

**Bethel College Mennonite Church is an open and affirming congregation** centered in the life and teachings of Jesus. Embracing the divine within each person, we warmly welcome any and all into fellowship without regard to race, ethnic background, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, economic status, marital status, or age.

**Welcome visitors and friends! May you sense God's presence at BCMC.** The nursery at the back of the sanctuary is available during worship for families with infants and toddlers.

**To request prayer or a visit, or if a family member is hospitalized, please contact the church office or a pastor so that visits and prayer support can be offered.** Names of people receiving medical care are released only by permission of the patient or a guardian/family-member. This is part of the caring network at BCMC, which includes support among members of Sunday school classes and small groups, as well as the Prayer Network and Caring Fund sponsored by the Deacon Commission.

**Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request:** Pray that Mennonite Mission Network's Mennonite Voluntary Service participants in San Francisco, California — Bella Kephart, Keyan Krabill, Emmi Scott and Ana Esperanza Neufeld Weaver, who is continuing for a second year — will build good rhythms of life, as they learn to live as a household, adjust to their service assignments and integrate into their host congregation, First Mennonite Church of San Francisco.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** Pray for the new and emerging faith communities at WDC, that God will guide their growth and bless their leaders with wisdom and vision. -WDC Church Planting Commission

Bethel College Mennonite Church, 2600 College Ave., Box 364, North Newton, KS 67117  
Phone: 316-283-3667—Fax: 316-283-2079 Email: [office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)  
Website: [bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](http://bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)

- Pastor Joanna Harader, Day off: Monday; **1887 Café Hours Wednesday, 8-10 a.m.**  
Cell phone: 407-201-0503; Email: [joanna@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:joanna@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Pastor Nathan Koontz, Day off: Wednesday  
Cell phone: 316-212-4593; Email: [nathan@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:nathan@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Elizabeth Schmidt, Pastor of Congregational Care  
Email: [elizabeth@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:elizabeth@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Office/Facilities Manager: Monica Lichti, Email: [office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Faith Formation Coordinator: Jill Robb—Email: [jill@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:jill@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Youth Coordinator: George Leary—Email: [george@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:george@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Music Coordinators: Verlene Garber and Will Wiebe-Friesen
- Chancel Choir Director: Joel Garber • Chancel Bells Director: Verlene Garber

## Bethel College Mennonite Church

### September 28, 2025



*The Woman with the Hemorrhage* (Mark 5:24–34)

SARAH FULLER

Our faith in a God of love leads us, by the power of the Spirit,  
to follow Jesus in doing justice, loving mercy,  
and walking humbly with God.

**BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**September 28, 2025**

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music      *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (arr. Lau)  
Will Wiebe-Friesen

Welcome      Mary Ellen Hodge

\*Hymn      *Summoned by the God Who Made Us*      VT 1

Children and Youth Conversation      Elizabeth Schmidt

Worship Music      *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (arr. Jack Schrader)  
Holly Swartzendruber, soprano

Scripture Reading      Matthew 9:16-26      Darlene Dick

\*Hymn      *Healer of Our Every Ill*      VT 644

Sermon      *Healing Touch*      Joanna Harader

Prayers of God's People      Mary Ellen Hodge

Special Music      *God, Be the Love*      BCMC Ensemble

Litany of Release and Blessing for Elizabeth Schmidt      Kathy Neufeld Dunn  
with BCMC leaders

\*Hymn      *The Lord Lift You Up*      VT 832

Those with September birthdays are welcome to come forward during this hymn to receive a birthday blessing.

\*Benediction

Postlude      *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* (arr. Payne)

\* You are invited to stand VT—*Voices Together*  
Audio visual—Ken Lamp

**We extend a special welcome to those who are visiting** Bethel College Mennonite this morning. Thank you for sharing in worship! If you would like us to keep in touch, please scan the QR code and fill out the visitor form.



