

BETHESDA MENNONITE CHURCH HISTORY

1874 - Present

- 1874** October 14: Arrival of the first 35 families from Molotschna, South Russia. Ministers were Benjamin Ratzlaff and Heinrich Epp.
- 1874** October 30: Reverend Benjamin Ratzlaff died.
- 1875** January 6: Elder Isaac Peters joined the group.
- 1875** May 16: First baptismal services were held.
- 1875** August: Reverend Gerhard Epp of Klippenfeld arrived.
- 1877** Fifteen families organized separately. Existed as a separate organization two years.
- 1878** Ministerial election. Elected were Cornelius Wall and Johann Kliewer as ministers, Heinrich Pankratz as deacon.
- 1880** Summer - first church building erected.
- 1882** A group with Elder Isaac Peters, Reverend Heinrich Epp and Reverend Cornelius Wall separated to organize a new (Ebenezer) Church.
- 1883** Reverend Johann Kliewer joined the (Ebenezer) Church.
- 1883** Ministerial election. Elected were Peter J. Friesen, Cornelius Regier and H.H. Epp.
- 1884** February 24: Peter J. Friesen and Cornelius Regier ordained as ministers and H.H. Epp as deacon. (Reverend Cornelius Regier served about two years.)
- 1885** October 25: Rev. P. J. Friesen ordained as elder.
- 1886** Election of Jacob Friesen as minister.
- 1888** December 26: First mission collection was taken.
- 1891** Church joined the Northern District Conference.
- 1891** March 8: Peter H. Pankratz elected as minister.
- 1891** August 16: Dietrich Peters elected as minister.
- 1892** Reverend Jacob Friesen moved to Minnesota.
- 1892** First Sunday School of Henderson community met in District 31 (Section 8, Henderson Township). It had four teachers and sixty pupils.
- 1893** Beginning of Sunday School in the Bethesda Church. First sessions were held in the afternoon.
- 1893** September 21: Reverend Gerhard Epp died.
- 1895** April 15: H. H. Epp, former deacon elected as minister, and Johann Abrahams as deacon.
- 1895** December 29: Organization of first Young People's Society. This society existed for only a few years.
- 1898** January 11: organization of the Mission Sewing Society.
- 1901** November 1: D. A. Janzen elected a deacon, Johann Abrahams having joined the M. B. Church.
- 1902** May 18: D. A. Janzen ordained as deacon.
- 1902** The parochial school was built.
- 1903-04** First year of instruction in parochial school. Rev. C. Hege and J. J. Friesen were the first teachers.
- 1904-43** During these years the following served as teachers in the parochial school: F. G. Pankratz, J. S. Regier, Rev. C. Hege, H. D. Epp, Albert Dahlke, A. W. Friesen, Johann Siemens, G. J. Toews, J. R. Barkman, Cornelius Wall, Ted Schmidt, John R. Dueck and A. H. Schultz.
- 1904** July 30: J. H. Epp ordained as missionary to the Indians in Oklahoma.
- 1904** December 26: Reverend Dietrich Peters died.
- 1906** Erection of new church building in the town of Henderson.
- 1906** July 31: Laying of cornerstone for the new church.
- 1906** First church choir organized.
- 1906** December 16: Dedication of new church.

1908 December 1: Twenty-fifth anniversary celebration of Reverend P.J. Friesen as minister and elder.
1908 December 4: Ministerial election; elected were H. D. Epp and F. G. Pankratz.
1909 March 20: Elder P.J. Friesen died.
1909 June 6: Ordination of F.G. Pankratz.
1910 January 9: Reorganization of the Young People's Society.
1910 June 5: Ordination of H.D. Epp as assistant minister.
1910 June 6: Election of H.H. Epp as elder.
1910 August: F.G. Pankratz moved to Kansas.
1910 November 6: H.H. Epp ordained as elder.
1915 September 19: P.J. Boehr ordained as missionary to China.
1916 March 19: Ministerial election, J.F. Epp and A.W. Friesen as assistant ministers.
1916 October 1: Ordination of J.F. Epp and A.W. Friesen as assistant ministers.
1917 May 28: The Selective Service Act was passed by Congress. This act contained no definite provision for the conscientious objector.
1917 June 5: Registration of all young men between the ages of twenty-one to thirty inclusive. Under the above act twelve, (eight members and four sons of members) left home for service. All of these were privileged to return safe and sound.
1921 June 26: Ordination of H.D. Epp, John F. Epp, and A.W. Friesen into the full ministry.
1923 June 24: John D. Epp, ordained as an elder, being called to serve the church in Inman, Kansas.
1924 Reverend H.H. Epp resigns as elder.
1924 March 16: Reverend J.F. Epp elected as elder.
1924 November 23: Reverend J.F. Epp ordained as elder.
1925 January: Organization of Junior Mission Society, now Young Women's Mission Society.
1928 October 28: Organization of a Junior Young People's Society.
1930 D.A. Janzen resigned as deacon.
1930 February 4: B.A. Friesen elected as deacon.
1930 April 18: B.A. Friesen ordained as deacon.
1931 March 16: Enlarging of church, excavation of basement began.
1931 May 1: Cornerstone laying for the new addition.
1931 August 28: Church burned. Fire discovered at 1 a.m. Carpentry work had been completed and painters had worked one day.
1931 September 24: Cornerstone laying for new church after the fire.
1932 March 6: New church dedicated.
1933 March 13: Reverend H.H. Epp, former elder died.
1933 May 10: Reverend Peter H. Pankratz died.
1934 January 1: Reverend J.F. Epp resigned as elder.
1934 July 24: The trustees proposed the following recommendations: After this, the elder of our church is not to be elected for an indefinite time, but instead for a period of three (3) years. This recommendation was accepted by vote instead for a period of three (3) years. This recommendation was accepted by vote (Translation).
1935 March 4: Reverend A.W. Friesen elected as elder.
1935 May 5: Reverend A.W. Friesen ordained as elder.
1937 August 19: Dedication of Immigration Marker.
1938 December 29: Reverend A.W. Friesen elected as elder for another period of three years.
1939 February 15: D.A. Janzen, former deacon, died.
1940 September 14: Burke-Wadsworth Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 was passed by Congress. This act contains definite provisions for the conscientious objector.

1940 October 16: Registration of all male citizens between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-six with local Selective Service Boards.

1941 December 11: Reverend A.W. Friesen elected elder for another period of three years. Under the Burke-Wadsworth Selective Training Service Act of 1940, seventy-seven (sixty members and seventeen sons of members), were called into service. Of these, all except one were privileged to return uninjured. One lost his life when the allies entered Europe.

1942 February 8: The Mennonite Hymnary was officially adopted as regular song book of the church.

1942 November 8: Hugo Mierau ordained as an elder.

1943 August 8: Arnold Epp ordained as an elder accepted the charge in the church at Burrton, Kansas.

1944 June 18: The church constitution as revised and translated into the English language was presented to the congregation as a whole and accepted.

1944 August 10: Memorial services for Herbert Kroeker who was killed in action in France on July 9, 1944.

1944 August 20: Alfred Regier ordained as Minister of the Gospel, having accepted the pastorate in the Calvary Mennonite Church, Mechanics Grove, Pennsylvania.

1944 December 12: Reverend A.W. Friesen was elected for a further term of three years.

1946 June 9: The loudspeaker system was dedicated and used for the first time in church service.

1946 October 8: Special church meeting was held in which the proposal was made by the Ministerial Council to have during the regular Sunday School hour, a class in Religious Instruction (age 15), a class in Church History (age 16), and a Teacher's Training class (age optional). This proposal was accepted.

1947 October 1: The Bethesda Church library opened in the evening for the purpose of loaning books and also of offering an evening for reading in the library. The library is to be open every Wednesday evening.

1947 October 19: Aaron Epp was ordained as an elder. He has accepted a charge in Inman, Kansas.

1947 November 30: Reverend A.W. Friesen requested not to be considered as a candidate for reelection. Reverend Friesen has served as elder since 1935.

1948 January 1: Reverend J.F. Epp was asked to serve as temporary elder until the position can be filled with a regular elder.

1948 April 18: Farewell service for Reverend and Mrs. A.W. Friesen, who were about to leave for Paraguay, South America, was held.

1948 June: Reverend Arnold Nickel was engaged to serve as assistant minister for the months of June, July and August.

1948 June 24: The Selective Service Act of 1948 became law. This law specified that men between the ages of 19 through 25 may be called for service.

1948 August 12: At a special church meeting Reverend Arnold Nickel was elected to serve as elder for a period of three years beginning September 1.

1948 August 12: Decided to build a parsonage.

1948 Erna Friesen has been appointed to serve as General Director of the General Conference Voluntary Service projects.

1948 September 12: At the regular morning hour, installation service for Reverend Arnold Nickel as elder was observed.

1948 August 30 to September 18: Men born after 9-30-22 and before 9-30-30 were asked to register under Selective Service Act of 1948.

1949 May 15: Dedication of parsonage.

1949 July: The Christian Youth Fellowship was organized.

1949 October 23: Reverend and Mrs. A.W. Friesen's first Sunday at home after their return from an 18 month service in Paraguay, S.A.

1950 September 1: Reverend Arnold Nickel was granted a nine months leave in order to finish his seminary course.

1950 September 3: Reverend John Thiessen, missionary to India and on furlough at present, has been granted permission to serve our church during the absence of Reverend Arnold Nickel.

1950 November: The Men's Brotherhood was organized.

1951 June 3: Reverend Arnold Nickel has finished his seminary course and is continuing his work as pastor of the church.

1951 August 7: At a special church meeting, arrangements were made concerning the financing of a Bible School. The plan is to offer to 8th grade graduates a term of nine months instruction in Bible, church history and related subjects.

