

WELCOME

BETHESDA MENNONITE CHURCH – MAY 24, 2020

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.

REACH, GROW, SERVE

Memorial Day Services

Memorial Day services will be held at the Mennonite Cemetery at 11:00 a.m., Monday, May 25, 2020. This year, there will be no services at Bethesda Mennonite Church Cemetery or Friesen Cemetery. The Board of Business held a workday this week. Please note, no glass containers or gravel please. Flowers and other arrangements may be left at the cemetery for 10 days following Memorial Day. Any items left after June 5, 2020, will be disposed of.

In preparation for reopening in-person church services beginning next Sunday, May 31, 2020, people are encouraged to bring facemasks to wear to worship if they have one. Anyone that is willing to make and share masks for those who might not have one but want one for worship service are asked to sew some up and give the church office a call to let us know how many you are willing to donate. Thank you for your willingness to serve in this way.

Board of Deacons

Vacation Bible School will be held online this year and not during the week of June 1-5 as originally planned. Watch the bulletin for dates and additional information coming soon.

Times are tough right now. It is hard to know how to deal with everything. Let Mission Network help "make faith sense" of what is going on. Visit <https://www.mennonitemission.net/resources/the-hope-series/Youth-Group-resources> to find resources for youth groups and more. Eric Frey Martin would love to connect with you about this material. Email him at EricFM@MMNWorld.net.

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY, MAY 25

11:00 a.m. Mennonite
Cemetery Memorial Day
Service

No services @ Friesen or
BMC Cemetery
Bethesda Offices Closed

TUESDAY MAY 26

8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
8:00 p.m. Zoom Church
Council

WEDNESDAY MAY 27

Bulletin Announcements
Due (call or email)
7:00 p.m. Zoom High School
Youth

SUNDAY MAY 31

9:30 a.m. Worship
Message: Pastor Seth
Offering: Local Church
Pianist: Sandra Quiring

CHURCH FAMILY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WITH HEALTH CONCERNS, GRIEF OR FAMILY NEEDS...

Jean Siebert, Jane Brehm, Tami Peters, JoAnn Epp, Lelan Thieszen, Walt Rempel Family

Death

Walt Rempel, age 90, died May 16, 2020, in Henderson. Walt is survived by his wife Anna, children, Joyce (Ron) Friesen, Carol (Royce) Janzen, LaVerne (Lynda) Rempel, Connie Friesen and Lynette (Rod) Jost. Services were held at Bethesda Wednesday, May 20. Please keep these families in your prayers.

There will be no Zoom catechism today following the worship service.

The Zoom Mom's Support Group will not meet Sunday, May 24, 2020.

In observance of Memorial Day, Bethesda offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2020.

CONTACT US

Bethesda Mennonite Church 930 16th Street PO Box 130 Henderson, NE 68371-0130

Phone: 402-723-4562

Pastor Seth: 717-824-5998; Pastor Gene: 580-660-5796; Pastor Andrea: 402-710-3195

Email: bethesda@mainstaycomm.net

Website: www.bethesdamc.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Worship services are available via:

- Livestream @ <http://bethesdamc.org/watch-live> & Facebook
- Radio @ KOOL 103.5 FM
- Cobalt Cable Channel 3207

YOUTH

All Zoom links can be found @ www.bmcfaitthformation.com

High School Youth will meet via Zoom Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Look for a text with the link and ID # to join our digital youth group. Any youth are welcome to join if they are looking for a place to connect with other youth, pray and study the Bible.

Catechism 2020 will meet via Zoom Sundays following worship at 11:00 a.m. Look for a text with the link and ID # to join.

Visit <http://www.bmcfaitthformation.com/covid-19-resources.html> for the following resources:

- Coloring Prayers
- How to talk to children/youth about COVID-19
- Books offered for free – Adult Bible study and children's book (age 9-12)
- How to navigate the stress of uncertain times
- Ideas for all ages: How grow in our relationship with God during this time of social distancing.

FINANCIALS

Donations received from May 13 – May 19, 2020

Mennonite Church USA/Mission Network	\$20.00
Central Plains Mennonite Conference	\$5,775.00
Dayspring Ministries	\$2,050.00
Nebraska MCC Relief Sale	\$400.00
Ashland Fellowship	\$2,000.00
Bethesda General Operating	\$12,608.00
Sunday School	\$25.00
Total Worship Offering	\$22,878.00

DAYSRING THAILAND

May 10, 2020

Dear Bethesda Church Family,

We write to you trusting that this finds all of you in good health and much peace during these extraordinary times around the world. Pat's business got somewhat affected and our ministry has slowed down and our plans of moving back got delayed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, we are doing well and thank God for His protection and providence.

The lock down in Thailand started in mid-March. It was supposed to be one month, but it has been extended until the end of this month. The government has eased things up, but many things are still closed. To date, Thailand has had more than 3,000 confirmed cases, about 2,800 people have recovered from the illness, with 56 deaths.