**All young people aged 16-25 are encouraged to attend the final session on conscientious objection (c.o.).** Meet at 10:45 in the chapel room. Today, participants will receive resources and support for creating their own c.o. file. Bethel College students can receive convocation credit for today's session. Participants are invited to a pizza lunch hosted by the Agape Sunday School class after the session.

**Bring your pets to the church playground for a pet blessing on Sunday, October 12, at 3 p.m.!** This event is a special request from one of our younger community members and will be a fun time to gather, appreciate our animal companions, and give thanks for God's creation. All animals (that do not pose a danger to people or other animals) are invited to come with their people to receive a blessing.

**The nursery has openings for one volunteer each Sunday in October.** If you are interested in joining the list of volunteers who choose to spend a delightful and always interesting hour in the church nursery, please let Barb Voran or Margaret Toews (mctoews1@gmail.com) know. The process of training has been made very easy and we would love to have more names on our list!

**The Western District Conference (WDC) Listening Process has highlighted common themes and concerns shared by congregations, inspiring ideas for helpful resources from WDC.** WDC will periodically provide Affinity Group forums for interested congregational members and leaders to engage a particular topic together. For the first forum, the WDC Resource Commission will host a *Voices Together* mini webinar via zoom Sept. 30, 7-8:30 pm, featuring Joanna Harader and Cynthia Neufeld Smith. Joanna is a pastor at BCMC and writes worship and devotional resources. Cynthia is a musician and retired pastor, and served on the *Voices Together* hymnal committee. The focus of this webinar will be worship resources and music that nurture all ages, including kids. Bring your questions about music and/or worship resources in *Voices Together*. There will be time to share some great ideas about how your congregation has used *Voices Together* to create worship. We hope to see you on Zoom, but the webinar will also be recorded and posted on the WDC website. Go to the WDC website to register.

## **Bethel College Announcements—All events free and open to the public**

- **Tues., Sept. 30: Come enjoy the 2nd annual Fall Fest parade,** 6 p.m., North Main (starting at stadium parking lot) to 24th, 24th to residence halls drive-way, North Newton
- **Thurs., Oct. 2: Bethel College Jazz, 6 p.m.** on the Main & Broadway stage at Taste of Newton, downtown Newton
- **Bethel College's Fall Festival is Sept 29- Oct. 5,** with most activities Sat., Oct. 4, on campus. Features include music, food, class reunions, soccer (vs. Sterling), softball (vs. Dodge City CC), football (vs. Sterling), a hymn festival, the Fall Fest play, and a ribbon cutting for the new Wellness Center. See <https://www.bethelks.edu/fallfest/> for the complete schedule.
- **Fri., Oct. 3: "Made for you by a professional seamstress," fiber art by Karen Reimer,** opens in the Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center with the exhibit reception also Fri., Oct. 3, 6-8 p.m., in the gallery, as part of Fall Fest. The exhibit is open through Oct. 27. Regular hours are Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m. (extended hours: Sat., Oct. 4, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.)
- **Fri., Oct. 3, 7 p.m.; Sat., Oct. 4, 3 p.m.; Sun., Oct. 5, 2 p.m.: The Bethel College theater department presents *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* by Christopher Durang during Fall Festival, Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center.** Ticket purchase required, in Thresher Shop in Schultz Student Center weekdays 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; online (<https://www.bethelks.edu/fine-arts/theater/theater-department-presents/#tickets>); or at the door. *Contains adult content and may not be suitable for young children.*
- **Kidron Bethel Village, 3001 Ivy Dr., will host its annual Country Breakfast Sat., Oct. 4, from 7 to 10 a.m.,** in Kidron Hall. Enjoy pancakes, sausage and eggs by donation. Proceeds benefit the Health Care Benevolent Fund, a ministry of Kidron Bethel Village, that assists residents who are unable to cover the full cost of their care.
- **Sat., Oct. 4: Kauffman Museum bird walk,** 8 a.m. meet in the museum parking lot at the corner of Main and 27th streets (2801 N. Main St.) Experienced birders lead a walk of 1-1.5 hours in Chisholm Park and on Sand Creek Trail
- **Sat., Oct. 4: Miroslav Volf, "Striving for Superiority and Striving for Excellence," 10 a.m., Bethel College Mennonite Church.** Volf, a Croatian Protestant theologian, is the Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology and director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture at Yale University. His latest book, *The Cost of Ambition*, examines why ambition is at odds with the Christian faith.
- **Sat., Oct. 4, 10 a.m.: Fall Fest programs: Kauffman Museum auditorium: "The Organ Still Sings,"** with Rosi Penner Kaufman and Donna Hetrick; **1:30 p.m. "Revisiting the Voth-Unruh-Fast House: 150 Years of History,"** with Kris Schmucker
- **Thurs., Oct. 9: Bethel College Wind Ensemble concert,** Chris Miertschin, director, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center

