December Holiday Events

A Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will take place this evening at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

A New Year’s Eve Communion Service will be held Sunday, December 31 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Mark your calendars: Bethesda Bible Series
The Bethesda Board of Education is excited to announce our speaker for Bethesda Bible Series January 27-28, 2018. John D. Roth, professor of history at Goshen College also serves as director of the Mennonite Historical Library and editor of The Mennonite Quarterly Review. John has written widely on topics related to Anabaptist-Mennonite history and church life and has enjoyed participating in various ecumenical involvements. More recently, he is the founding director of the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism at Goshen College, secretary of the Mennonite World Conference Faith and Life Commission, and is currently focusing on several research projects relating to the global Anabaptist fellowship. Watch upcoming bulletins for information regarding topics and schedule of events.

The 2018 Annual Meeting will be held February 4, 2018.
Chairpersons of all boards and committees, please have your 2017 report to the church office no later than January 3, 2018. You may email them to bethesda@mainstaycomm.net.
Upcoming Events

SUNDAY, December 24
8:45 a.m. Deacon Prayer Time
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:40 a.m. Sunday School
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

MONDAY, December 25
Merry Christmas! Church Offices Closed

TUESDAY, December 26
8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

SATURDAY, December 30
7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study at Perks

Next SUNDAY, December 31, 2017
9:30 a.m. Worship
Message – Pastor Seth Miller
Offering – Local Church
Pianist – Sandra Quiring
12:00 p.m. – Potluck
6:00 p.m. – New Year’s Eve Service

There will be no worship service on Christmas Day due to Christmas Eve being on a Sunday. Enjoy time with family!

Please note: The Church offices will be closed Monday, December 25 for Christmas Day.

Poinsettias may be picked up following the worship service next Sunday, December 31. Thank you for your generous donation to the Christmas decorations in our sanctuary.

Urgent Midweek Request
Midweek is in need of one or two individuals to help with the preschool class and one to three people to join a teaching rotation for a 4th grade class or a combined 5th and 6th grade class. Please contact Erin Sams before January 1, 2018.
Church Family

Please pray for those with health concerns, grief or family needs.

Prayer Requests
Caleb Friesen (son of Rick/Brittany Friesen) Children’s Hospital, Omaha
Bryan Bechtel
Lena Friesen Henderson Hospital

Sympathy
Theodore “Ted” Janzen, age 85, passed away on Friday, December 15, 2017. Funeral services were held Friday, December 22. Sympathy is extended to his wife, Elvina; children: Bonnie McCullough of Surprise, Arizona, James (Carol Knieriem) Janzen of York, Nebraska, Sharon (Mark) Watkins of Hershey, Pennsylvania, and Mark (Shelley) Janzen of Aurora, Nebraska; grandchildren; great-grandchildren and other family members. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Sympathy
Sympathy is extended to Bryan and Connie Bechtel and their family in the death of Bryan’s mother, Leda Bechtel on Sunday, December 17. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Wedding
Gary & Lavonne Braun announce the approaching marriage of their daughter, Lauren, to Shane Lindburg, son of Kile Lindburg and the late Maurice Lindburg, Jr. on December 30, 2017 at Bethesda.

Address Change
Phyllis Friesen, Henderson Care Center, 1621 Front St, Henderson, Nebraska, 68371.

Check the East Bulletin Board
• An update from Ray and Akiko Epp, Japan
• Christmas card/letter from John and Mary Gaeddert
• Gator Bites Newsletter, Gator Wilderness Camp School, Punta Gorda, Florida from Curtis and Blakely Kauffman
Across the Street and Around the World

MCC Relief Kits
This Christmas, why not gather your family or friends and pack a relief kit as a gift for those whose lives have been disrupted by war or disaster? MCC is in need of thousands of relief kits.

Contents:
- 4 large bars bath soap
- 4 large bars laundry soap
- 1 (13-24oz) plastic bottle of shampoo
- 4 new bath towels (dark)
- 4 adult-sized toothbrushes
- 2 wide-tooth combs (6-8 in)
- 1 fingernail clipper, good quality
- 1 box adhesive bandages (40 ct., assorted)

*Contents may be placed in a bag and left outside the church office. MCC will repackage the items in 5-gallon buckets.

Help a Local Family in Need
The home of Matt and Monica Holbein and their two children was heavily damaged in a recent house fire. Many items, including clothing, toys and kitchen items have been lost due to smoke or fire. Cash (checks written directly to Matt/Monica Holbein) or gift cards would be appreciated. These, or other donations, can be brought to the Henderson Mennonite Brethren Church. For additional information, visit the Henderson Mennonite Brethren Church Facebook page.

Et Cetera Reminder
The Seward Et Cetera Shop does not accept donations of furniture, stereos, large appliances or televisions. Please do not leave these items in the Et Cetera room at church. Thank you for continuing to donate smaller items and clothing (in good condition) for this ministry.

Swan Lake Christian Camp announces a new Family Camp January 12-14, 2018. Families with children, grandchildren, singles and young married couples are all invited to attend this fun filled weekend led by our speakers Joey and Patti Graber. Register online at www.myslcc.com.
Youth

For junior high and high school calendars visit the Bethesda Faith Formation page at www.bmcfaithformation.com.


Swan Lake Christian Camp Winter Retreats
Youth, don’t forget to sign up for Winter Youth Retreats!
Grades 5 & 6........................................................................ January 19-21
Junior High Retreat .............................................................. February 2-4
Senior High Retreat............................................................. February 9-11
Brochures may be found in the youth literature racks. Register online at www.myslcc.com.

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Anyone going to Newton during the first part of 2018 who would have room to take Infant Care Kits and Relief Kits to the MCC Resource Center, please call the church office! Thank you!

Offering Reminder: Offering checks must have the word “Bethesda” in the payee line. You may designate “Canner” or other entities in the memo line.

Canner Fund Update
The Bethesda Canner Fund is in need of approximately $17,200 to complete the project. Thank you for your generosity!
Financials

Worship Offering Sunday, December 17, 2017
Worship Attendance – 294
Sunday School Attendance – 116
Central Plains Mennonite Conference ........................................ $3,519.55
Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary ..................................... $1,000.00
Bethel College ............................................................................. $1,000.00
Dayspring – Thailand ..................................................................... $350.00
Bethesda Canner Project ............................................................. $3,810.00
Benevolent Fund ............................................................................ $50.00
Facility Renovation Fund ............................................................ $325.00
Angel Tree ..................................................................................... $50.00
Bethesda General Operating Receipts ...................................... $11,765.00
Total Worship Offering ........................................................ $21,869.55

Sunday School Offering ........................................................... $172.53
Total Sunday Morning Offering ........................................... $22,042.08

Bethesda Operating Fund
January 1—December 19, 2017 == 96.7% of Year

2017 -- Approved Annual Operating Budget $633,170

Offering Receipts $556,290
** We have received 85.96% of our Approved Budget.

Operating Expenses $561,655
** We have spent 85% of our Approved Budget.

YTD Income Minus Expense ($5,365)

Expected Remaining Expenses $14,000

Total additional needed by December 31 to fund local ministries. ($19,365)