1951 August 7: Reverend Arnold Nickel was elected pastor by a large majority for another term of three years.

1951 October 17: Reverend John F. Epp died suddenly towards evening. In the afternoon he had taken part in the funeral services of Mrs. John Gade.

1951 December: The Junior Youth Fellowship was organized.

1952 February 5: A special church meeting was held concerning questions arising with the continuance of the Bible School and more intensive religious instruction for the young people. To aid in the offering of more religious instruction, Arthur Isaak was elected to serve as assistant to the pastor.

1952 July 13: Arthur Isaak was installed as assistant to the pastor.

1952 December: To accommodate a greater number and to distribute the work more widely, the Young Women's Mission Society was divided into two groups. These two groups are known now as Mission Circle II and Mission Circle III respectively. The Senior Mission Society is now known as Mission Circle I.

1953 Early Spring: The Young Married Couples Fellowship was organized.

1953 May 10: The electric organ was dedicated in a special evening service. Walter Jost, music instructor from Freeman College, performed at the organ.

1954 At the annual business meeting, January 1, the church extended a call to Reverend Arthur Isaak to serve another year beginning July 1 as assistant to the pastor.

1954 July 18: Harold Thieszen was ordained as Minister of the Gospel. He is serving the Bethel Church in South Dakota.

1954 August 24: Reverend Arnold Nickel was reelected by a good majority for another term of three years.

1955 January 1: At the annual meeting the church voted by a large majority to continue the position of assistant to the pastor from which Reverend Arthur Isaak has resigned.

1955 March 25: At a special church meeting, John Gaeddert was elected assistant to the Pastor for a term of two years beginning sometime in July.

1955 August: Don Klippenstein and his wife Elisabeth left for a three-year term to serve in Korea.

1955 August 21: Reverend John Gaeddert was installed as Assistant to the Pastor during the morning service.

1955 August 24: William P. Siebert, member of the Spiritual Advisory Committee, was killed in a tractor accident.

1956 March 6: At a special church meeting, the congregation voted for the building of a new sanctuary. The vote was 162 for and 129 against.

1956 April 8: Reverend Arnold Nickel tendered his resignation this morning at the close of the service. The resignation to become effective August 15. He has accepted a position at Freeman College as instructor in Bible.

1956 September 16: Dedication service for a second parsonage (a gift by a church family).

1956 December 23: After the morning service the congregation by a large majority vote, invited Reverend and Mrs. J.R. Duerksen to serve as interim pastor.

1957 January 3: Ground-breaking exercises for the new church were conducted in the afternoon.

1957 April 25: At a special session of the congregation Reverend John Gaeddert was reelected by a large majority to serve as associate pastor for a term of three years.

1957 July 21: At 7:00 p.m. the cornerstone for the new Bethesda Mennonite Church was laid.

1957 September 23: At a special session of the congregation, Reverend John Gaeddert was elected to serve as elder and Reverend J.R. Duerksen to serve as associate pastor of the church. Each received a large majority vote.

1957 December 8: Reverend John Gaeddert was ordained as elder in an afternoon service. His uncle Reverend Albert Gaeddert officiated.

1958 May 4: Dedication services of the new church were conducted. A short service was held in the old church in the forenoon. Reverend Abe M. Wiebe, president of the Northern District, spoke on "God Met Us." Then the congregation went to the front of the new church, the presentation of the keys was made, and the congregation moved into the new sanctuary. In the afternoon Reverend Erland Waltner, president of the General Conference, spoke the dedicatory sermon, "A Spiritual House of God." The theme for the evening service was; "The Church in the World." Reverend Erland Waltner and Reverend John Thiessen were the speakers.

1958 June 2: The final dismantling of the church school house was completed and the material was sold by auction. The proceeds from the sale were \$1,280.00. This building was built in 1902. Its purpose as stated in the catalogue of 1904-1905 was: "To give our youth an opportunity to expand in the knowledge already obtained, to acquaint it with the duties of life and through the acquisition of accurate knowledge, prepare it for the same, to retain and to promote Christian religion, and to prepare suitable teachers for our community" (Translation).

1958 August 11: At a special church meeting Reverend J.R. Duerksen was elected by a good majority to serve as associate pastor for another year.

1958 November 23: Reverend J.R. Duerksen's resignation as associate pastor was read after the service on Sunday morning. He has accepted the call to the Willow Creek Church near Paso Robles, California. When Reverend Duerksen was elected for another year of service as associate, it was understood, that if a call to some other needy church came, he would not need to feel bound to fill out the year.

1958 December 26: Reverend J.R. Duerksen gave his last sermon. On the following day they left for Moundridge, Kansas, en route to Paso Robles, California.

1959 April 4: With a vote of 4 to 1 it was decided to continue the order of Sunday service, worship service first and Sunday School second.

1959 May 26: Bernhard Ratzlaff arrived in our community. He will be assistant to Reverend John Gaeddert during the summer months.

1959 October 2: The church voted almost unanimously to call Reverend Paul Isaak as associate pastor of our church for a period of two years.

1959 October 2: The revision of the church constitution was presented for adoption. The vote was 222 for and 5 against its adoption.

1959 December 27: Installation of Reverend Paul Isaak as associate pastor was observed during the morning service.

1960 June 16-19: The 67th session of the Northern District Conference met in our church.

1960 August 23: At a church meeting Reverend John Gaeddert was elected, with a large majority vote, for another term of three years.

1960 August 23: At a church meeting, by a small majority, it was decided to have our morning service broadcast over York, KAWL. The financing was left on a voluntary basis.

1961 April 9: The church bulletin reported this morning that the special collection of last Sunday overpaid the church building debt by \$903.00.

1961 August 8: Reverend Paul Isaak was reelected, by a good majority, as associate pastor for a period of three years.

1962 August 20: At a special congregational meeting, the preliminary building committee presented their report on the educational building. The vote 232 in favor and 159 opposed was for the building of this unit as soon as possible.

1962 September 7-8: Fellowship was organized.

1963 March 11: Service of Dismantling and Cornerstone Opening of former church.

1963 March 17: Ground-breaking service after the morning service for the Educational Building.

1963 May 3: At a special church meeting Reverend John Gaeddert was elected, with a majority well above the two-third vote specified by our constitution, for another term of three years.

1963 June 16: Clayton Peters commissioning service. He will serve under the MCC as dentist in the Congo, Africa.

1963 July 28: Commissioning service for Evelyn Fast who will serve in Quito, Ecuador.

1963 August 11: Date stone and Cornerstone service for the Educational Building.

1963 August 19: Reverend John Gaeddert and family left for 9 month leave to attend the Mennonite Biblical Seminary at Elkhart, Indiana.

1963 September: Reverend John Thiessen accepted to serve our church during the absence of Reverend John Gaeddert.

1964 February 16: Commissioning service for Gladys Siebert who will serve in Taiwan.

1964 June 14: Reverend John Gaeddert and family returned from Elkhart, Indiana, after nine months of study.

1964 July 5: Dedication of the Educational Unit. Reverend Arnold Nickel gave the message and Reverend John Gaeddert spoke the dedicatory prayer.

1964 September 14: At a congregational meeting Reverend Paul Isaak's term of service was extended from December, 1964 to August 15, 1965.

1964 October 11: Reverend Paul Isaak's resignation was read from the pulpit this morning to be effective January 15, 1965. He is going to the First Mennonite Church, Newton, Kansas.

1965 March 8: At a special congregational meeting the church invited Reverend Abe Krause to the position of Associate Pastor for a period of three (3) years.

1965 March 28: The resignation of Reverend John Gaeddert was read this morning to be effective July 31. Reverend Gaeddert is planning to go to Africa under the direction of the MCC.

1965 June 4: At a special congregational meeting the church invited Reverend Walter H. Dyck to the position of Pastor for a period of three (3) years.

1965 August 1: Installation service for Reverend Walter H. Dyck as pastor and for Reverend Abe Krause as Associate Pastor.

1967 June 15-18: The 74th session of the Northern District Conference met in our church.

1968 March 26: At a special congregational meeting the church extended the call to Reverend Walter H. Dyck to serve as pastor and Reverend Abe Krause to serve as associate pastor for another three years.

1968 May 26: Dedication service for the new Smith pipe organ (installed in January). The dedicatory recital was played by Philip Kroeker.

1968 May 27: Final payment made for the Educational Unit.

1968 June 7: At a special congregational meeting the church decided to add an associate pastor; one of the associates to serve as Minister of Christian Education.

1968 September 22: Following the morning service, the congregation voted to engage Reverend Willard K. Claassen as Christian Education Consultant (served from September 29 to November 7).

1970 February: C.C. Siebert retired after 14 years of service as church custodian.

1970 February 23: Reverend Heinrich D. Epp, retired minister, died.

1970 May 14: Gladys Siebert arrived home on furlough after serving six years at the Mennonite Christian Hospital in Taiwan.

1970 July 26: Darrell Fast was ordained as an elder by the Reverend John Gaeddert.

1970 November 8: At a special congregational meeting, the church invited Hedy Sawadsky to the position of Director of Christian Education for an initial two (2) year term.

1970 December: The residence of Mrs. C.A. Peters has been given to the church to be used as a parsonage.

1971 February 21: Hedy Sawadsky was installed as Director of Christian Education during the morning worship service.

1971 April 18: At a special congregational meeting, the church extended the call to Reverend Abe Krause to serve as Associate Pastor for another three years. Reverend Walter H. Dyck's term was not renewed.

1971 May 2: A dedication service for the new Mennonite Hymnal with J. Harold Moyer as guest speaker and Mrs. Esko Loewen as organist.

1971 May 2: Farewell service for Gladys Siebert who is returning to Taiwan for a second term of mission service. Her departure was delayed until August, due to the illness of her father.