## **Litany of Release and Blessing for Elizabeth Schmidt:**

**Congregational Moderator:** Today we give thanks to Elizabeth for answering the call to serve Bethel College Mennonite Church in congregational care in a time of transition, and for becoming credentialed for specific ministry through Western District Conference/Mennonite Church USA.

**Congregation:** All praise be to our God. In God there is one Body, one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us all.

**Elizabeth:** Surely the Spirit has been with me and equipped me to minister in many shared moments of sorrow and joy, and it has been a deep privilege to serve. I treasure the gifts of precious stories and liminal threshold moments during these years together. I will always hold this congregation in my heart.

**Nathan:** God has blessed this congregation richly through your ministry of visitation, pastoral care, and spirit-filled presence.

**Joanna:** God has blessed us as a pastoral team richly through your kindness, open-heartedness, and compassion.

**Congregation:** We give thanks for your caring presence among us.

**Conference Minister:** Do you, the people of Bethel College Mennonite Church, bless Elizabeth as she enters retirement, and release her from pastoral responsibilities and relationships?

**Congregation:** With the help of God, we do. We give thanks for Elizabeth's service and now release her from pastoral responsibilities and relationships. We ask God's blessing on her retirement.

**Conference Minister:** Elizabeth, do you release the congregation from seeking your service as part of the pastoral team at BCMC?

**Elizabeth:** With the help of God, I do. When we meet again in the future, I will no longer be a pastor on the pastoral team. I look forward to returning after a time away to join you again as a congregant, at a time "unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."

**Conference Minister:** Elizabeth, may God bless you on your retirement, and bless the rest and change of pace that you seek. May God continue blessing and guiding this vibrant congregation in its hopeful future of kingdom work as it seeks to meet the new pastor that God is preparing to join the pastoral team. May God bless and guide each of us in the new relationships that we now will share.

**Congregation:** God, who is Alpha and Omega, we thank you for your faithfulness in all our beginnings and endings, and for the companions you provide for us on the journey. Amen.

*(the last line is from Voices Together 962)*

**The Week at BCMC: September 28—October 5, 2025**

**Sunday, September 28, 2025**

**Worship 9:30 a.m.** Worship

Live-Stream Link: <https://youtube.com/live/gJ0wwBSNeAo?feature=share>

**A farewell reception for Elizabeth will be held in the Fellowship Hall today, Sept. 28 from 2 to 4 p.m.**

**Monday, September 29, 2025**

10 a.m. Library Committee—Room 14

4 p.m. Meeting in Room 14

**Wednesday, October 1, 2025**

8-10 a.m. Pastor Joanna will be at the 1887 Café— Bethel College campus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal—Sanctuary

**Thursday, October 2, 2025**

4 p.m. Staff Congregation Relations Committee—Room 14

**Saturday, October 4, 2025**

**10 a.m. Miroslav Volf, “Striving for Superiority and Striving for Excellence,” at Bethel College Mennonite Church.** Volf, a Croatian Protestant theologian, is the Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology and director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture at Yale University. His latest book, *The Cost of Ambition*, examines why ambition is at odds with the Christian faith.

