

# BETHESDA NEWS

## Welcome to Worship!

### December 21, 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)

(On Sabbatical)

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 21</i>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 a.m. Sunday School
<i>Tuesday, December 23</i>	9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 12:00 p.m. Bulletin Announcements Due
<i>Wednesday, December 24</i>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> Church Offices Closed 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
<i>Thursday, December 25</i>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> Church Offices Closed 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Pancake Breakfast
<i>Friday, December 26</i>	Church Offices Closed
<i>Sunday, December 28</i>	<b>SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS</b> 8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship Message: Pastor J Epp Music: Marilyn Kroeker, 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 the family of Sherm Kauffman.

### 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.

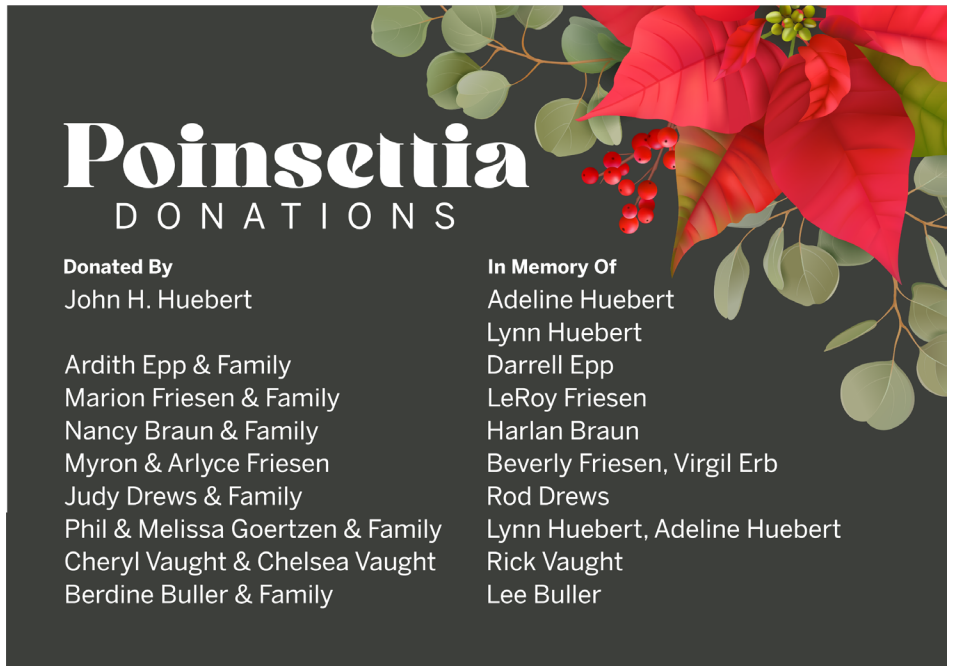
# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Christmas Eve Service

**Wednesday, December 24:** Christmas Eve Service will be held on Wednesday, December 24. The candlelight service entitled "For the Whole World" will begin at 7:00 p.m. Thank you to members of the Christmas Eve Committee, made up of JoAnn Friesen, Marcia Regier, Bennett Friesen and Cindy Friesen, for all of their hard work.

## New Year's Eve Communion

We will observe New Year's Eve communion on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.



**Poinsettia**  
DONATIONS

<b>Donated By</b>	<b>In Memory Of</b>
John H. Huebert	Adeline Huebert
	Lynn Huebert
Ardith Epp & Family	Darrell Epp
Marion Friesen & Family	LeRoy Friesen
Nancy Braun & Family	Harlan Braun
Myron & Arlyce Friesen	Beverly Friesen, Virgil Erb
Judy Drews & Family	Rod Drews
Phil & Melissa Goertzen & Family	Lynn Huebert, Adeline Huebert
Cheryl Vaught & Chelsea Vaught	Rick Vaught
Berdine Buller & Family	Lee Buller

Poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary from Sunday, December 21 through Friday, December 26.