1971 June 13: A dedication service for the newly acquired parsonage. (The former parsonage No. 2 was sold with proceeds given to missions.)

1971 July 5: The Ministerial Council asked Pastor Abe Krause to assume all pastoral responsibilities when Pastor Walter H. Dyck's term expires.

1971 July 11: Farewell for Reverend and Mrs. Walter H. Dyck, who are moving to another pastorate in Illinois.

1971 November 28: Commissioning service for Clarence and Amanda Rempel who are entering a short term mission service in Europe serving under the Gospel Missionary Union.

1972 January 2: The church invited missionary Benjamin J. Sawatzky to serve as Assistant Pastor from January 15 to August 31.

1972 January 23: Pastor Benjamin Sawatzky was installed as Assistant Pastor.

1972 May 7: The church elected Pastor Benjamin Sawatzky as pastor for a three-year term beginning September 1.

1972 June 15-18: The 79th session of the Northern District Conference met in our church.

1972 June 18: Reverend Benjamin Sawatzky was ordained as an elder with Reverend Walter Goering officiating.

1972 October 1: The church extended the call to Hedy Sawadsky to serve as Director of Christian Education for another term of two years.

1972 December 27: The revision of the church constitution was presented for adoption. The vote was 163 for and 52 against its adoption.

1973 July 1: Delvyn and Lucille Epp were commissioned for missionary service in Japan.

1973 September 23: Hedy Sawadsky submitted her resignation to be effective at the end of the year.

1974 Centennial year of celebration.

1974 February 24: Centennial pageant: "By Faith they went Forth," written by H.D. Epp.

1974 March 31: Centennial Community Chorus with brass and organ accompaniment.

1974 August 11: Homecoming Sunday.

1974 October 13: Henderson Centennial Memorial Service and unveiling of Historical Marker.

1975 A year of Jubilee celebrating 450 years of Anabaptist heritage. (Members were encouraged to reduce food consumption by 10% and donate this amount to the world hungry).

1975 January 19: Congregation voted upon recommendation of Ministerial Council to grant Pastor Benjamin Sawatzky a four month leave to serve under Mennonite Central Committee, India. At the

same meeting congregation voted to call Reverend Waldo Kaufman to serve in the absence of Pastor Sawatzky.

1975 February 1: Pastor Benjamin and Mrs. Sawatzky together with Margaret and Monroe left for India for a four month assignment under MCC to assist in relief work projects.

1975 February 1: Mahendra Kumar, pastor from General Conference Church in India, came as guest pastor for four months to gain practical in-service experience under auspices of Commission on Overseas Missions.

1975 April 20: Congregation approved recommendation of Business Administration Board to cancel unpaid church assessments in keeping with the spirit of the Year of Jubilee.

1975 June 17: At a congregational meeting, Pastor Benjamin Sawatzky was reelected to continue service as pastor.

1975 June 17: Reverend Waldo Kaufman elected to a three year term beginning September 1.

1975 July: Gladys Siebert arrived home on furlough after serving four years as missionary at Mennonite Christian Hospital in Taiwan.

1975 July 8: Former long-time deacon, Bernhard A. Friesen, died suddenly.

1975 September 14: Pastor Waldo Kaufman formally installed as pastor during Sunday morning service.

1975 October 31: Dennis and Shirley Ries left for their first term of mission service in Zaire under African Inter-Mennonite Missions.

1976 April 4: Pastor Abraham Krause submitted resignation to accept a call to the Buhler Mennonite Church, Buhler, Kansas.

1976 May 30: The former Bethesda Cemetery Association transferred their property to the Bethesda Mennonite Church. It is now known officially as Bethesda Mennonite Church Cemetery.

1976 June 17-20: The 83rd session of the Northern District Conference convened in Bethesda Mennonite Church.

1976 July 11: Farewell for Pastor and Mrs. Abraham Krause and daughters who are moving to Buhler, Kansas.

1976 August 30: Gladys Siebert returned to Hwaiien, Taiwan for her third term as a missionary nurse.

1976 October 3: Brian Epp was ordained as Elder in the Halbstadt Mennonite Church, Manitoba. He is serving the Halbstadt and Rosenfeld Mennonite Churches, Manitoba, Canada.

1976 November 10: At a special congregational meeting, Reverend Russell Mast was extended a call to serve as co-pastor for a period of three years.

1977 April 24: Reverend Russell L. Mast was installed as co-pastor during the morning worship service. A reception was held in the afternoon for Reverend and Mrs. Mast.

1978 May 28: At a congregational meeting following the regular Sunday morning worship service it was decided not to extend Pastor Waldo Kaufman's service another term.

1978 May 28: Rosella Epp was installed as Associate Pastor in the Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, Wichita, Kansas.

1978 August 27: Farewell for Pastor and Mrs. Waldo Kaufman.

1978 December 3: Maranatha Fellowship in Lincoln had charter membership service, Clarence Rempel installed as pastor.

1978 December 24: Reverend Russell Mast submitted his resignation to accept a call to the Salem Zion Mennonite Church, Freeman, SD.

1979 January 7: Pastor Benjamin Sawatzky submitted his resignation to be effective April 15, 1979.

1979 February 9 and 10: Mid-triennium Conference of the General Conference held in Minneapolis, MN, to consider Christian avenues in regard to taxes used for military purposes.

1979 April 10: Board of Deacons appointed Reverend Ward Shelly to serve Bethesda as interim pastor for two years beginning approximately July 1. Congregation indicated support.

1979 April 22: Evening of appreciation for Reverend Benjamin and Mrs. Sawatzky.

1979 May 27: Farewell for Reverend Russell L. and Mrs. Mast.

1979 July 8: Reverend Ward W. Shelly installed as Interim Pastor.

1979 August 12: Board of Deacons appointed Reverend Brian Epp as interim Youth Pastor for two years beginning September 1. Congregation indicated support.

1979 September 9: Installation of Brian Epp as Interim Youth Pastor.

1980 February 13: Reverend Albert H. Epp elected as Senior Pastor for a three-year term to begin March 1, 1981.

1980 March 1: Mr. and Mrs. Carl Epp left for a year of voluntary service in the Dominican Republic rebuilding a town destroyed by hurricane.

1980 March 14: James Hieb left for voluntary service in St. Louis, Missouri.

1980 June 1: James Janzen left for two years voluntary service in Atlanta, Georgia.

1980 July: Young men born in 1960 or 1961 are by law required to register for peacetime draft. There is no provision on the registration form to indicate conscientious objection to war.

1980 August 3: The 100th anniversary of the building of our first church structure was observed.

1980 August 4: Victoria Peters left for a year of voluntary service in Markham, Illinois.

1980 November 9: Mr. and Mrs. Randy Franz left during the week for a year of Mennonite Disaster Service at Lake Elsinore, California.

1981 January 5: Pastor Brian Epp was elected to a three-year term as Youth Pastor.

1981 March 1: Pastor Albert H. Epp installed as senior pastor. Reverend Roland Goering of Salem Mennonite Church, Freeman, South Dakota officiated. In the evening a welcome social for the Epps was held.

1981 April: Parsonage number one sold.

1981 July 12: Gladys Siebert left for Taiwan for another term as nurse under Commission on Overseas Missions.

1981 November: The bell tower completed using bell from the former parochial school.

1982 January 29-30: Mennonite Central Committee Annual meeting held in Bethesda.

1982 April 25: Pastor Ward W. Shelly's resignation effective November 1.

1982 June: Randall Quiring left for two-year voluntary service with Eastern Mennonite Mission Board. Calvin Ott left for one-year term of voluntary service with General Conference at Seattle, Washington. Cordell Ratzlaff left for one-year term of voluntary service at Markham, Illinois General Conference Voluntary Service Unit.

1982 September: Ivan Friesen left for two-year voluntary service term with Mennonite Central Committee Canner.

1982 September 21: Charles Epp was indicted by a Grand Jury in Kansas City for refusing to register for the draft even though for reasons of conscience.

1982 October 31: Farewell service for Pastor and Mrs. Ward W. Shelly.

1982 November 14: Reverend Benjamin and Leona Sawatzky, former pastors, commissioned for Mennonite Central Committee work in India, left during week of Nov. 18.

1983 June 16-19: The 90th session of the Northern District Conference met in our church.

1984 January 15: Pastor Albert H. Epp elected for another three-year term as Senior Pastor; term begins March 1, 1984.

1984 June 3: Pastor Brian Epp elected for another three-year term; term begins September 1, 1984.

1984 June 25: Halfway through the trial of the government vs. Charles Epp for refusing to register under the selective service act, the government requested the case be dismissed.

1984 July: Dennis and Shirley Ries returned from Zaire after two terms as medical missionaries under African Inter-Mennonite Missions.

1984 August 1: Eugene Thieszen left for Botswana, Africa for a three-year term as a pilot under "Mennonite Ministries" a joint ministry of Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission and Mennonite Central

Committee. He will be seconded to "Flying Missions" a missionary organization set up by the Scottish surgeon, Dr. McArthur.

1984 September 1: Charles Epp entered a two year voluntary service term with Mennonite Central Committee to work in Washington, D.C. for the World Peace Tax Fund and the National Interreligious Service Board for conscientious objectors.

1984 November 13: Reverend A.W. Friesen, long time elder, actively serving Bethesda Church for 32 years, died Tuesday, November 13.

1985 January 20: A recommendation to call Bernard Thiessen as minister of visitation did not receive a two-thirds majority vote of the congregation.

1985 February 5: Carl and Ruth Epp left for a term of service with Mennonite Central Committee in Honduras working with Salvadorian refugees.

