W E L C O M E

We are happy you could join us today! Please feel free to have a cup of coffee from the Coffee Spot!

“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.”

Bethesda Mennonite Church
www.bethesdamc.org
December 31, 2017

A New Year’s Eve Communion Service will be held this evening at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend.

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. Dr. 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. Dr. Roth 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. The theme for the weekend will be "Text & Tradition: Encountering the Bible as an Anabaptist Community."
See today’s insert for information regarding topics and schedule of events.

Children and Adult Woodworkers
Next Sunday, January 7, will be the final children's focus in our series on woodworkers. We invite you to bring a project that you have made to church and place it in the north transept prior to worship. We will have a gallery of projects for people to enjoy. Please bring them prior to 9:00 a.m. and put your name and a brief description with the project. For questions contact Pastor Andrea.
Upcoming Events

SUNDAY, December 31
8:45 a.m.  Deacon Prayer Time
9:30 a.m.  Worship
10:40 a.m. Sunday School (NO Senior High class today)
12:00 p.m. Potluck
6:00 p.m.  New Year’s Eve Communion Service

MONDAY, January 1
Happy New Year!  Church Offices Closed

TUESDAY, January 2
8:30 a.m.  Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, January 3
Annual Reports Due!
12:00 p.m.  Bulletin Announcements Due
8:00 p.m.  Chancel Choir

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

Next SUNDAY, January 7, 2018
9:30 a.m. Worship  Message – Pastor Seth Miller
Offering – Mennonite Church USA/Mission Network
Organist – Laura Steingard  Special Music – Chancel Choir

Poinsettias may be picked up following the worship service this morning. Thank you for your generous donation to the Christmas decorations in our sanctuary.

Senior High Sunday School will NOT meet this morning.

Please note: The Church offices will be closed Monday, January 1.

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
**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

Jennie Kliewer  
Newton Medical Center

Kevin Friesen  
Henderson Hospital

**Sympathy**

Susan “Joan” Epp, died Tuesday, December 19, 2017. Memorial services were held Thursday, December 28 at Laurelglen Bible Church in Bakersfield, California. Sympathy is extended to her husband, Albert, and their children and families. Albert Epp was a pastor at Bethesda in the 1980’s. Please remember the family in your prayers at this time.

Albert H. Epp  
3305 Stonecreek Ave  
Bakersfield, CA 93313-4258

**Address Changes**

Please notify the church office of any address changes as well as any other yearbook updates by January 18, 2018.

**Bethesda Pew/Furniture Auction**

An auction will take place on Wednesday, January 24 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Items to be auctioned will include various sized pews, library tables, oak doors, Sunday school chairs, Christmas decorations, ice cream makers, and many more items. For a full list of items, see the east bulletin board. Kelly Kliewer will be donating his auctioning talents for the evening. All proceeds will go toward the facility renovation fund.

**The Nebraska MCC Sale Board is in urgent need of someone to fill the Publicity position** for the upcoming 2018 Sale. If you can help please contact Brent Buller, 402-366-7730.
Across the Street and Around the World

MCC Relief Kits
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.

Save the Date – Sunday, January 14: for a special screening of the film Awake: A Dream from Standing Rock at 3:00 p.m. in the Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas. The film captures the story of Native-led defiance that forever changed the fight for clean water, our environment and the future of our planet. A talk-back session will follow the film featuring film Co-Director Myron Dewey. MCC and the Kansas Institute for Peace & Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR) are sponsors for this free event. Please join us!

Bethesda Women’s Ministries

January sewing meetings will take place on Tuesday, January 9 and Tuesday, January 23. All women are invited to attend.

All women with birthdays in January or February are invited to the Bethesda Women’s Ministries January/February birthday party on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Crossroads Coffee House. Hosts for the evenings are Florence Friesen and Cindy Quiring. Please sign up on the east bulletin board if you plan to attend.
Youth

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

**Love in Action Blog:** Check out the new blog that offers activities for the month to help us grow in our love for God and for others. [http://www.bmcfaithformation.com/love-in-action](http://www.bmcfaithformation.com/love-in-action).

**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.

**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.

**Financials**

**Canner Fund Update**
Canner expenses are covered! Thank you for your generous donations!

**Renovation Finance Report (includes SOUND) as of December 26, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Balance</td>
<td>$63,550</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$188,813</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>$325,044</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Balance (Income minus expense to date)</strong></td>
<td><strong>($72,681)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Expected Remaining Expenses</td>
<td>40,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Remaining Balance to be Funded</strong></td>
<td><strong>($112,681)</strong></td>
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Financials, cont...

**Worship Offering Sunday, December 24, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worship Attendance</td>
<td>334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday School Attendance</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bethesda Canner Project</td>
<td>$13,650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benevolent Fund</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facility Renovation Fund</td>
<td>$26,150.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bethesda General Operating Receipts</td>
<td>$42,519.50</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Worship Offering</strong></td>
<td><strong>$82,819.50</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday School Offering</td>
<td>$79.43</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Sunday Morning Offering</strong></td>
<td><strong>$82,898.93</strong></td>
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**Christmas Eve Offering, December 24**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canner Project</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benevolent Fund</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bethesda Bible Series</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facility Renovation Fund</td>
<td>$9,104.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Christmas Eve Offering</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,554.00</strong></td>
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**Bethesda Operating Fund**

January 1—December 26, 2017 == 98.6% of Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017 -- Approved Annual Operating Budget</td>
<td>$633,170</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offering Receipts</td>
<td>$609,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>We have received 85.96% of our Approved Budget.</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Expenses</td>
<td>$565,950</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>We have spent 85% of our Approved Budget.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>YTD Income Minus Expense</td>
<td>$43,793</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expected Remaining Expenses</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less shortage from 2016</td>
<td>($9,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses for 2017 are fully paid!</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance carry over to 2018</strong></td>
<td><strong>$34,793</strong></td>
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