

BETHESDA NEWS

Welcome to Worship!

December 28, 2025

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

MINISTRY TEAM

Pastor Andrea Wall: 402-710-3195

andrea@mainstaycomm.net

Pastor Chelsea Vaught: 402-363-7004

chelsea.vaught@bethesdamc.org

(On Sabbatical)

Pastor J Epp: 402-366-7475

j.epp@bethesdamc.org

CONTACT US

Bethesda Mennonite Church
930 16th 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

BMC Treasurer Email: treasurer@bethesdamc.org

BMC Website: www.bethesdamc.org

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 28</i>	FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 a.m. Sunday School
<i>Monday, December 29</i>	7:00 p.m. Church Council
<i>Tuesday, December 30</i>	9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 12:00 p.m. Bulletin Announcements Due
<i>Wednesday, December 31</i>	NEW YEAR'S EVE Church Offices Closed 6:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Service with Communion
<i>Thursday, January 1</i>	NEW YEAR'S DAY Church Offices Closed
<i>Friday, January 2</i>	Church Offices Closed
<i>Sunday, January 4</i>	EPIPHANY 8:45 a.m. Deacons Meet 9:30 a.m. Worship Message: Pastor Andrea Wall 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 and Elly Siebert (Marge Siebert's granddaughter).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 Fellowship Hall.

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. 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 Siebert



New Address

Dale and Laura Steingard: 704 Parkview Ct., P.O. Box 341, Henderson, NE, 68371

If your address or phone number has changed please let the church office know. You may email bethesda@mainstaycomm.net or call 402.723.4562 with the information.

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:

- **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.
The Deacon Board

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Swan Lake Christian Camp Winter Retreats

Swan Lake Christian Camp is hosting Winter Retreats this winter. 8th-12th grade retreat will be held January 9-11 and 5th-8th 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 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 or call the office at 402.723.4562.

MISSIONSLOCAL/GLOBAL

Gator Wilderness Camp School

See the updated newsletter from Gator Wilderness Camp School on the east bulletin board.



December 2025 Newsletter

About a month ago, the employees who work at Swan Lake Christian Camp were all challenged to do a thirty day reading of the book of Mark. As a couple of these people are newer to faith in Jesus, this challenge included daily written responses to the readings. I love the book of Mark. It is a fast paced overview of the ministry of Jesus. I found myself striving each day to make a comment that would foster discussion and engage in a better understanding of this gospel. There were comments I made that, after I re-read them, it was like “wow” God is good and I am pretty clever also. Others made comments that revealed how their brains were engaging with the text and, as a group, we were learning together.

As we approached the Christmas season and the Easter account, though, for me, the purely academic engagement came to an abrupt halt. As I read the familiar account of Jesus entering Jerusalem, his anguish over the impending humiliation and torture, his death, and his resurrection, I found myself in awe. No longer was I looking for clever insights or new understandings. Words like awe and gratitude were all that I could write.

Christmas sets the stage for discipleship, growth in faith, fellowship with other believers, but ultimately it set the stage for God’s redemption. This is all about YOU!! It is God’s love for you. Jesus came to Bethlehem as a newborn human being so that we could be redeemed back into relationship with God. He did it for us. Babies are cute. I love my new grandson. But, I for one, don’t ever want to go back to laying in a crib, being misunderstood and unable to communicate with those I love. I don’t want to learn to walk again and let’s not even talk about puberty. Becoming a child again is nothing that I aspire to do. The account of his death is even more difficult to fathom. To consider that the King of the universe would humble himself to that level just for me is almost too much. Almost. It is perfect. Jesus did it for me. He did it for you. He is love in flesh. As we continue to prepare for the celebration of Christmas, join me in remembering the whole story. It is not too late to read Mark’s gospel. Delve into all that Jesus did for you and remember that he did it all for

you. Sometimes we get so involved in the festivities that we forget what we are celebrating. Jesus came as a child. He spent time with us teaching, loving, healing and calling us. He sent us with a mission to tell others. Then he died as the only acceptable sacrifice for the redemption of our souls. He rose on the third day demonstrating mastery over death and he goes to prepare a place for us.