1985 June 2: General Conference 125th anniversary observed.

1985 June 3: Nancy Buller left for a one year voluntary service with General Conference in Wichita, Kansas.

1985 First week in July, Gladys Siebert returned from Mission field in Taiwan.

1986 January 12: Congregational meeting called to act on recommendation from Board of Deacons to add Bernard Thiessen to pastoral staff. Recommendation failed to receive two-thirds majority.

1986 December 1: Gladys Siebert returned to mission field in Taiwan.

1987 January 11: A Community Centennial Worship Service was held at Bethesda with the pastors and choirs of the four local churches participating.

1987 January 18: Pastor Albert H. Epp reelected for another three years.

1987 February 22: The Herman J. Epps resigned as janitors after 22 years of service.

1987 June 7: Pastor Brian K. Epp reelected for another three year term.

1987 August 2: Seven former pastors attended Homecoming Sunday: Art Isaac, John Gaeddert, Walter Dyck, Abe Krause, Waldo Kaufman, Ben Sawatzky and Ward Shelly.

1987 August 30: Nancy Peters left for two years of voluntary Service in Atlanta, Georgia under Mennonite Central Committee.

1987 October 1: Robert O. Epp left for a year of service in Nicaragua and Guatemala under WITNESS FOR PEACE.

1988 January 15: Eugene Thieszen, mission pilot, returned to Botswana.

1988 May 1: Huldah E. Friesen left for a 5-week visit to Bogota and Cachipay, Colombia, S.A. where she once served seven years with COM.

1988 June 19: The first joint conference of Northern District and the IA-NE Conference of Mennonites was held at Bethesda.

1989 January: Darrin Preheim left for a 9 month term of VS in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

1989 April: Carl and Ruth Epp left for a 9-month term of service with MCC in Nicaragua.

1989 Matthew Friesen, Junior at Bethel College from Dallas, Oregon, served as Summer Intern.

1989 November 6: Gladys Siebert, COM-missionary to Hualien, Taiwan since 1964, died of cancer.

1989 November 26: Pastor Albert Epp announced that he was not a candidate for reelection in 1990. Board of Deacons announced the extension of his term of service to Pentecost Sunday, June 3, 1990.

1990 February: Gladys Siebert Memorial Fund Drive for Mennonite Christian Hospital, Hwalien, Taiwan.

1990 May 13: The church elected Pastor Jason Martin to serve as Interim Pastor for approximately 18 months, beginning August 1.

1990 June 3: Farewell for Pastor Albert and Joan Epp.

1990 June 10: Pastor Brian Epp elected as Associate Pastor for 2-year term.

1990 June 10: Matthew C. Friesen began serving as Summer Youth Intern, for the second summer.

1990 August 19: Pastor Jason Martin was installed as Interim Pastor, with Reverend Ernest Neufeld, Conference Minister, officiating. Reverend Orlando Goering representing Northern District Committee on Ministry gave the message.

1990 November: Victoria Epp entered a two-year MVS term with Victim Offenders Reconciliation Program in Seattle, WA.

1991 April 21: Steering Committee led church in a questionnaire evaluation.

1991 June 2: Congregational decision to create a fourth pastor position, Family Life Minister.

1991 June: Matthew Tschetter, Freeman, SD Junior at Eastern Mennonite College, served as Summer Intern.

1991 July 14: Congregational decision to eliminate mandatory dues and assessments and to use a voluntary system of giving.

1991 August 22: Joel Schroeder begins 2-year term as Youth Minister.

1991 November 17: First deacon election under new system where congregation is nominating body.

1991 November: Congregational goals were set, and assigned to our council, boards, and committees.

1991 Roy Smith served seven months with MDS in South Carolina and Louisiana.

1992 February 2: Congregation called Pastor Brian Epp for an additional two years as our Associate Pastor until September 1, 1994 with Lead Pastor's duties until a new Lead Pastor is found.

1992 March 8: Congregation called Pastors John L. and Marcia Yoder-Schrock for a three year term as our new Family Life Ministers until April 14, 1995.

1992 March 22: Congregation adopted a revised Constitution and By-Laws which provides for a congregation moderator and a congregation secretary, to be elected by the congregation and to become members of the Church Council.

1992 March 29: A farewell service was held for Jason and Mary Martin. Pastor Martin concluded his term as Interim Pastor.

1992 June 7: Installation services for John L. and Marcia Yoder-Schrock were held with Robert Hartzler, ND Conference Minister and Orlando Goering, ND Conference Ministerial Committee Representative, officiating.

1992 July 26: The congregation decided to implement a computerized central treasury system by 1993. Berdine Buller was hired as Central Treasurer.

1992 Summer: Former missionary Eugene Thieszen returned to Botswana, Africa, under COM serving as Bible teacher to pastors of the African Independent Churches. Service workers leaving for a one year assignment were Carmen Pauls to Israel, and Patrick Preheim to Germany. Leaving for a four month period at MCC-Akron were John and Susie Buller. Robert O. Epp served various lengths of time delivering relief supplies with Pastors for Peace caravan to Nicaragua and Cuba, and as a Peace witness in El Salvador helping resettle refugees.

1993 January: A new pictorial church directory was printed.

1993 January: Jac Thiessen began a position with the UNL Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship in Lincoln.

1993 February: Northern District LIFE process adopted. Coordinators: Phyllis and Eugene Friesen, Connie Friesen, Vernelle Epp and Pastor Brian Epp.

1993 February: Voluntary offering schedule adopted; assessments dropped.

1993 February: \$20,000 was collected for a truck for Eugene Thieszen's use in Botswana.

1993 April: Joel Schroeder's Youth Minister position was extended until August 21, 1996.

1993 August 22: Ground breaking/dedication of MCC House Against Hunger at 703 Parkview Court, Henderson.

1993 September 1 - December 31: Carmen Pauls served as Children's Pastor in a Ministry Inquiry position.

1993 September: A Women's Choir was organized with Sandra Quiring as director.

1993 September: Patrick Preheim began an Interim Youth Ministry position at Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton, KS.

1993 Fall: Alvin Doell retires as missionary in Spain.

1993 October: Tara (Siebert) Swartzendruber began a one-year term with the Inter-Menno Program in Enkenbach-Alsenborn, Germany.

1993 November: Dr. Merlin and Rita Friesen and daughters began a two-year VS service assignment at Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

1994 May: **Hymnal, A Worship Book** song book was dedicated. Pastor Brian Epp reelected to serve a 2 year term as Associate Pastor.

1994 June: ND IA/NE Conference at Bethesda.

1994 July: MCC "House Against Hunger" sold for \$95,000. "Mirror of the Martyrs" displayed in Fellowship Hall.

1994 August: Ruth Peters hired as Office Manager.

1994 September: Children's Jubilee Sunday School curriculum dedicated.

1994 October: Pastors John and Marcia Yoder-Schrock reelected as Family Life Ministers for 3 years. Ruby and Bernard Thiessen participate in the 30th anniversary of Mennonite Church at Kobe, Japan.

1995 January: Youth Minister Joel and wife Kay Schroeder attended Interterm at AMBS.

1995 May: "Welcome to Our Worship" pads introduced to congregation. Weldon Martens elected as Lead Pastor for a 3-year term beginning Sept. 1 to Aug. 31, 1998. Tina Doell, a junior at Bethel College, participated in the "Ministry Inquiry" program at Bethesda.

1995 June: Robert O. Epp participated in Christian Peacemakers Team in Haiti.

1995 July: Eugene Thieszen arrived home from Botswana mission field for North American assignment. Mary Franz left for a 1-year term of voluntary service with "Common Ground" at Dallas, TX.

1995 August: Peter J. Dyck was our special speaker to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of MCC.

1995 September: Weldon Martens installed as Lead Pastor at Bethesda. Christopher Epp ordained as Minister of the Gospel at Youth with a Mission, Elm Springs, AR.

1995 October: Eugene R. Thieszen ordained to the Ministry of the Gospel at Bethesda. He is serving as a missionary in Botswana, Africa.

1995 December: Pastor Joel Schroeder elected to serve his second 3-year term as Youth Minister until August 21, 1999.

1995 December: Dr. Merlin and Rita Friesen completed a 2-year term of service at Porcupine, SD.

1996 February: Missionary Eugene Thieszen returned to Botswana, Africa.

1996 February: Ruth Peters resigned as Office Manager.

1996 March: Tara Swartzendruber hired as Office Manager.

1996 March 17: Pastor Brian Epp submitted his resignation effective August 31.

1996 April 28: Service of Licensing held for Youth Minister, Joel Schroeder.

1996 July 24: Youth and six sponsors spent a week of service in Denver working with the DOOR Project.

1996 August 1: Martha R. Friesen resigned as part-time custodian.

1996 August 25: Pastor Brian Epp preached his farewell sermon, followed by a service of closure and dinner in Fellowship Hall.

1996 September: Pastor Joel & Kay Schroeder left for a semester of study at AMBS, Elkhart, IN.

1996 September 8: Carmen Pauls commissioned for a 3-year term of service in Jerusalem with MCC as a Peace Development worker.

1996 October: Communication via e-mail can now reach Bethesda staff at bethesda@mainstaycomm.net

1996 November 1: Carmen Bowen hired as part time custodian.

1996 November: Robert and Carl Epp spent 3 weeks in Chiapas, Mexico with Christian Peacemaker Team delegation leaders.

1996 December 1: Dedication Service held for south transept Stained Glass window.

1997 April: Audrun and Wanda Siebert are the first delegates for the Mission Inquiry Program of Bethesda. They visited Eugene Thieszen in Botswana, Africa.

1997 May: Derek Yoder serves at Bethesda for eleven weeks under the Ministry Inquiry Program.

1997 August 9-20: Robert O. Epp leads a 12 member Christian Peacemaker Team to Chiapas, Mexico.

1997 November 2: Pastors John and Marcia Yoder-Schrock accept a call for their third three-year term as Family Life Ministers.

