

BETHESDA MENNONITE CHURCH

HENDERSON, NEBRASKA

Sunday, December 14, 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 wandering thirsty through a desert wasteland and happening upon a spring of clear, cold water. On this third Sunday of Advent, you are invited to lay down your cares; find rest, comfort, and joy in God's amazing provision, in the places where you least expect it.

Prelude
"Light of the World"
"Hope Has A Name"
"Hallelujah, Christ is Born"
Marilyn Kroeker, Pianist

"All Who Are Thirsty"
Jay & Marilyn Kroeker, Bennett Friesen, Logan Bechtel, Braden Janzen,
Connie Bechtel, Lindy Siebert, Ashton Brown, Kara Janzen,
Amanda Goertzen, Mary Dente
Worship Band

Welcome & Call to Worship
Based on Isaiah 55:1-13
Pastor J Epp

(Congregation read bold print)

Come, all who hunger and thirst for more— God calls us to the feast!

We are weary exiles, longing for home, caught in a world that drains our hope.

"Listen, so that you may live! My covenant is everlasting, my promise sure."

Can joy reach us here, in this place of waiting?

God's vision is higher than the heavens, stretching beyond what we can see.

The invitation is for all people, from the farthest reaches of the earth.

The word of the Lord does not return empty—it brings forth life!

The mountains and the hills will burst into song, the trees of the field will

clap their hands!

You are the source of true joy, O God.

You expand our vision, lifting our eyes beyond the moment, beyond despair, into amazement.

We stand before you, ready to enter your story and be amazed.

*"O come, all ye faithful" HWB 212
(Children are invited to come forward on stanza 4)

Children's Focus Cami Buller

*"Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming" HWB 211

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle: Joy Elliot Buller
(Elliot is the son of Chris and Cami Buller.)

(congregation read bold print)

We have been wandering in the dark, cold, desert of grief and despair, and we feel heavy, dry and lifeless.

Come, Joy of the world. Come amaze us. May your joy water our thirsty souls, that we may become your fountains of joy, freely sharing your joy with the world.

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

Congregational Prayer Pastor Chelsea Vaught

"Noel" Worship Band

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 55:1-13 Pastor Andrea Wall
Leader: This is the Word of God, for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God!

Message Pastor Andrea Wall
"Be Amazed!: Joy in the Desert"

* "Comfort, comfort, O my people" HWB 176

Commissioning Pastor Chelsea for Sabbatical Steve Michel

Deacon: On the seventh day God rested and celebrated all of creation. God surveyed all that he had made and said, "It is good."

Congregation: Pastor Chelsea, we work together in ministry here at Bethesda and have much to celebrate. We celebrate your encouragement, direction, and leadership in our work together as God's people in this place. Of this ministry, together we say, "It is good."

Deacon: We send you now on this Sabbatical journey, confident that God will bless your every step, refresh your spirit, renew your mind, strengthen your body, and return you to us, empowered for our continued task of ministry.

Congregation: We will miss you, even as we faithfully carry out with joy and hope the ministry to which we are called. As you attend to your Sabbatical, please know that our thoughts and prayers will be with you, that we support you in every way, and that we look forward to your return.

Pastor Chelsea: I too, look forward to that day when I will return and share in our ministry together. I will miss you as well, and I will pray for you as you come to mind. Thank you for creating this opportunity for a time of Sabbath rest in my ministry.

Congregation: Go now, with our blessing, and with the blessing of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Announcements

Pastor J Epp

Offering to God
Offertory

Pastor J Epp
Marilyn Kroeker

* Benediction

Pastor Andrea Wall

* "Silent Night (Heavenly Peace)"

Worship Band

** 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.

Bulletin	Vol. 74	No. 49
----------	---------	--------



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

BE Amazed!

Third Sunday of Advent

Joy in the desert

BETHESDA MENNONITE CHURCH
HENDERSON, NEBRASKA
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025