– Jerry Kroeker
Swan Lake Christian Camp Director

**Read the rest of the December Swan Lake Newsletter online at: myslcc.com*

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>

GIVINGATTENDANCE

Sunday, December 21, Worship Attendance: 229
Sunday, December 21, Sunday School Attendance: 78

Worship Offering: December 21, 2025

Bethesda General Operating Receipts	\$19,582.00
Sunday School Offering	\$135.00
Total Sunday Offering	\$19,717.00

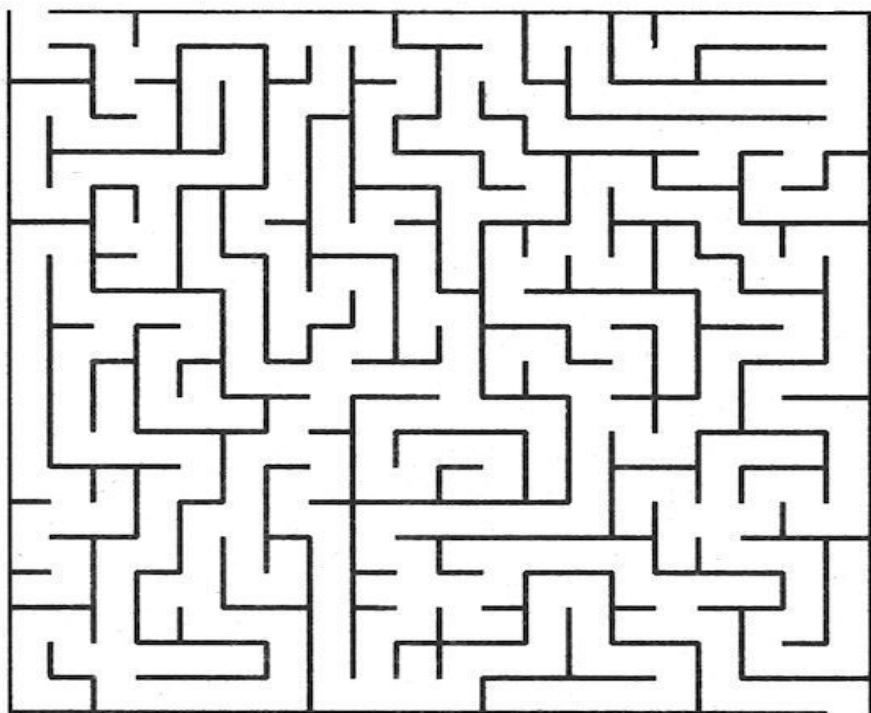
Bethesda Operating Fund
January 1 through December 21, 2025

2025 – Approved Annual Operating Budget	\$1,059,046
Bethesda Income	\$850,788
**We have received 80.34% of our approved budget.	
Operating Expenses	\$990,418
** We have spent 93.52% or our approved budget.	
Income Minus Expense	-139,630

Come, Light of the World



Can you help the shepherds
find their way to baby Jesus?



JESUS
BETHELEHEM
MANGER
STABLE
STAR



NATIVITY WORD SEARCH

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



ANGEL
BABY
GLORY
NIGHT
JOURNEY
WISEMEN
EMMANUEL



JOSEPH
MARY
MIRACLE
KING
BORN
SAVIOR



Shepherds in the Fields at night



I SPY

NATIVITY



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|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|----|--|
| 5 | | 4 | | 4 | | 6 | | 9 | | 7 | | 7 | |
| 8 | | 4 | | 7 | | 4 | | 7 | | 9 | | 11 | |

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...

MESSAGENOTES

"Be Amazed!: God among us"

Pastor J Epp

John 1:19-34 (NRSV)