1997 November 23: Patrick Preheim, former member, licensed for Pastoral Ministry. Patrick and his wife Patty Friesen an ordained pastor, serve as Co-Pastors at Faith Mennonite Church, Minneapolis, MN.

1997 November: Jacob E. Friesen, head custodian for 12 years, resigned his position.

1997 December: Denese Hiebner hired as full time custodian beginning January 1, 1998.

1998 January: Pastor John Yoder-Schrock and Keith Hiebner went to Israel with a Bethel College study tour.

1998 January: Kevin J. Friesen left for 11 weeks of language study in Guatemala.

1998 February 3-9: International Visitor Exchange Program Conference at Bethesda.

1998 April: Established fund for pick-up truck for Kek'chi Mennonite Building Project in Guatemala.

1998 April: Mission Inquiry and Emissary (MIE) funds were used to send Pastor Weldon Martens and daughter Laurel to Botswana.

1998 August 30: Sonya Pauls commissioned for Mennonite Voluntary Service at a Day Care in Hutchinson, Kansas.

1998 September: The Bethesda Preschool began with 16 students. Gina Mestl is the director/teacher and Tami Peters is also a teacher.

1998 September 6: Pastor Joel Schroeder, Youth Minister, ordained to the Ministry.

1999 January 3: Sara Thieszen commissioned for a 2-year term voluntary of service with "For the Love of Children" in Washington, D.C.

1999 January: Fund for roof repair for the sanctuary established.

1999 January 5: Sylvia and Daniel Rogers begin assignment in Quito, Ecuador for three-year term.

1999 February: Eugene Thieszen returns home from Botswana Africa for a 4 month North American assignment, followed by one year Sabbatical. During this time he was hired by Bethesda to establish a prayer ministry beginning August 15. On December 5, Eugene was elected as Interim Pastor to serve until June 30, 2000.

1999 February 28: Joel Schroeder reelected for a third three year term as Youth Pastor.

1999 March 7: Carmen Pauls returned home from her service assignment in Israel and left for a MCC assignment in Baghdad on April 10.

1999 March 25: Audrun Siebert approved by Board of Deacons as an unpaid pastoral ministry apprentice for 1 year.

1999, April: Susan Hiebner was hired as Statistical Secretary, working part-time.

1999 June 20: Presentation of Gladys Siebert Memorial Scholarship fund by Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

1999 August 16: Andrea Thieszen commissioned for MVS with Doorstep, Inc. Topeka, Kansas.

1999 September 5: Celebration of 125 years of Mennonite families living in the community.

1999 October 3: Pastors John and Marcia Yoder Schrock resign as Family Life Ministers with the last service being December 31, 1999.

1999 October: Bethesda Historical Committee organized with Kathleen Koop Friesen as chairman and Robert O. Epp and Beverly Mae Friesen as committee members.

1999 December 12: Patrick Preheim, former member, ordained to the ministry at Faith Mennonite Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

2000 A celebration of "A Century of General Conference Overseas Missions" was celebrated throughout the year.

2000 March: Mike and Tina Yutzy began service with the Mennonite Brethren Mission Services, U.S. Center for World Mission in Pasadena, CA.

2000 January 18: James Hiebner began service with MVS, Habitat for Humanity at Americus, Georgia, for 2 years.

2000 June: At the Northern District/Iowa Nebraska Conference sessions held June 22-25 at Freeman, SD by delegate vote of 231 to 1, the conferences were joined to become the Central Plains Mennonite Conference.

2000 July 13: Eugene Thieszen left as a mission worker in Maun, Botswana, in a new position as a youth worker with the Aids Intervention Program and a continuing ministry with African Independent churches. Eugene has served two MCC terms and is currently on his third AIMM term.

2000 August 13: Sonya Pauls commissioned for one year of voluntary service with MCC in Cairo, Egypt.

2000 September 1: Kevin J. Friesen left for a three year term of MCC service in Nicaragua, Central America.

2000 September: Carmen Pauls returned from her MCC service in Baghdad.

2000 September: Outer roof of the Bethesda Church sanctuary and adjoining flat roofs were replaced.

2000 Audrun Siebert continues his pastoral ministry apprenticeship by developing a Young Adult Ministry.

2000 November 13: George Kaufman began serving as Associate Pastor. Installation services for George and Naomi were held November 26.

2000 December: The church pipe organ underwent major repair.

2000 December: Stained glass window depicting Jesus' ascension into heaven was installed in the balcony.

2001 January: Robert Hiebner hired as full time custodian. Denese Hiebner is now part time custodian.

2001 January 24 to February 4: Robert O. Epp was a part of Christian Peacekeepers Team protesting the use of the Vieques Island for bombing exercises by the U.S. Navy.

2001 March: Eugene Thieszen returned home from his Botswana assignment with COM and AIMM, after serving one year of his three year term.

2001 April 4: Kevin J. Friesen returned home, due to illness, from his MCC 2 year assignment in Nicaragua, having served 6 months.

2001 June 3: Pastor Weldon Martens was elected and accepted the call to serve another three year term with a vote of 98.1%.

2001 June 13 to July 25: Robert O. Epp was a member of the CPT team in Colombia, South America, providing international accompaniment to Colombian peasant farmers.

2001 June 15 to August 15: Jai Prakash Masih from India, a student at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, served as summer intern at Bethesda.

2001 August 5: Balcony stained glass window, "The Ascension" was dedicated.

2001 September 24: Rachel Thieszen began a one year assignment with Mennonite Voluntary Service at Hutchinson Child Care Center, Hutchinson, Kansas.

2001 August 15: Audrun Siebert, who assisted the Bethesda staff by working with young couples, left August 15 to attend Hesston College, pursuing ministerial studies.

2001 August: James Hiebner ended his MVS service in Americus GA, but continued on with Habitat for Humanity in a paid position.

2001 September: Eugene Thieszen resigned from the Commission on Overseas Missions.

2001 November: Denese Hiebner resigned as part time custodian.

2001 November and December: Repainted the sanctuary. Services were held in Fellowship Hall for four weeks.

2001 December 3: Keith Hiebner left for a 2-year assignment with Voluntary Service at St. Louis, Missouri, Mennonite Peace Center as Executive Director of the MVS unit.

2002 February: The General Conference Church and the Mennonite Church were officially merged to create Mennonite Church USA. Offerings will now be directed to new offices. Offerings formerly sent to Commission on Overseas Mission and Home Missions will go to Mennonite Mission Network. Offerings formerly designated for Commission on Education will now be sent to the office of Congregational Life. Offerings formerly given for the Northern District are given to Central Plains Mennonite Conference.

2002 Church maintenance projects completed recently included replacing the sanctuary roof, and replacing many windows and doors with more energy efficient ones.

2002 March 24: Stained glass window "Jesus Blessing the Children" was dedicated.

2002 April 14: Pastor Joel Schroeder reelected to a 4th term as Youth Pastor.

2002 April: Lori Friesen was hired as part-time custodian. She resigned in August and in September Holly Bailey was hired for this part-time position.

2002 June 24: Eugene Thieszen leaves for a term of mission work in Botswana, sponsored by Dayspring Christian Ministries International, Inc.

2002 July: The new marquee was installed on the east side of the church.

2002 July 21: The Board of Outreach along with the Deacons decided to discontinue the "Welcome to Worship" pads.

2002 October 1: Susan Hiebner began working part time as Youth Pastor Secretary.

2003 January 6: Brent Swartzendruber began a 6 week Ministry Inquiry Term.

2003 January 13: Mark Epp, Cathy Wismer and Hannah and Carlin left for a 3-year term of service with MCC in Santa Cruz Bolivia.

2003 A new pictorial church directory was printed.

2003 June and July: Pastor Weldon and Jenny Martens were awarded the Clergy Renewal Grant funded by the Lilly Foundation. The \$30,000 grant was used for an Anabaptist History Tour throughout Europe, time at a Christian Retreat Center in Mittersill, Austria, a visit to London Mennonite Center and a visit to Rome. It also paid Harold Thieszen, interim minister, for his services during Weldon and Jenny Martens absence.

2003 June 19-22: Bethesda hosted the Central Plains Mennonite Conference.

2003 July 20: Pastor George Kaufman was elected to serve another three year term as assistant pastor.

2003 July 20: Audrun Siebert was licensed and ordained to ministry at Beth-El Mennonite Church, Milford, Nebraska.

2003 August 17: Timothy Friesen was commissioned for two years to work with the MCC Canner.

2003 September 2: Brett Klingenberg, Elbing, Kansas, a recent Bethel College graduate, began four months with the Ministry Inquiry Program at Bethesda.

2003 December: Susan Hiebner resigned as statistical secretary and youth pastor secretary.

2004 February: Tammy Ott was hired as part-time secretary three days per week. Alice Buller reduced her time to three days per week.

2004 March 7: Pastor Joel Schroeder resigned as Youth Pastor to be effective in July. A farewell was held July 11.

2004 March 14: Sara Ulrich left for a 1-year assignment with Mennonite Mission Network in Hertford England.

2004 June 13: Weldon Martens was elected for a fourth term to run until August 2007.

2004 November 28: Jeff Selzer from Alva, Oklahoma, received a very favorable vote to become the Youth Minister, beginning in 2005.

2004 December: Alice Buller resigned as office secretary following 21 years of service.

2005 January: Tammy Ott was hired as full-time secretary to replace Alice Buller.

2005 January 9: Jeff Selzer was installed as Youth Minister.

2005 June 5: Shawn Rath, a Bethel College Student from the Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS, served as a Ministry Inquiry Student for three months.

