

Bethel College Mennonite Church
April 5, 2026
Easter Sunday—Fulfilling Imagination



John 20:1-18 • illustratedministry.com

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

April 5, 2026

Easter: Fulfilling Imagination

Prelude *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* (VT 347) (arr. D. Wood)
Christ is Alive, Let Christians Sing (VT 359) (arr. J.W. Kerr)
I Know That My Redeemer Liveth (Handel) (arr. N. Johnson)
Christ the Lord is Risen Today (VT 346) (arr. J. Payne)
Will Wiebe-Friesen

Christ Candle Lighting

Land Acknowledgement

Centering Music *E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come* (Paul Manz)
Chancel Choir; Joel Garber, director; Will Wiebe-Friesen, accompanist

Welcome & Call to Worship Joanna Harader

One: Come into God's presence, you who imagine and you who seek, you who disrupt and you who repair.

All: By the Spirit, we gather in hope.

One: Come into God's day of resurrection, you who have known grief, you who long for new life, you who carry "Alleluias" in your hearts.

All: In Christ, we gather at the empty tomb.

One: Come into God's presence, singing for joy and for justice; bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

All: To God be the glory! We gather to praise!

Opening Prayer

*Hymn *Low in the Grave He Lay* VT 333

Children and Youth Conversation Adam Robb

Worship Music *"Hallelujah" from Christ on the Mount of Olives* (Beethoven)

Scripture Reading Philippians 2:12-18 Virginia Mininger

*Hymn *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain* VT 348

Scripture Reading John 20:1-18

Sermon *I Have Seen the Lord* Nathan Koontz

*Hymn *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing* VT 359

Reception of New Members: Bill Braun, Joyce Braun, Ryan Ellett, Jim Friesen, Joan Friesen, Omer Galle, Laura Garvin, Keith Good, Linda Koehn Good, Dennis Loepf, Dori Loepf, Bill Rich, Kathleen Rich, Diana Torline, Carolyn Rich Voth, Tim Voth, Johan Wiebe-Friesen, Will Wiebe-Friesen VT 961

The Week at BCMC: April 5—12, 2026

Sunday, April 5—Easter Sunday —Prelude 9:40 a.m.; Worship 10 a.m.

No Sunday School Today **11:30 a.m.** Easter Potluck in the Fellowship Hall
YouTube Link for the worship service:

https://youtube.com/live/Ue_mO_VQMjM?feature=share

The Caring Fund is an above budget benevolent fund administered by the Deacon Commission for the purpose of assisting our congregation's members and community persons in need. It is generated by offerings made payable to BCMC and designated "caring fund." There are fishbowls on the back tables for your donations. Thank you for your continued support and contributions.

Monday, April 6, 2026—Office will be closed

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

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

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

6 p.m. Open Table—Fellowship Hall 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary Chancel

Thursday, April 9, 2026

6 p.m. Chancel Bells Rehearsal—Room B7 7 p.m. Church Board—Room 14

Sunday, April 12, 2026—Holy Humor Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Joanna Harader; music by a men's quartet

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time; 10:45 a.m. Faith Formation

11:45 a.m. Pizza Lunch for College Students

Welcome New Members to BCMC!

Please extend a warm welcome to the 18 new members joining this Easter Sunday as members or as wider fellowship members at BCMC. These new members bring a host of gifts and experiences to give and receive as we journey in faith. Their faith statements are available electronically and a printed version at the back of the sanctuary. New members will be available in the gathering space after worship. A few more members who could not be present on Easter will be joining in May. Let us give thanks for the new life that we will experience together.

Poems and Prayers Group

The poems and prayers group that has been meeting during lent will continue to meet weekly through May Tuesday mornings at 11 in the BCMC chapel. This is an informal time to bring a poem or prayer that speaks to you and share it with the group. Readings will be followed by silence and discussion. Your selection could be something that you have written or something that someone else has written. You do not need to consider yourself a poet to attend. Simply bring a listening ear, an open heart, and joy for the truth revealed when words and phrases rub together and catch fire.

Women's Fellowship High Tea will be Tues., Apr. 21, 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Program will be by Mary Jo (Goering) Preheim sharing her life and music. All women and girls are invited. Tea coordinated by Brenda Turner.

