

Bethesda Mennonite Church
Henderson, Nebraska
Sunday, September 13, 2020, 9:30 a.m.
Fall Sermon Series: "When Life Ain't Fair"
Christian Formation Sunday

One of the first things that we learn as children is that things don't always seem fair. Sometimes an older sibling gets a scoop of ice cream that looks bigger or a friend gets a longer turn on the swing. As adults, we get passed over for promotions or recognition that we think we deserve. The Gospel is not merely personal, it is also social. Followers of Jesus are called to enact the sort of selfless love that Jesus exemplifies, even when people seem totally undeserving of it. The amazing grace that we gladly sing about for ourselves isn't always so easy to give to others - but it is the heart of the Christian community. As we grow in Christ, we learn how to love like Christ, especially when it is not fair.

Prelude Sandra Quiring, Pianist

Welcome & Call to Worship Pastor Gene Thieszen

"Come, Thou Almighty King" HWB 41
 (Children, please remain seated with your parents for the Children's Focus.)

Children's Focus Pastor Andrea Wall

First Graders Receive Bibles Pastor Andrea Wall
 Roddek Friesen McKinley Hiebner
 James Janzen Henry Peters

"Wonderful Grace of Jesus" (Verse 1, 3) HWB 150

Congregational Prayer Pastor Gene Thieszen

Scripture Reading: Matthew 18:21-35 (NRSV) Pastor Seth Miller
 Leader: This is the Word of God, for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God!

Message "The Math of Forgiveness" Pastor Seth Miller

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" (Verse 1, 3, 5) HWB 145

Prayer for Commissioning Tara Maltsberger
 Board of Education Chair
(See back of bulletin.)

Announcements Pastor Gene Thieszen

Offering to God: Local Church
(Offering may be given online through the Easy Tithe app on our website, using your banks online bill payment feature, mailed to Bethesda Mennonite Church, or dropped in the offering boxes at the doors as you exit.)

Benediction Pastor Seth Miller

"Lord, Let Us Now Depart in Peace" (Sing 1 time) HWB 428

Postlude Sandra Quiring

All are invited to participate in the Christian education hour.

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Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Phone: 402-723-4562 Email: bethesda@mainstaycomm.net or treasurer@bethesdamc.org Website: www.bethesdamc.org		

- When you are unable to attend worship, please join us by radio at KOOL 103.5 FM or by livestream at www.bethesdamc.org. Click the WATCH LIVE tab to view live services or click LIVESTREAM ARCHIVE to view previous services.
- Hearing Impaired Worshipers: If you need hearing assistance, feel free to sit in the front center seating to take advantage of our Hearing-Loop system. Williams units are also available in the rear of the sanctuary for your use.
- When you desire pastoral care outside of office hours, please call:
 - Pastor Seth Miller: 717-824-5998 (cell) or email seth.miller@bethesdamc.org
 - Pastor Gene Thieszen: 580-660-5796 (cell) or email pastor.gene95@gmail.com
 - Pastor Andrea Wall: 402-710-3195 (cell) or email andrea@mainstaycomm.net
- In addition to assistance from Bethesda pastors and deacons, domestic abuse support services are available to victims. Call (toll-free) 1-877-388-4673, 24 hours/day.

Prayer for Commissioning

Leader:

God of Creation, you have gifted these men and women with teaching skills, creativity, and curiosity.

We pray you would fill them with the power and compassion of your Holy Spirit.

Fill them with energy and insight into your Word, the story of your faithful heart.

Teachers (please stand):

I prayerfully and willingly commit myself to the call and task of teaching.

I accept these responsibilities and will do my best to serve you, God, and the congregation while remembering, you have not called us to be perfect.

You have called us to be faithful.

You have not called us to be all-knowing.

You have called us to believe.

Grant us wisdom, patience, and joy in our preparation and teaching of your Word.

Parents of Infants – High School (please stand):

I prayerfully and willingly commit to nurture my child's faith, encouraging them to come to an open confession of Jesus Christ.

I will trust in the Holy Spirit as I nurture their faith and my own so that together we will be enabled to seek, find, and know God.

Congregation:

God of hope guide each teacher and leader as they study your Word.

Strengthen the gifts you have given them and energize their compassion.

Provide safety and encouragement.

We commit to support them throughout the year.

May we share in their joy and times of difficulty.

All:

We commit ourselves, each to our part in this joyful task!

May your steadfast, faithful, covenant love guide all we do.

Amen.