2005 June 5: Wes Goertzen began a two-year term with Word Made Flesh in El Alto, Bolivia.

2005 September: Michaela Martens left for Glendale, AZ to serve one year with Discipleship, Encounter and Outreach (DEO).

2005 August 7: Jeff Selzer was licensed into the Ministry at Bethesda.

2005 August 23: Laura Steingard resigned as Director of Music after serving the congregation for 30 years.

2005 Jennifer Buller was hired to replace Laura Steingard as Director of Music.

2005 September 4: Tim Friesen extends his service with MCC for another three year term, now as canner coordinator.

2006 February: Eugene Thieszen, who completed 21 years of Mission work in Botswana, was installed as minister at the Herold Mennonite Church, Cordell, Oklahoma.

2006 May: Sara Ulrich left for a 2-year service assignment with Young Life in Hertford, England.

2006 July 10: Mark Epp, Cathy Wismer, Hannah and Carlin returned home after a 3 ½ year assignment with MCC in Bolivia.

2006 September: Ian Huebert left for an MVS assignment in Bradford, England for one year.

2006 September: Janene Goertzen left for a 10 month service assignment in Guinea Bissau, Africa

2006 October 8: Pastor George Kaufman was elected to serve another 3-year term as Associate Pastor.

2007 April: Resignation of Pastor George Kaufman from the Associate Pastor position, effective June 30.

2007 June 24: Farewell service for George and Naomi Kaufman.

2007 June: Wes and Heather Goertzen continue to serve with Word Made Flesh in El Alto, Bolivia.

2007 July 15: Pastor Rachel Friesen began as Interim Associate Pastor.

2007 August 12: Pastor Weldon Martens reelected to serve another 3 year term as Lead Pastor.

2007 August: Scott and Christa Janzen to serve 1-year with MVS in Tucson, Arizona.

2007 August: Brett and Cassandra Klingenberg to serve 8 months as group leaders with YES in Venezuela.

2007 August: Abbie Friesen began a voluntary assignment at Western Mennonite School in Salem, Oregon as a dorm leader

2007 September 30: Ordination of Pastor Jeff Selzer to Christian Ministry.

2007 November/December: Photos were taken for the new church directory.

2007 November 18: Pastor Jeff Selzer reelected to serve another 3 year term as Youth Pastor.

2008 May 4: Celebration of 50 years in our current sanctuary

2008 April 8: Jeff Selzer resigned as Youth Pastor.

2008 July 27: Farewell service for Jeff and Dana Selzer family and for Rachel and Ivan Friesen

2008 August 3: Vernelle Epp was installed as a lay assistant to fill the position of Pastor of Congregational Care (formerly Associate Pastor).

2008 August 3: Cathy Wismer was installed as a lay assistant to fill the position of Pastor of Discipleship and Witness (formerly Youth Pastor).

2008 November 9: Andrea Wall was called to fill the position of Pastor of Discipleship and Witness, to begin March 1, 2009.

2008 November 30: James Voth was called to fill the position of Pastor of Congregational Care, to begin March 22, 2009.

2009 January 26: Jonathon Larson was the Interterm speaker.

2009 January: Tammy P. Ott resigned as secretary effective February 1.

2009 March 1: Andrea Wall began as Pastor of Discipleship and Witness.

2009 March 22: Jim Voth began as Pastor of Congregational Care.

2009 March 22: Installation of Pastor Jim Voth and Pastor Andrea Wall.

2009 March: Diane Buller was hired as full-time secretary to replace Tammy P. Ott.

2009 August: Tara Swartzendruber resigned as Office Manager/ Assistant to the Lead Pastor.

2009 August: Tammy P. Ott was hired as Office Manager/Assistant to the Lead Pastor to replace Tara Swartzendruber.

2009 August 15: Rebecca Friesen to serve 10 months in Bradford England with Radical Journey.

2009 November: Diane Buller resigned as secretary.

2009 November: Tanya Thieszen was hired to replace Diane Buller as secretary.

2010 January – December: Monthly Birthday Parties for all women of Bethesda during the month of their birth date, hosted by volunteer women of the congregation.

2010 January 31: Bethesda Bible Series with Ivan Friesen on *"The Vision of Isaiah"*.

2010 February 7: Annual Business Meeting of the congregation.

2010 May – August: Doran Stuckey served in the Ministry Inquiry Program.

2010 May 30 - June 5: High School Service Trip to Minneapolis, MN.

2010 June 7-11: Daily Vacation Bible School, "High Seas Expedition".

2010 May 24-27: Central Plains Mennonite Conference.

2010 September: The Deacon Board, by 2/3 majority voted to not call Pastor Weldon Martens for another term.

2010 November 29 - December 2: MCC Meat Canner in Henderson.

2010 December 8: Steering Committee met to plan for a new women's organization to replace the age-related Mission Circle I, II and Sisters in Mission, formerly known as Mission Circle III.

2010 December 1: A Celebration of Gratitude for Pastor Weldon Marten's 15 years of faithful service was held.

2010 December: Jennifer Buller resigned as Director of Music

2011 January 4: Bethesda Women's Ministries began meeting, replacing Circle I, Circle II and Sisters in Mission.

2011 February: Annual Congregational Meeting.

2011 February: New deacons elected in December were installed: Marlene Ott 3 years, Brent Swartzendruber 3 years, David Quiring 2 years. Ron Friesen and Brent Swartzendruber, co-chairs for one year.

2011 February: Rod Drews began as Director of Music.

2011 February 27-28: Conrad Kanagy spoke at the Bethesda Bible Series, using the book of Jeremiah to look for signs of God's Kingdom at Bethesda.

2011 March: Brent Swartzendruber resigned from Board of Deacons.

2011 March: Gina Mestl resigned as director/teacher of Bethesda Preschool.

2011 March: Blakely Schwenk left for service in Honduras with the YES team.

2011 March: Arlin Hiebner elected to serve on Deacon Board, replacing Brent Swartzendruber.

2011 April: A welcome reception was held for Pastor Mim Book and Pastor Jim Lapp, Transition Pastors.

2011 May 1: Resignation of Central Treasurer, Berdine Buller.

2011 June: Central Treasurer, Penny Buller hired.

2011 June 16-19, CPM Conference met in Moline, IL.

2011 June: Nicole Quiring hired as Preschool teacher for 4/5 year old classes.

2011 July: Erin Sams hired as Preschool Director and teacher for 3/4 year old classes.

2011 July 4-9: MC USA Conference in Pittsburgh, PA.

2011 September: Tammy Ott resigned as Office Manager and Administrative Assistant.

2011 September: Tanya Thieszen resigned as Secretary.

2013 April 7: Dr. Sam and Sherri Evans visit and report on their work and the devastation in the Philippines from 2012 typhoons.

2013 April: Hired Kori Lewis as Preschool Teacher/Director.

2013 April 7: Catechism Retreat on Bethesda Mennonite Church history.

2013 April 14: Bethesda Preschool Trike-a-thon.

2013 April 19: New phone system installed by AC Technologies.

2013 April 28: Catechism Retreat to work on testimonies.

2013 May 5: Leadership Workshop by Pastor Sherm Kauffman on "Congregation Journey Wall Exercise."

2013 May 5: Baptized and welcomed three new members to Bethesda.

2013 May 6: Bethesda Women's Ministries fourth annual "Celebrate Women" event was held. Michelle Hofer spoke on "Iconic Art in the Church."

2013 May 12: Baptized and welcomed one new member to Bethesda.

2013 May 13: Josh Janzen joined the staff as part of the AMBS! Explore program.

2013 May 15: Preschool Graduation.

2013 May 19: Pentecost/Communion.

2013 May 26: Dedicated three children at Parent Child Dedication service.

2013 June 2: Trenton R. Friesen report on service with CRU at Colorado State University.

2013 June 3-7: Daily Vacation Bible School, "Athens: Paul's Journey to Share the Truth." Welcomed representatives from Templo Alabanza Church in Moline, IL.

2013 June 10: Berdine Buller is welcomed back to the staff on an interim basis while Penny Buller takes a family Medical Leave of Absence.

2013 June 16: Baptized and welcomed four new members to Bethesda.

2013 June 16: Continuation of May 5, 2013, Leadership Workshop by Pastor Sherm Kauffman.

2013 June 16: Sending of Thayne and Janene Sparke to Denver Seminary.

2013 June 18: Group of seven volunteers left for Philippines to work with Dr. Sam and Sherri Evans with Reach International.

2013 June 20-23: Central Plains Mennonite Conference annual meeting at Ashland, Montana; "Guided by the Spirit, Knowing God's Love."

2013 June 30: Baptized and welcomed four new members to Bethesda.

2013 July 1-6: Mennonite Church USA Conference at Phoenix, Arizona, "Citizens of God's Kingdom."

2013 July 14: Brandon Rader report on work in Southeast Asia with CRU.

2013 July 17: Kevin Goertzen gave an update on Mennonite Mission Network.

2013 July 28: Renee Neufeld report on "Hiking the Appalachian Trail" to raise funds for Swan Lake Christian Camp.

2013 September 1: Hannah Epp report on service in South Africa.

2013 September 8: First graders received Bibles on Christian Formation Sunday.

2013 September 8: Congregation Meeting to have dialogue on the implementation of Child Protection Plan and Safe Congregation Limited Access Policy.

2013 September 15: Congregational Meeting to vote on changes to By-Laws related to the Lead Pastor job description and to review two trends (declining attendance and Lead Pastor turnover patterns) identified in the Congregational Journey Wall Exercise.

2013 September 15: Began limited points of access to the church according to the Safe Congregation Limited Access Policy (adopted by Church Council June 28, 2013).

