

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

February 11, 2018

Congregational Meeting – Parking Lot Project

A Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, February 18, 2018, immediately following the worship service to vote on the parking lot project. Absentee ballots are available during office hours and must be requested by the member in writing (email permissible), in person, or by phone. Absentee ballots must be picked up and signed for by someone representing the member doing the requesting. Ballots must be returned by 4:00 p.m. Thursday, February 15, 2018.

Church Email List

Are you interested in being on an email list to receive important updates, news, or prayer requests from Bethesda? If so, go to our website at www.bethesdamc.org to sign up. Go to the HOME tab and click EMAIL SIGN-UP. Fill in your name and email address and click SUBMIT to be added. If you have any questions or need help filling out the form, please call the church office.

Bethesda Board/Committee Chairpersons

It’s time again for all boards and committees to begin thinking about reorganization. If your term as Chair is expiring, you are still responsible to see that your committee reorganizes by selecting officers at your next meeting. This information is needed by the Chairperson of your board or committee and the church office, immediately following your meeting. If you need clarification or have any questions, please feel free to contact Cindy Friesen in the church office.

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

SUNDAY, February 11

- 8:45 a.m. Deacon Prayer Time
- 9:30 a.m. Worship/Deacon Installation
- 10:40 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:40 a.m. 2018 Catechism Students & Parents
- 7:30 p.m. High School Bible Study at Jeff & Tami Peters' Home

TUESDAY, February 13

- 8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. BWM Sewing & Project Day
- 5:30 p.m. Sunday School Committee
- 7:00 p.m. Board of Deacons
- 7:00 p.m. Preschool Committee

WEDNESDAY, February 14

- 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study (The Upper Room)
- 12:00 p.m. Bulletin Announcements Due
- 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Midweek
- 7:00 p.m. CORNERSTONE
- 7:00 p.m. Powerhouse
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 9:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

SATURDAY, February 17

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study at Perks
- 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Bridges out of Poverty Training

Next SUNDAY, February 18, 2018

- 9:30 a.m. Worship / Message – Pastor Seth Miller
- Offering –Bethel College
- Organist – Laura Steingard / Special Music – Chancel Choir
- 1:00-5:00 p.m. Bridges out of Poverty Training
- 2:00 p.m. – MCC Sale Board Meeting
- 4:00 p.m. – MCC Sale Committees/Contact Persons Meeting

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	
Effie Kroeker	Henderson Care Center
Etta Jean Janzen	Henderson Hospital
Geraldine Peters	Henderson Hospital

Bethesda Mennonite Church Website

Did you know you can access a host of resources just by going to our website at www.bethesdamc.org? Go to BULLETINS & RESOURCES and check it out! The Bethesda Policy Manual, Constitution & By-Laws, Cemetery Directory, Wedding Planner Guide, Child Protection Forms, even minutes are all right at your fingertips. If there are other resources you would like to have access to, give the church office a call. Thanks!

Church Membership Class

Adults, please contact one of the pastors if you are interested in membership at Bethesda. A membership class is being planned to meet during the Sunday school hour beginning February 25. ~ Pastor Jim

Lenten Prayers Series: Trumpets, Tears, and Ashes – A Series on Habakkuk

Habakkuk is a bit of a strange book. While it is introduced as a prophecy or oracle, the book contains no explicit message to Israel from God. Instead it recounts a conversation between the prophet and God. The conversation begins with lament. Where the law is paralyzed, where sin has infected the world, there is no justice; there is no shalom, no peace, no wholeness, no flourishing, no delight. Habakkuk's prayer is the prayer of those who fervently pray for peace, only to experience war; those who pray for healing beside a loved one's sickbed, only to be confronted by death; those who pray for a spouse's love to be renewed, only to experience betrayal and abuse. Habakkuk's prayer is our prayer. **Ash Wednesday** will be observed February 14 at a 9:00 p.m. service. **Lenten services** will begin on February 21 and continue each Wednesday through Lent at 12:00 noon and 9:00 p.m.

ACROSS THE STREET & AROUND THE WORLD



Nebraska MCC Sale March 23-24, 2018

MCC Sale Board/Committee Meeting

The Nebraska MCC Board will meet at 2:00 p.m. next Sunday, February 18 at Bethesda in the Crossroads Coffee House. At 4:00 p.m., the Board, Committees, Church Contact persons, and any other interested persons will meet in the Bethesda Sanctuary.

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 at 402-366-7730.

Donations for the quilt auction should be entered online via www.nebraskamccsale.org before March 1. If you need assistance with registration or delivery of your quilt auction donations, please contact Wendy Janzen at 402-723-5440 or 402-366-2927. **NEW THIS YEAR: ALL quilt donations need to be delivered to Bethesda by March 10.** You may drop them off by the church office. We plan to organize and photograph all entries prior to the sale so photos can be put on the website.

Bethesda is responsible for providing 150 boxes of colored pencils for MCC school kits. Colored pencils should be boxes of 12 only please and may be left in the basket outside the church office.

FINE ART: Fine art items are needed for the art booth. Please contact Carrie Bergen at 402-723-4327, 402-710-0488 or e-mail her at carrie@mainstaycomm.net. You can also register your fine art items using Carrie's e-mail address.