The Easter Lillies this Easter morning were shared by the following people:

Given by	In honor/memory of
Lynne Beth	LaVern & Marilyn Stucky
William & Esther Kreider Eash	Our Parents
Dianne Epp	Winona Senner
Sharon (Faul) Morris, Mary Sue (Faul) Richardson	James O. Faul
Marlene V. Faul	James O Faul
Carol Flickinger & Roger Juhnke.....	Our Parents
Richard Friesen & Dorothy Nickel Friesen	Arthur & Viola Friesen John & Edna Nickel
Judy & Keith Harder	Tim Harder
Rose & David Haury	Benjamin Haury, Vernon & Rubena Wiebe Robert & Ada Mae Haury
Reitha Klaassen	Glendon Klaassen
Sondra Koontz	Philip Koontz
David Kreider & Heidi Regier Kreider	
John & Rachel Pannabecker.....	Our Parents
Sue Penner	Al Penner & Kevin Penner
John Suderman	Alice Suderman
Lenore Waltner & Family	James Waltner

Notes from Organist Will Wiebe-Friesen

- **You may notice an extra sparkle at a couple points in today's service.** An addition, called a zimbelstern, was made to our wonderful Dobson organ in early March. The zimbelstern--which translates cymbal star---originates from the North German organ tradition of Bach's era and was traditionally designed as a rotating golden star at the top of the organ case that tinkled small bells as it spun. Ours is constructed of five handbells that are struck mechanically by a mechanism for which the organist can control speed and volume. We are very grateful to Jon Thieszen for spending several days here last month installing it! If you're interested in learning more about the zimbelstern or our pipe organ, Will Wiebe-Friesen would be happy to share more with you.
- **Today's organ prelude features several favorite Easter hymns** as well as an organ setting of a beloved soprano aria from Messiah. The choir's anthem is the climatic *Hallelujah!* from Beethoven's *Christ on the Mount of Olives*, an oratorio portraying Jesus' emotional turmoil in the Garden of Gethsemane prior to his arrest, with all the drama that one could expect from Beethoven. Unlike other similar passion works, this oratorio highlights Jesus' humanity and does not address the crucifixion or resurrection, rather ending with Jesus' acceptance of what is to come in the following days. The hymn of praise we hear today is the final movement, foreshadowing the triumph of Easter. Today's postlude is an organ work by Belgian-French organist Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens (1823-1881). Aside from this *Fanfare*, Lemmens' music is virtually unheard today; however, one of his students, Charles-Marie Widor, is perhaps the most well-known organist of all time just after J.S. Bach.

Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale (KMRS) is THIS WEEK -- April 10 & 11 at the Kansas State Fair Grounds in Hutchinson. Come, bring your friends, and support the relief, development, and peace-building work of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) around the world.

- **Calling all Zwieback bakers!** We need 16 dozen more zwieback! See Esther or Elaine at the back of the sanctuary after worship today if you can bake several dozen in addition to what you've already signed up to make. MANY thanks to those who've agreed to make 35 pies, 49 dozen zwieback, 18 mini-pies, and other baked items.
- **Reminder:** We will transport items to the sale on Friday and early on Saturday morning. Bring plants inside the south entrance and baked items to the kitchen any time on Friday, and by 7:30 a.m. on Saturday.
- **My Coins Count to help fund MCC education programs continues in the Gathering Place today** -- the last day to place your coins, bills, and checks in the jug. All the money we've collected so far will be taken to the sale on Friday.
- **THANK YOU to the BCMC Sunday School classes** who help underwrite KMRS costs. Thanks to generous donors, all expenses have now been covered. This means that ALL SALE PROCEEDS go directly to MCC programs.
- **Donations!** BCMC members have donated many items for the Quilt, Silent, General, and Children's Auctions. Go to the KMRS website <https://kansas.mccsale.org/auctions/> to view some of the auction items. Do you see something you would like to bid on?!
- **Volunteers Needed:** All hands on deck! The KS Mennonite Relief Sale is powered by over 1,000 volunteers each year, and there are still openings--big and small. Check out available positions at <https://kansas.mccsale.org/volunteer/> and consider signing up for a slot or two. There is something for everyone!
- **For more information:**
 - **KMRS posterboard & table** in the Gathering Place for *Run for Relief* forms, the *My Coins Count* jug, urgent service opportunities and more.
 - **KMRS website:** <https://kansas.mccsale.org/>
 - **BCMC liaisons:** Steve & Elaine Schurr, Brad & Diane Born, and William & Esther Kreider Eash.