**Sunday, October 5, 2025—Fall Fest Sunday**

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Joanna Harader; music by the Bethel College Chancel Choir

**The pastoral search committee is asking members of the congregation to fill out the survey on what priorities we are looking for in an associate pastor to join the pastoral team of Joanna and Nathan. Please fill it out by today, September 28.** This survey is designed to identify the perceived needs/priorities of the congregation and the priorities and vision of pastoral candidates. It is an initial screen that helps identify general agreement between what the church is seeking and the priorities a pastor has for their ministry. It can also serve as a useful discussion guide between a pastoral candidate and a search committee/congregation. The survey is found here - <https://forms.gle/BxKTcaisDo4FDEAV6> - Please fill it out by today, **September 28**. See the email sent out yesterday, Sept. 27, in which the survey is included, for more details. There are paper copies of the survey in the Gathering Place.

**BCMC Offering for September 21:** General \$5,410; Sr Hi Youth \$2,554; Kitchen Fund \$30; Women’s Fellowship \$250; Betty Schmidt Mem. \$25; Ilene Schmidt Mem. \$315; Marion Deckert Mem. \$30; Doug Penner Mem. \$50; Dorothy Unruh Mem. \$100.

**QUILTERS CORNER IS HAVING A FALL SALE Fri., Oct. 3, from 4 – 7 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 4, from 8 a.m. to noon** at the Mennonite Central Committee Central States Warehouse, 121 E. 30th St., North Newton. Come and shop ALL things quilting! SPECIAL ITEM FOR SALE: Husqvarna-Viking Designer Epic 1 sewing and embroidery machine with many, many accessories - \$4,500. Contact person for this item is Charlotte Wenger: [wengercd@gmail.com](mailto:wengercd@gmail.com) All proceeds support MCC work around the world for relief, development, and peace.

**The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association annual banquet will be Oct. 18, 5 p.m. at the Burrton City Auditorium (203 N. Burrton Ave., Burrton).** Peter Buller, recent Bethel College graduate, will speak about his experience this summer at Reba Place in Chicago, connecting with bigger themes about our role as Mennonites in the world. Music provided by the Schwisters. RSVP by Oct. 11 to Dave Stucky at [bigdstucky@gmail.com](mailto:bigdstucky@gmail.com) or text or call 620-532-4408. Cost is \$25 and can be paid at the door or online at [www.swissmennonite.org](http://www.swissmennonite.org).

**BETHEL COLLEGE WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION** is looking forward to Fall Festival, our biggest money-raising event. We will have our usual New Year’s cookies, borscht and zwiebach and pie by the slice all outside Luyken Fine Arts Center and Market-in-the-Round inside. We again welcome your donations of home-made peppernuts, whole fruit pies, poppyseed rolls, zwiebach, cinnamon rolls, cookies, jams and jellies and other goodies. We’d love to have you donate your craft items as well! Please bring baked goods and craft donations to the Luyken Fine Arts Center Music Library between 1-5 p.m. Fri., Oct. 3, or 7-9 a.m. Sat., Oct. 4. If you have questions, contact us at [bcwa@bethelks.edu](mailto:bcwa@bethelks.edu). Volunteers are needed as well to staff the booths. To sign up, click on the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E4CA8A72FA3F58-50920044-fall> This announcement is in the all church email.

**Camp Mennoscah Announcements**

- **Registration for the Fall Scrapbook and Crafts Retreat, Oct. 10-12**, is open. Activities and lodging will be in the dining hall and bunkhouses. Register at <https://campmennoscah.campbrainregistration.com>
- **Camp Mennoscah's Annual Meeting** is at Hope Mennonite Church, 868 N. Maize Rd., Wichita, Oct. 19, 6:30 p.m. All are invited to attend. A silent auction for a few items will take place.
- **The next tee shirt comforter will be (silent) auctioned off at Bethel College's Fall Fest on Oct. 4.** Also, tee shirts and souvenirs will be available.