In addition to the immediate health threats, the pandemic has also shown that there are greater socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 that are a threat to the world's most vulnerable communities. The pandemic has already affected many lives in the families and communities in Isaan land. Many of them are losing their jobs and businesses (most are very small). Since they are living day to day and depend on a daily income, with very little government assistance and social safety nets. Now they are struggling to meet their most basic needs, such as buying food to continue raising and sustaining families and basic school supplies to send their children to school.

As a church, we are taking this important opportunity to reach out and share God's love by putting together and arranging small care packages for vulnerable community members who are struggling. We realize that we are limited with resources and are seeking support from our mission partner churches and individuals to support this initiative.

Here are the details of the care packages:

Our **main goal is to be able to support up to 200 families** in surrounding villages who have a great need for food care packages. Each package will include \$20 worth of grocery staples including:

- 1 5 kg of rice
- 2 30 eggs
- 3 1 bottle of fish sauce
- 4 2 bottles of cooking oil
- 5 1 kg of sugar
- 6 2 packs of tuna
- 7 2 packs of instant noodles

We have **an additional goal to support up to 60 school children** in these families who are in need of a kit of basic school supplies. Each of these kits would cost \$35.

Your donation could help to support some of the most vulnerable local community members who are impacted by COVID-19 with these basic critical supplies.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the request. May God continue to richly bless you as we all support one another through these challenging times.

With much love and prayers and together serving Christ.

Pat & Rad

SWAN LAKE CHRISTIAN CAMP

Greetings from Swan Lake Christian Camp!

Your child/children are invited to attend camp at NO CHARGE through a gift from Bethesda's South Fellowship Hall Sunday School class! When registering your child for camp online, check the appropriate church scholarship amount. Bethesda will be billed at the end of the summer for those who attended.

Go online to register your child at www.myslcc.com. Also, please fill out the Permission for Medical Treatment and the Transportation Form (located on our website under MINISTRIES, Swan Lake Christian Camp). Please turn these forms into the church office as this is the only way the office has of knowing if your child will be attending camp.

Cottontail Camp (Pre-K & Kindergarten) July 1 (\$25)
Chipmunk Camp (First & Second Grade) July 2 (\$25)
Third & Fourth Grade Camp June 28-30 (\$130)
Fourth & Fifth Grade Camp June 21-26 (\$260)
Sixth Grade Camp July 5-10 (\$260)
Junior High Camp July 12-17 (\$260)
Senior High Camp July 19-24 (\$260)
(All grades based on 2019-2020 school year.)

Your campers' safety is, as always, a top priority and the development of Covid-19 added a unique level of safety concerns. We have made a few changes to the way we are planning to do some of our activities this summer. A letter outlining these steps is available on the Bethesda website, but here is a shortened version:

- We will spend more time outdoors - morning chapel and eating.
- As kids arrive, we will be taking temperatures with an infrared thermometer.
- Water fountains will be shut down.
- Frequent hand washing is encouraged as well as the use of hand sanitizer.
- Enhanced sanitation practices in restrooms and the dining hall.

Please let us know if you have thoughts or questions as we move forward for this summer.

Jerry & Judi Kroeker
Swan Lake Christian Camp
605-326-5690

ACROSS THE STREET/AROUND THE WORLD

COVID-19 Update from Mennonite Central Committee

MCC Central States in North Newton continues to be closed to the public through the month of May, however material resources donations can be left in the 24-hour donation drop-off room at any time. If you would like fabric to sew into comforters, please contact katemast@mcc.org and she can either deliver it or set it out in the donation room for you. We have LOTS of pre-cut squares available. Join us in caring for those who are most in need in our changing times. Monetary donations are being accepted at donate.mcc.org to support water, food, hygiene and health programs around the world.

The Food Bank of Lincoln is adding additional drive-thru food distributions this month:

- They will be in Beaver Crossing **May 19** distributing from United Methodist Church from 2:00-3:00 p.m.
- They will be at East Hill Church of Christ on **May 20** from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the south parking lot. Vehicles should line up from the north, heading south on Florida and turning right into the parking lot.
- We will also have our regular monthly distribution on **June 5** from 12:00-1:00 p.m. This will once again be a drive-thru service.

Living Water Rescue Mission

Many families in our communities are struggling at this time. Food boxes are going out to families at about three times the normal rate. If you would like to be a part of God's provision for families in our communities, please consider picking up a few groceries and bring them to the Mission. We prefer regular size packages since most of our pantry items go to families or individuals. We want to keep you safe as you support the ministry so please call us from your car when you arrive at 402-362-0127 and we will come out to you to get your donations.

If you prefer to send a donation, send to PO Box 328 in York, 68467 or PO Box 1604 in Columbus 68602 and designate to "Food for Families."

Household sizes please:

1lb or 2lb Packages of Hamburger

Hamburger Helper, Baked Beans, Canned Chicken, Tuna, Mayonnaise, Coffee & Creamer, Powdered or Boxed Milk Sugar, Canned Fruit, Ramen Noodles, Mac-n-Cheese