus

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

angel gabriel

prophecy

Isaiah

hope

Old Testament

message

jesus

god

son of god

prophet

pray

# I SPY

Nativity

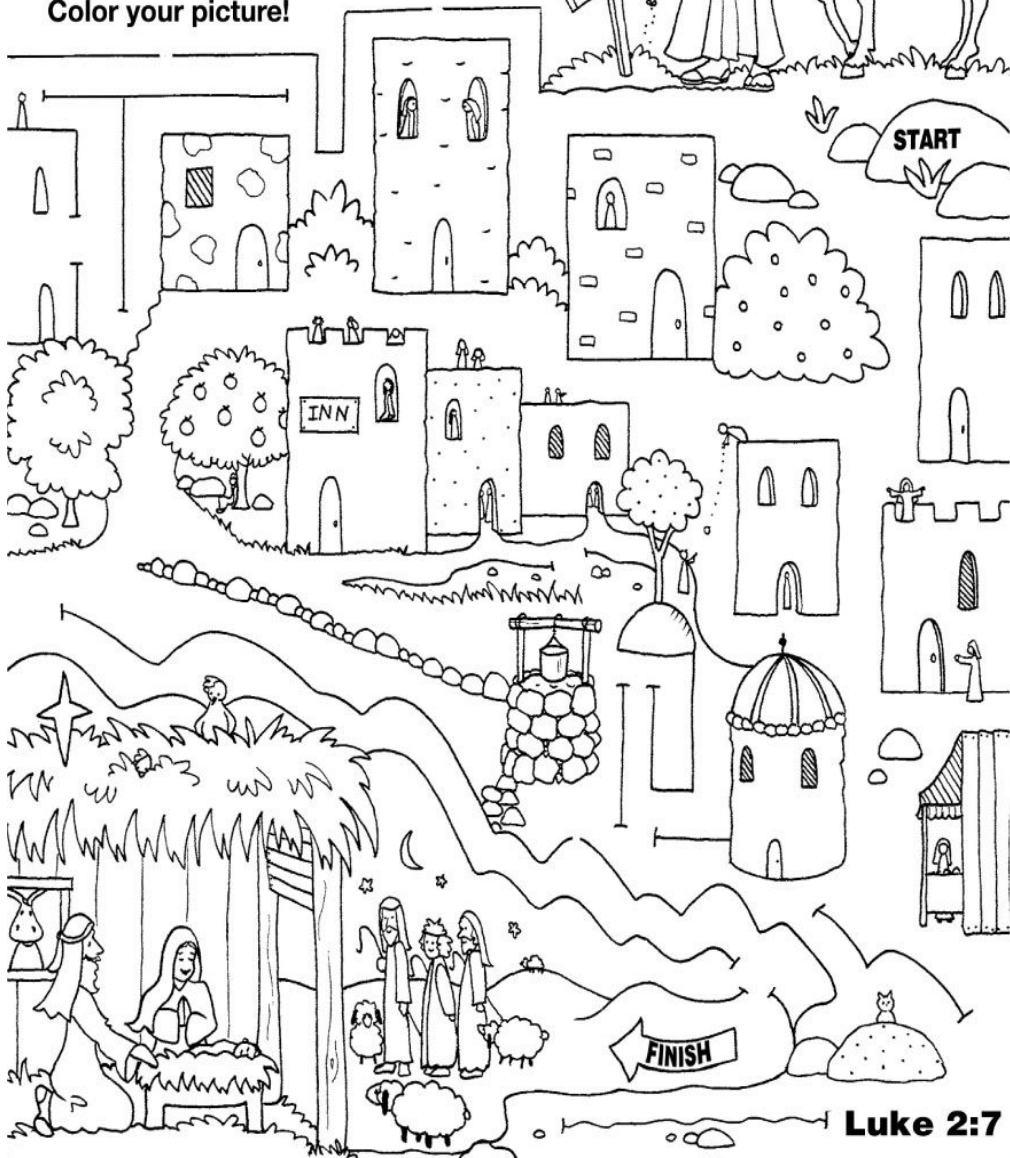


2 4 4 5 4 5 7 4 6 5   
 1 6 7 1 3 6 7 4 7 5   
 3 3 4 6 2 7 5 9 6 3

# WORK THE MAZE

*Fun Activity Page*

Mary was ready to have baby Jesus, but there was no room for them at the inn. Work the maze to get them to the stable. Color your picture!



**Luke 2:7**



# 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! Joy in the desert"**

**Pastor Andrea Wall**

**Isaiah 55:1-13 (NRSV)**