

STORIES OF

Light

OUT OF THE

Darkness

NEW YEAR'S EVE COMMUNION

December 31, 2025 6:00 p.m.

Bethesda Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall
Henderson, Nebraska

New Year's Eve

COMMUNION SERVICE

Prelude

Sandra Quiring

Gathering to Reflect

Words of Welcome

Pastor J Epp

Call to Worship: Based on Isaiah 9:2, 6 &
John 1:4-5, 14

Pastor Andrea Wall

(congregation read **bold** print)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness, on them has the light shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HWB 178

Offering

Pastor J Epp

Offertory

Sandra Quiring

Stories of Light Out of the Darkness

Led by Pastor Andrea Wall & Pastor J Epp

Light in the Chaos

Pastor Andrea Wall

Introduction

Genesis 1:1-5

Invitation to Reflection

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" (*Stanza 1*) PAGE 8

Light in our Wandering

Pastor J Epp

Introduction

Isaiah 40:1-2, 27-31

Invitation to Reflection

"Comfort, Comfort, O My People"

HWB 176

Light in our Struggle

Pastor Andrea Wall

Introduction

Psalm 13

Invitation to Reflection

"Longing for Light"

PAGE 6

The Light of Life

Pastor J Epp

Introduction

John 1:1-5

Invitation to Reflection

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" (*Stanza 2*) PAGE 8

**A Time of Remembering and
Looking Forward**

Pastor Andrea: From the light God shines into our darkness this night, we light a candle to remember those whom we have loved and lost, or those whom we carry in our hearts because we fear for their futures. We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices, and the memory that binds them to us in this season.

All: May God's eternal love surround them.

Pastor J: We light this second candle as a reminder that God's light redeems the pain of separation and loss; the separation of family

or friend, the loss of relationship, of job, of health. We pause to gather up the pain of the past and the fear of the future; we offer it all to God, asking that from God's hands we receive the gift of peace.

All: Refresh, restore, renew us, O God.

Pastor Andrea: We light this third candle to reflect on our lives this Christmas season and at the start of a New Year. We pause and remember these past weeks and months where we may have felt despair, anger, disappointment. We remember the struggles and defeats. We also remember the hugs and the handshakes, the prayers of those who have been there with us. We give thanks for the support we have found and the tears we have shed.

All: Let us remember that dawn defeats the darkness.

Pastor J: The fourth candle is lit to remember our faith and the gift of hope that the Christmas story offers. Into a dark world, God came in the form of a tiny, vulnerable babe, so that we can know that even in the darkness, God is present. We are never alone.

All: Let us remember the one who shows the way, who brings the truth, who bears the light.

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" (*Stanza 1*)

HWB 328

Prayer for the New Year

Pastor J Epp

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" (*Stanza 6*)

HWB 328

Service of Communion

Pastor Andrea Wall & Pastor J Epp

Service of the Bread

(the bread this evening is gluten-free)

Service of the Cup

Going Forth into a New Year

* "Go, My Children"

HWB 433

Benediction

Pastor J Epp

Postlude

Sandra Quiring

Longing for light

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT 98. 96 with refrain

Em

Am7

Bm7

Esus

1 Long-ing for light, — we wait in dark-ness.
 2 Long-ing for peace, — our world is trou-bled.
 3 Long-ing for food, — man - y are hun - gry.
 4 Long-ing for shel-ter, — man - y are home-less.
 5 Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple,

Em

Am7

Bm7

Esus

1 Long-ing for truth, — we turn to you.
 2 Long-ing for hope, — man - y de - spair.
 3 Long-ing for wa - ter, — man - y still thirst.
 4 Long ing for warmth, — man - y are cold.
 5 man - y the hearts that yearn to be - long.

Em

Am7

D

G

1 Make us your own, — your ho - ly peo - ple,
 2 Your word a - lone — has pow'r to save us.
 3 Make us your bread, — bro - ken for oth - ers,
 4 Make us your build - ing, — shel - ter - ing oth - ers,
 5 Let us be ser - vants to one an - oth - er,

C

Am

Dsus

D

1 light for the world to see.
 2 Make us your liv - ing voice.
 3 shared un - til all are fed.
 4 walls made of liv - ing stone.
 5 mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain

G

C

G

Em

Christ, be our light! Shine in our

Bm Em Am7 D

hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.
 Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.