2013 October: Updated logo for Bethesda Mennonite Church was adopted. Work completed by Blakely Schwenk, Peek Designs.

2013 October 5-6: Pat and Rad Houmphan visit and report on work in Thailand.

2013 October 6: Congregational Meeting held to affirm Arlin Hiebner as Deacon for another three year term.

2013 October 6: Worldwide Communion hosted by Bethesda.

2013 October 20: Dedicated four children at Parent Child Dedication service.

2013 October 20: Congregational Meeting held to accept nominations for the position of one Deacon.

2013 November 3: Packed 1,047 school kits. Youth served the evening meal.

2013 November 10: Dr. Jeanette Harder and Jon Stanton joined our morning worship service and spoke on helping faith communities keep our children and youth safe.

2013 November 12-15: MCC Meat Canner at Bethesda.

2013 November 17: Congregational Meeting held to vote for two names on the Deacon Nominee Preference ballot. During Sunday school hour conversation continued with Pastor Sherm Kauffman on the question, "What will contribute to a longer term, more mutually respectful Lead Pastor's service?"

2013 November 17: Dedicated on child at Parent Child Dedication service.

2013 December 8: Congregational Meeting held for final Deacon selection vote. Joh Huebert elected.

2013 December 25: Gathered 99 Infant Care Kits for MCC.

2014 January 4: Deacon/Church Council Retreat at Aurora Leadership Center.

2014 January 5: Epiphany Sunday Communion.

2014 January 17-28: Mark Epp and Cathy Wismer served with CPMC in Ecuador on a Fellowship and Learning tour.

2014 January 19: Declared 2014 as "Year of the Bible," placing special emphasis on engaging scripture for all ages.

2014 January 19: Deacon Installation for John Huebert and Arlin Hiebner.

2014 February 2: Annual Congregational Meeting. Youth served meal as fundraiser.

2014 February 4-8: Kori Lewis, Tara Swartzendruber, Carrie Epp from the Preschool Committee and Pastor Andrea Wall attended Mennonite Educators Conference in Washington, D.C.

2014 February 8-9: Bethesda Bible Series featuring Shane Claiborne from "The Simple Way" in Philadelphia, PA. First live streamed event at Bethesda.

2014 February 23: Congregational Meeting with Pastor Sherm Kauffman to answer the following questions: 1.) what are 3-5 contributing factors for attendance decline over past 35 years? 2.) how can we cultivate a vibrant spirituality, hospitality and a sense of community at Bethesda?

2014 March 9: Congregational Meeting – Pastor Andrea Wall affirmed for additional five year term.

2014 March 23: Congregational Meeting – Pastor Jim Voth affirmed for additional five year term.

2014 April: Wolfe Drywall completed kitchen ceiling repairs.

2014 April 4-5: Nebraska MCC Relief Sale.

2014 April 29: Annual "Celebrate Women" event hosted by Bethesda Women's Ministries.

2014 May 4: Leadership Workshop led by Elizabeth Troyer-Miller.

2014 May 14: Preschool Graduation.

2014 May 17-18: Twelve 6th – 8th graders and three sponsors worshipped with Templo Alabanza Church in Moline, IL.

2014 May 18: Dedicated one child at Parent Child Dedication service.

2014 May 20: Thayne Sparke hired as Interim Lay Pastor through August 20, 2014.

2014 May 25: Youth went to our sister church, Ashland Christian Fellowship Church, Ashland, Montana, on a service trip.

2014 May 25: Dr. Sam and Sherri Evans report on work with Reach International in Philippines.

2014 June 2-6: VBS "Wilderness Escape – Where God Guides & Provides" 121 children attended.

2014 June 11 – July 2: *Megan Boardman served in Quito, Ecuador.

2014 June 15: Baptized seven youth and held communion.

2014 June 16: Congratulations to Pastor Andrea and Mike Wall on birth of baby girl, Jacinta Danae! Pastor Andrea was on maternity leave from June 16 through September 22, 2014.

2014 June 19-22: CPMC held at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

2014 June 22: Began sermon series on "Fruit of the Spirit."

2014 June 23: Carlie Weisheit left for Philippines with Reach International to care for Flora Mae Evans, daughter of Dr. Sam and Sherri Evans.

2014 July 6: Dedicated two children at Parent Child Dedication service.

2014 July 6: Sidney Dick, Leah Friesen and Paige Mestl left with Youth Venture to Spain.

2014 July 26: Clothing Exchange held at Bethesda.

2014 July-August: Asbestos ceiling abatement of second floor completed by B2 Environmental. Swede Capital Drywall replaced ceilings. All second floor classrooms and hallways repainted by Ely & Company.

2014 July-August: Worship service and Sunday school were combined for the summer in the Fellowship Hall.

2014 August 1: Luann Yutzy from Minneapolis, Minnesota, hired as Interim Pastor through December 31, 2014.

2014 August 1-3: Two youth attended CPMC Youth Escape in Dayton, Iowa.

2014 September 7: Eight first graders received Bibles. Teacher Appreciation luncheon held. New "SHINE" Sunday school curriculum introduced.

2014 September 14: Cemetery Walk and Talk was held at Bethesda Mennonite Church Cemetery in honor of 140th year of first Mennonites coming to York and Hamilton counties.

2014 September 28: Guest speaker, Pastor Sherm Kauffman, gave morning message. Congregational prioritization to shape our church's ministry was led by Pastor Andrea and Pastor Sherm. Bethesda Preschool Carnival held at Heartland Community School.

2014 October 5: Guest speaker, James Krabill, gave the morning message. Communion offered on World Communion Sunday.

2014 October 5: Congregational Meeting to affirm Blaine Friesen and Carol Janzen as Deacons for additional three year term.

2014 November 2: Packed 1,026 school kits and sent to MCC. Youth provided evening meal as fundraiser.

2014 November 25, 26 & 28: MCC Canner held at Bethesda.

2014 November 30: Dedicated four children at Parent Child Dedication service.

2014 December: Replaced eight courtyard doors.

2014 December 21: Messiah presented by Bethesda Chancel Choir and Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra.

2014 December 24: Christmas Eve service – 95 Infant Care Kits dedicated and sent to MCC.

2014 December 31: New Year's Eve Communion Service held.

2015 January 11: Pastor Andrea ordination service and meal of celebration.

2015 January 23-25: Bethesda Bible Series – Michele Hershberger, Hesston College Bible & Ministry Professor – "God's Story, Our Story."

2015 January 31: Church council, Board of Deacons, pastors, office Staff Retreat @ Aurora Leadership Center Aurora, NE.

2015 February 1: Church and Annual Congregational meeting postponed due to snowstorm.

2015 February 8: Annual Congregational Meeting.

2015 February 15: Deacon installation of Blaine Friesen and Carol Janzen (reaffirmed for additional 3-year term).

2015 February 18: Ash Wednesday Service.

2015 March 4: Bluffton University Camerata Singers concert.

2015 March 27-28: Nebraska MCC Sale.

2015 April 2: Maundy Thursday Communion.

2015 May: All downstairs hallways painted by Ely & Company.

2015 May 10: Graduation breakfast for high school graduates and families.

2015 May 12: Preschool graduation.

2015 May 17: Guest speaker Gregg Kanagy, Gator Wilderness Camp, Punta Gorda, Florida.

2015 May 24: Congregational meeting to affirm and call Seth Miller as pastor of Preaching & Outreach. Pentecost Communion.

2015 May 31: Parent Child Dedication service – two children dedicated.

2015 June 1-5: Vacation Bible School “Hometown Nazareth, Where Jesus was a Kid” – 114 attended.

2015 June 7: Penny Buller tendered her resignation as Central Treasurer.

2015 June 19-21: Central Plains Mennonite Conference annual meeting at St. Paul, Minnesota.

2015 June 30 – July 5: Mennonite Church USA Convention at Kansas City, Missouri.

2015 July 1: Seth Miller, hired as Pastor of Preaching and Outreach, arrived at Bethesda with family wife, Kristie and daughter, Abigail.

2015 July 10: Cathy Wismer hired as Central Treasurer.

2015 July 12: Community worship in the park.

2015 July 21-26: Mennonite World Conference, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Nineteen youth and sponsors attended.

2015 July 25: Community Clothing Exchange held at Heartland Community School.

2015 August 16: David Shenk Quito, Ecuador sharing.

2015 August 23: Seth Miller installation service as Pastor of Preaching & Outreach.

2015 August 23: Sabbatical sending service for Pastor Jim Voth – September 1 – November 30, 2015.

2015 August 23: Josh Janzen, Ministry Inquiry Program sharing.

2015 September 13: Congregational conversation regarding Child Development Center at Bethesda. Promotion Sunday and Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.

2015 September 13 & 20: Nine First graders receive Bibles.

2015 September 19-20: SLCC Women’s Retreat.

2015 September 27: Baptized two youth and held communion.

2015 October 11: Guest Pastor Eugene Thieszen.

2015 October 25: Guest Pastor J. Epp.

2015 October 27-28: Community Harvest for Dale & Laura Steingard.

2015 October 31: Community Garage Party held in partnership with Henderson Ministerial Association as a fall celebration for children and youth.

2015 November 8: Parent Child Dedication – three children dedicated.

2015 November 14-17: ARKOS Design, Inc. at Bethesda to perform study of facility needs, including a possible Child Development Center.

2015 November 15: School Kit Assembly Night, approximately 1,000 packed and sent to MCC.

2015 November 15: Jerry Kroeker, Swan Lake Christian Camp Director, served as guest speaker.

2015 November 22: Guest speaker Alan Janzen.

2015 November 23-25: MCC Meat Canner and Faith & Life Bookstore at Bethesda.

2015 November 29: Technology Management Committee begins gathering funds (approx. \$70,000 needed) to replace sanctuary sound system.