***Check today's insert for additional MCC Sale announcements.**

Families with children: This Wednesday is the first day of Lent and the beginning of "Between Me & You," a free, downloadable guide for family worship from February 14 through April 1, Easter Sunday. Pick and choose the activities that work best for your family. Find it at www.anabaptistfaithformation.org.

YOUTH

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

Love in Action Blog: Check out the blog that offers activities for the month to help us grow in love: www.bmcfaitthformation.com/love-in-action.

High School Bible Study will meet this evening at 7:30 p.m. at Jeff and Tami Peters' home. All high school youth are invited to attend!

CORNERSTONE will meet this Wednesday, February 14 for the Amazing Race – LOVE! Meet in the Upper Room at 7:00 p.m. and remember to bring your Bibles!

POWERHOUSE will meet this Wednesday, February 14 for a Love In Action project. Meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Crossroads Coffee House.

2018 Catechism students/parents will meet in the Powerhouse room today during the Sunday school hour. Students will meet next Sunday in the conference room during the Sunday school hour.

Youth Summer Trips

We were recently informed that we have received a placement with Mennonite Disaster Service for the youth service trip this summer, July 29-August 4 in Victoria County, Texas. Letters with more information will be coming. There are a limited number of spots for this trip so please contact Pastor Andrea before February 11 if you are interested in attending. We will also be offering an opportunity to attend Youth Escape July 20-22, a youth event of Central Plains Mennonite Conference.

Looking for that next great adventure? MCC SALT positions available!

Serving and Learning Together (SALT) is a year-long, cross-cultural service experience. Through SALT, Christian young adults from Canada and the U.S. serve internationally in a wide variety of positions in fields! Start now at salt.mcc.org, to find answers to frequently asked questions, assignment options and to apply, don't delay the deadline to sign up is February 15!

FINANCIALS

Worship Offering Sunday, February 4, 2018

Worship Attendance – 234

Sunday School Attendance – not available

Reach Int'l – Dr. Sam Evans.....	\$50.00
Benevolent Fund	\$75.00
Facility Renovation Fund.....	\$280.00
Bethesda General Operating Receipts.....	\$8,986.00
Total Worship Offering.....	\$9,391.00
Sunday School Offering	\$440.32
Total Sunday Morning Offering	\$9,831.32

Business Board Pew & Furniture Auction (Renovation Fund)...\$6,272.50
Additional Ted Janzen memorials (MCC) \$75.00

BETHESDA WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Sewing and Project Day – February 13

All women are invited to our Sewing and Project Day on February 13, 2018 in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Come and go as it suits you. Lunch will be baked potato bar and devotions by Arlyce Friesen following lunch will center on the theme "Affirm."

Save the Date – Nebraska Mennonite Women Retreat

The Nebraska Mennonite Women/Mennonite Church USA women's retreat at the Leadership Center, Aurora, Nebraska, will take place March 3-4. The retreat will feature a *Sister Care* Seminar, "Equipping Women for Caring Ministry" with speakers Carolyn Heggen and Rhoda Keener. Check the Bethesda Women's Ministries board for more information about Sister Care and registration forms. Registrations are due by February 15.

DAYSPRING CONGO UPDATE

As I write, I am boarding a plane in Omaha for my seventh return trip to the Congo. It took an embassy intervention at the highest level to have my visa approved. I understand there is some tension between the US and the Congo. I will be traveling inland by 4x4. The timing of this trip will coincide with the ordination of two pastors who graduated with their Masters of Divinity. They will be a real asset to the local churches there. I regard our support of those in pastoral training to have the longest lasting effect of any of our involvements. The ordination will be a big deal with feasting and gift giving. I am excited to be able to participate in it. Two highly regarded pastors (one with his wife) will be accompanying me inland and together with provincial leadership will be leading a pastors' conference with teachings on servant leadership and marriage enrichment. I'm told that they are expecting up to 100 pastors and leaders – the largest such gathering in 10 years. Dayspring is considered a “sponsor” and is providing teaching materials, coffee, tea, and likely a least a couple of goats. (One line item I did note in the category of “meat” was caterpillars.) When I think of these pastor leadership conferences, I especially think of the very isolated pastor serving his church in a far-off region with little opportunity to meet and fellowship with other pastors. I'm very happy to be able to help facilitate this! We did this a couple of years ago and this may become the norm with my arrivals.

This will be my opportunity to follow up on a dozen or so projects and to “follow the money.” My first trip where I had none of these responsibilities was still my most enjoyable but the impact of our involvement has made the challenges very satisfying! I am taking with me a new projection system sized for larger viewing audiences of the *Jesus Film*. I'm excited to be taking 11 soccer balls with me for the youth. This is an excellent way for youth to realize that the church cares for them as well.

As always, I anticipate this all to be a challenge. I long to be found faithful and covet your prayers. I'll sign off with a Chokwe proverb, *Tatshi ja ngandu kadi mu meya*. The strength of a crocodile is in the water. Just as the crocodile is at its strongest in its element, so too are we when we use our individual strengths and gifts to serve God. That's been the strength of our partnership with the Congo Mennonite Church. Thank you for your prayers and support over the years.

~ Ron Goertzen on behalf of
Homer, Jennifer and our Congo committee (Simplice and Weny.)