G Dsus D Em Em7/D C

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church

Am7 D G Am7/G 1-4 G 5 G

gath-ered to - day.

I want to walk as a child of the light

HOUSTON 10 7. 10 8 with refrain

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the brightness of God.
3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to follow Je sus.
I want to look at Je sus.
I want to be with Je sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and we
When we have run with patience the race,

star of my life is Je sus.
show me the way to the Fa ther.
shall know the joy of Je sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The



night and the day are both a - like. The



Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.



Bethesda Mennonite Church Statistics 2025

January 2025	13	Birth	Henry Daniel Eli Pohlmann to *Micah & Kelli Pohlmann
February 2025	13	Death	Rollyn Friesen, 77
	15	Death	Jamie Dick, 51
March 2025	10	Birth	Oakley Rose to Trenten J. & *Samantha Friesen
	12	Birth	Oliver Scott Seaton to *Nathan & Bailey Seaton
April 2025	22	Birth	Beaux Arthur to Tanner & Brieanna Steingard
May 2025	12	Birth	Cora May to David & *Rachael Roberts
	24	Wedding	Kate Isabelle Bergen & *Jackson Hirschfeld
June 2025	14	Wedding	Grace Olivia Janzen to Morgan Malleck Maltsberger
	14	Wedding	*Sydney Kliewer to *Peter McGinley
	21	Wedding	*Mackenzie Miller to Jordan Heinrichs
July 2025	5	Wedding	Elizabeth Marie Mestl to *Garrett Workman
	9	Death	Beverly J. Wall, 75
	24	Birth	Orion Alan to Greg & Ashley Boller
	28	Death	Rodney R. Drews
August 2025	19	Birth	Everett Edward to *Caleb & Allyson Epp
	24	Death	Lynette Siebert, 69
	29	Birth	Dean Walter to Cameron & *Molly Quiring
September 2025	9	Death	Norris Kramer, 73
	13	Birth	Frankie Marie to Austin & *Samantha Peters
	30	Death	Rick Vaught, 68
October 2025	10	Death	Kenneth L. Friesen, 77
	10	Death	Doris Kroeker, 91
	11	Death	Shirley Boller, 89
	15	Death	Leanna Kroeker, 88
	20	Death	Adeline Huebert, 86

November 2025	5	Birth	Porter Lane to Parker & *Kelsey Goertzen		
December 2025	27	Wedding	Hillary Lee to Logan Bechtel		
<u>Parent Child Dedication May 11, 2025</u>					
Oakley Rose		Trenten & *Samantha Friesen			
Macklin Mae		*Tim & Marli Kulhanek			
Oliver Scott		*Nathan & Bailey Seaton			
Sage Elaine		*Rory & Cortney van den Berg			
<u>Parent Child Dedication December 7, 2025</u>					
Orion Alan		Greg & Ashley Buller			
Porter Lane		Parker & *Kelsey Goertzen			
Beaux Arthur		Tanner & *Brieanna Steingard			
<u>Membership Accessions by Baptism</u>					
June 1, 2025	Mason Epp	Brad & Carrie Epp			
June 1, 2025	Jonathan Friesen	Kevin & Lisa Friesen			
June 1, 2025	Madalyn Janzen	Jay Dee & Wendy Janzen			
June 1, 2025	Emma Ott	Justin & Tammy Ott			
June 1, 2025	Maddox Regier	Andrew & Valerie Regier			
June 1, 2025	Waylon Tessman	Corbin & Lisa Tessman			
<u>Membership by Accession</u>					
June 15, 2025	Frank Steckly	Bellwood Mennonite Church, Milford, NE			
June 15, 2025	Joy Steckly	Bellwood Mennonite Church, Milford, NE			
<u>Membership Demission</u>					
January 4, 2025	Kristi Jensen	Stromsburg Baptist Church, Stromsburg, NE			
January 4, 2025	Curt Jensen	Stromsburg Baptist Church, Stromsburg, NE			
(*Indicates Non-Member)					
(**Indicates Associate Member)					