Poinsettias will be labeled with a card with the name of the person who donated the plant and may be picked up following the December 24 Christmas Eve worship service.

## 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.

### **From the Office**

The 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, February 1, 2026. Chairs or secretaries of boards and committees, please submit your 2025 reports to the church office no later than January 8, 2026. Please email reports to [bethesda@mainstaycomm.net](mailto:bethesda@mainstaycomm.net). Thank you!



### **School Kit Bags**

School kit fabric for bags has been cut at this time. They are available to be picked up in the office across from the church office. Thank you!

Lindy

### **Food insecurity in York County**

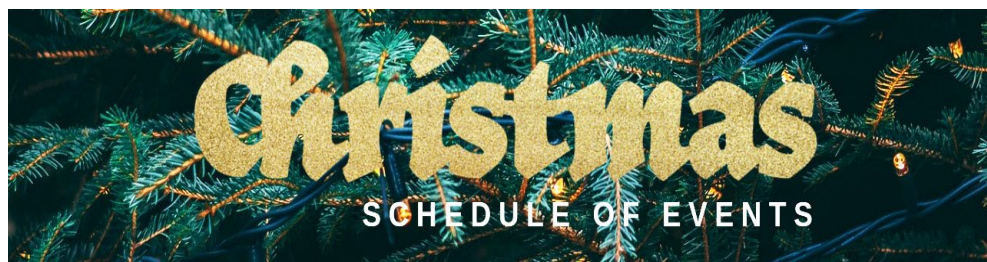
Blue Valley Community Action has seen a sharp rise in need for food in York County. Henderson Ministerial Pastors (Bethesda, FEBC and Living Hope) met together with Lisa Epp who works for Blue Valley out of York. She offered pastors resources and shared about some of the most effective ways to provide 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, located at 3401 N. Lincoln Ave. 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



<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 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
<i>Thursday, December 25</i>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Community Pancake Feed Church Offices Closed
<i>Friday, December 26</i>	<b>FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:40 a.m. Sunday School
<i>Sunday, December 28</i>	6:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Service with Communion
<i>Wednesday, December 31</i>	Church Offices Closed
<i>Thursday, January 1</i>	Church Offices Closed
<i>Friday, January 2</i>	Church Offices Closed

# 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.



# COLLEGE NEWS

## College Graduation

Alex Peters, son of Brian and Heather Peters, graduated from the University of Nebraska-Kearney this December. Congratulations Alex on earning your degree!

Reminder, please let the church office know if you have a college graduate in your family so that we can keep our records up to date and give them a shout out. Contact Kerri at [bethesda@mainstaycomm.net](mailto:bethesda@mainstaycomm.net) or call the office at 402.723.4562.

# MISSIONS LOCAL/GLOBAL

## 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, December 14, Worship Attendance: 213  
Sunday, December 14, Sunday School Attendance: 81

Worship Offering: December 14, 2025

Bethesda General Operating Receipts	\$6,209.00
Messiah Program Offering	\$3,174.00
Sunday School Offering	\$228.00
Total Sunday Offering	\$9,611.00

**Bethesda Operating Fund  
January 1 through December 14, 2025**

2025 – Approved Annual Operating Budget	\$1,059,046.00
Bethesda Income	\$801,054.00
**We have received 75.64% of our approved budget.	
Operating Expenses	\$939,920.00
**We have spent 88.75% of our approved budget.	
Income Minus Expense	-138,866