2015 December 6: Preschool and children’s Sunday school program.

2015 December 13: #. James Friesen and Jeff Peters affirmed for a 3-year term as Deacons.

2015 December 15: LeRoy Peters resigns after 25 years as sexton for Bethesda Mennonite Church Cemetery. Mark Friesen will replace him as sexton.

2015 December 20: Chancel Choir program.

2015 December 24: Christmas Eve service – 83 infant care kits collected.

2015 December 31: New Year’s Eve Service and communion.

2016 January 9: Church Council, Board of Deacons, Pastors, Board Chairs, Office Staff retreat @ Aurora Leadership Center, Aurora, Nebraska.

2016 January 17: Bethesda Preschool Carnival @ Heartland Community School.

2016 January 24: Guest Pastor Brett Klingenberg, First Mennonite Church Beatrice.

2016 January 29-31: Bethesda Bible Series "Communities Caring for all God's People" featuring Dr. Nate Stucky, Elizabeth Troyer-Miller, Live Yes! Studios, Mark Smesrud, co-founder Purple Door Coffee, Denver, CO, Kara Tofte, Lutheran Family Services, Howard Wagler, Lead Pastor Journey Mennonite Church. Special trip to South Street Temple Lincoln, NE Rabbi Craig Lewis.

2016 February 3: College care kits packaged for college students.

2016 February 5: Spaghetti dinner benefit held for Jay and Elizabeth Goertzen following house fire.

2016 February 4-7: Kori Lewis, Preschool Director/Teacher attended Mennonite Educators Conference in Washington D.C. as well as Abbie Rempel, parent representative to Bethesda Preschool Committee.

2016 February 7: Annual Congregational Meeting – youth fundraiser meal.

2016 February 7: Deacon installation of E. James Friesen and Jeff Peters for three-year term.

2016 February 10: Ash Wednesday service and Lenten prayers.

2016 February 20-21: Firman Gingerich met with pastors and deacons to assist in setting up shared ministry team model.

2016 March 13: Marriage enrichment class held for six weeks by Pastor Andrea Wall.

2016 March 22: Bethel College Choir concert.

2016 March 24: Maundy Thursday communion.

2016 April 1-2: Nebraska MCC Sale.

2016 April 24: Guest speakers Cleo Koop and Austin Braddock while pastors attended CPMC Annual Leaders Retreat.

2016 May 1: Meet and greet for former Pastor's Mim Book and Jim Lapp.

2016 May 8: 2016 graduates were honored at a breakfast provided by the Board of Education and given Faith Journals.

2016 May 11: Bethesda Preschool graduation. Twelve children graduated.

2016 May 15: Parent Child Dedication - three children dedicated.

2016 May 22: Communion held on Trinity Sunday.

2016 May 28: Carrie Bergen resigned as Office Assistant.

2016 June 5: Sabbatical sending service for Pastor Andrea Wall.

2016 June 6-10: Vacation Bible School – Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace. Ninety-six children attended.

2016 June 16-19: Central Plains Mennonite Conference at Des Moines, Iowa.

2016 June 19: Josh Janzen guest speaker.

2016 June 20-September 19: Pastor Andrea Wall on sabbatical.

2016 June 26: Henderson Ministerial Association formed Fusion, a community youth group.

2016 July 9-17: Youth service trip to Ashland, Montana. Four youth attended with sponsors Brian and Mariah Leisher.

2016 July 10: Community worship in the park.

2016 July 17: Bev Quiring hired as Office Assistant.

2016 July 17: Journey of Hope, which empowers murder victim's family members and exonerated death row survivors shared personal experiences with capital punishment - Bess Klassen and Landis and Sandrine Ageorges Skinner.

2016 August 2: Bev Quiring begins as Office Assistant.

2016 August 21: Henderson Ministerial Association hosted Fusion with VOTA in concert at Jim and Nora Ohrt's barn.

2016 August 28: Youth Ashland, Montana trip reporting.

2016 September 11: Promotion Sunday – two first graders receive Bibles.

2016 September 11: Teacher appreciation lunch.

2016 September 18: Board of Deacons held cookie social to welcome Pastor Andrea Wall back from sabbatical.

2016 October 2: World Communion Sunday. 2016-2017 catechism class begins with six students.

2016 October 23: Congregational meeting held to nominate 15 individuals for Deacon positions of John Huebert and Arlin Hiebner.

2016 October 31: Henderson Ministerial Association host Community Garage Party as a fall celebration for children and youth.

2016 November 1-2: Pastors met with Lee Schmucker for consultation about the shared ministry team.

2016 November 6: Tenth Annual School Kit night - 1,028 school kits packed. Youth provided meal as a fundraiser.

2016 November 13: Parent Child Dedication – six children dedicated.

2016 November 24: Thanksgiving Day service.

2016 November 30-December 2: MCC Meat Canner and Faith & Life Bookstore at Bethesda.

2016 December 11: Congregational meeting held to elect two deacons. Kathryn Goertzen and Kim Siebert were elected for a three-year term.

2016 December 11: Preschool/Sunday School Christmas program. Kindergarten through grade six performed “An Unplugged Christmas.”

2016 December 18: The A*Men Christmas concert.

2016 December 24: Chancel Choir Christmas Eve program.

2016 December 25: Eighty-eight infant care kits dedicated at Christmas day worship service.

2016 December 31: New Year’s Eve service and communion.

2017 January 22: Deacon installation of Kathryn Goertzen and Kim Siebert.

2017 January 24: Board of Service and Outreach cleaned up fallen limbs from an ice storm in three yards in Henderson.

2017 January 28-29: Bryan Moyer Suderman from Kitchener, Ontario was our guest speaker for the Bethesda Bible Series on the theme “Reading the Bible with Jesus.”

2017 February 5: Annual Meeting – approved Facility Renovation for Sanctuary: Sound Upgrade \$70,000; Sanctuary Lighting \$20,000; Carpet \$56,000; Paint/Scaffolding \$89,000; Roof/Education Wing \$35,000 for a total of \$270,000.

2017 February: Bev Quiring resigned as Office Assistant.

2017 March 14: Tara Swartzendruber hired as Office Assistant.

2017 March 31-April 1: Nebraska MCC Sale was held in Aurora, Nebraska.

2017 April 30: Congregational Meeting to vote on pew replacement.

2017 April 20: Holly Bailey resigned as Assistant Custodian.

2017 April 24: Sharlene Doell hired as Assistant Custodian.

2017 April 30: Congregational Meeting to finalize layout for sanctuary seating. Consensus was to keep old pews and re-space the pews.

2017 May/June: Pastor Seth and family to Europe where Pastor Seth led classes for Eastern Mennonite University students.

2017 May 14: Six catechism students were baptized and communion was observed.

2017 May 14: Hesston College Bel Canto Choir gave a concert at Bethesda.

2017 May 21: Lyle Miller, Stewardship Consultant for Everence was guest speaker.

2017 June 26: Renovation begins in the sanctuary and the church office.

2017 July 2-8: Seventeen youth, three sponsors (plus three family members) and three delegates attended the MC USA Delegate Assembly in Orlando, Florida.

2017 August 20: Congregational Meeting – vote passed to purchase new pew cushions for sanctuary and choir loft with money pledged for the project.

2017 September 10: Three first-graders receive Bibles on Christian Formation Sunday.

2017 November 6: Returned to the sanctuary for worship services.

2017 November 27-29: MCC Meat Canner was held at Bethesda.

2017 December 10: Handel’s Messiah presented by Bethesda Chancel Choir and Nebraska Symphony Chamber Orchestra.

2017 December 24: Christmas Eve program presented.

2017 December 31: New Year’s Eve Communion postponed due to weather.

2018 January 7: Communion held.

2018 January 24: Pew and excess furniture auction held and raised almost \$6,000 for the renovation fund.

2018 January 27-28: Bethesda Bible Series with John D. Roth.

2018 February 3: Annual Board of Deacons/Church Council Leadership Retreat held at Aurora Leadership Center, Aurora, Nebraska.

2018 February 4: Annual meeting held.

2018 February 11: 2018 Catechism class begins.

2018 February 18: Congregational meeting to vote on replacing parking lot. Passed by 99%.

2018 March: Curtains in library replaced with blinds.

2018 March 18: Pastor Seth Ordination service and meal of celebration.

2018 March 29: Passover Seder held for Midweek children and families.

2018 March 29 Maundy Thursday Communion service held.

2018 April 28: Honored five high school graduates at potluck dinner.

2018 May 13: Four children dedicated at Parent Child Dedication.

2018 May 20: Five youth baptized and welcomed into membership.

2018 June 3: Pat and Rad Houmphan from Thailand visited Bethesda.

2018 June 4-8: Vacation Bible School.

2018 June 8: Parking lot demolition begins on east half of parking lot project.

2018 June 17: Welcomed Hillary Lee and Lisa (Kevin) Friesen into membership at Bethesda.

2018 June 21-24: Central Plains Mennonite Conference held in Lincoln.

2018 July 14-21: Four youth and three sponsors traveled to Junior Camp at Crazy Head Springs on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Montana.

2018 July 20-22: Two youth and one sponsor attended Youth Escape at Hidden Acres Christian Camp in Dayton, Iowa.

2018 July 28 – August 4: Mennonite Disaster Service Youth Trip - Eight youth and two sponsors traveled to Bloomington, Texas.

2018 August: Poured cement for new east half of parking lot.

2018 September 6: Tara Swartzendruber resigns as Office Assistant.

2018 September 9: Faith Formation Sunday; four First Graders receive Bibles; Teacher Appreciation Lunch.

2018 September 30: Affirmed Jeff Peters as Deacon for an additional 3-year term.

2018 October 7: Observed World Communion Sunday with communion.