**Come, Love of the World**

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

Come and heal us, you a - maze us. Come, love of the world. \_\_\_\_\_



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



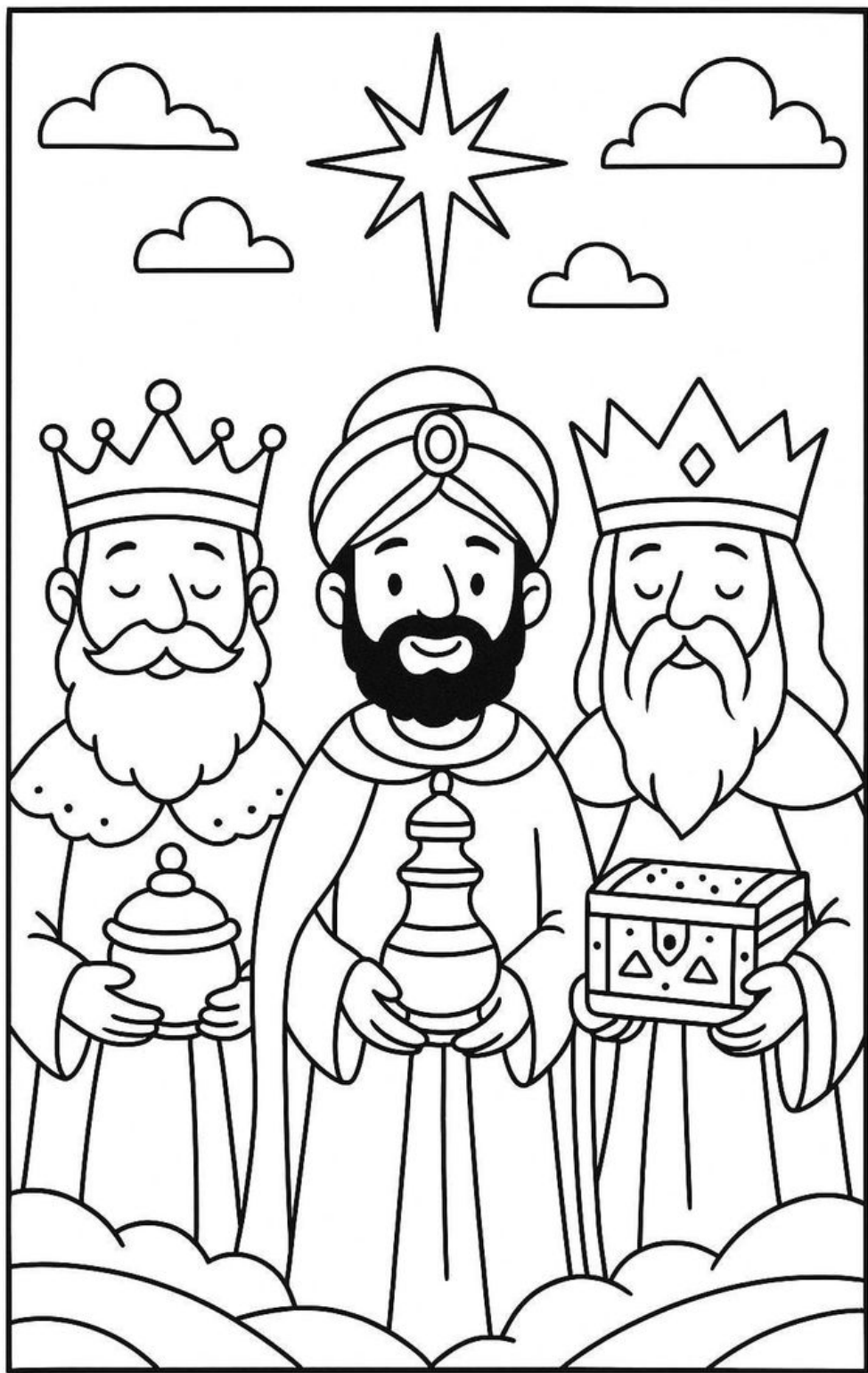
# John 1 v 1-18 Descriptions of Jesus

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

only begotten son  
full of truth  
Son of God  
creator  
flesh  
god

dwelt among us  
one and only  
blessing  
glory  
life

full of grace  
light of men  
eternal  
light  
word



# 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

**"Love comes down"**

**Pastor J Epp**

**John 1:1-18 (NRSV)**