The annual meeting of the Community Playschool Corporation will be Mon., Apr. 13, 7:15 p.m. at the BCMC Fellowship Hall. Interested members of the congregations supporting Community Playschool are invited to attend.

Community Playschool, Inc is happy to announce a celebration for it's 60th anniversary! EVERYONE, including members of sponsoring churches, former teachers, volunteers, families, students and anyone else, is invited and welcome to join us on Thurs., Apr. 16 from 5:30-7 p.m. for a look back at the history of the preschool. We will have slides and photos, a timeline of the major events and changes, a place for memories and stories and, of course, cake! The classrooms will be open for tours while the main activities will take place in the Fellowship Hall of BCMC. Please plan to come and help us celebrate this monumental occasion!

Bethel College Announcements: (Krehbiel Auditorium is in the Luyken Fine Arts Center)

- **Mon., Apr. 6: Bethel College will present its 2025 alumni awards** in convocation, 11 a.m., Krehbiel Auditorium. **Young Alumnus, Kristin E. Wedel '08** (social work), Providence, R.I., a therapist with a particular interest in new parent issues; **Outstanding Alumnus, Virgil Penner '60** (industrial arts), North Newton, a long-time educator, coach, administrator and visual artist; **Distinguished Achievement, Tim Wiens '74** (social work), Silver Spring, Md., a health services administrator focused on the needs of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **Now in the Regier Art Gallery, Fine Arts Center:** annual Student Art Exhibit, featuring the work of students in Bethel College art classes, in various media, through Apr. 17. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.
- **Life Enrichment**, for adults age 60 and older, meets Wednesday mornings in Krehbiel Auditorium. **April 8** programs: **9:30 a.m.**, "Wichita Wildlife and Parks," Jim Mason, retired biologist; [note change from printed program] **10:50 a.m.**, "Cars that Drove Me," Mark Janzen, author.
- **Fri., Apr. 10: Junior recital by Bethel College student Seth Balzer**, brass, 7 p.m. Krehbiel Auditorium
- **Sat., Apr. 11: Senior recital by Bethel College student Caleb Koontz**, piano, 4 p.m. Administration Building chapel
- **Sat., Apr. 11: Senior recital by Bethel College student Caleb Garber**, cello, 7 p.m. Administration Building chapel
- **Tues., Apr. 14: Faculty recital:** Duo pianos, by Bethel College professor Dr. Christina Liu and guest Dr. Brett Janssen, Central Christian College/McPherson College, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium
- **Weds., Apr. 15: Bethel College Orchestra concert**, Kris Hilding, director, 7 p.m. Krehbiel Auditorium
- **Fri., April 17: Junior recital** by Bethel College student Kyra Linenberger, voice, 7 p.m., Administration Building chapel
- **Sat., April 18: Recital** by Bethel College student Maira Abrile de Paiva, voice, 7 p.m., Administration Building chapel
- **Sun., May 3: Masterworks concert** at Bethel College, *The Creation* by Joseph Haydn

Friday Apr. 24 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. come join a relief kit packing event on behalf of Bethel College Service Club and Mennonite Central Committee at the MCC building, 121 E. 30th St., North Newton. There will be a meal of hotdogs and hamburgers along with some sides and desserts that will be paid for by donation (suggested amount \$15). All donations go to MCC to make more relief kits! Bethel College's Women and Open Road will give a small concert during the time. Following the meal we will be packing relief kits with a goal of 500 kits! Come join us for an evening of singing and service! — *Adah Hodge, Bethel College Service Club* (See the church bulletin board for flyer and sign up sheet.)

BCMC Offering for Mar. 29: Gen. Fund \$5,363; Wed. Supper \$199; Plant Fund \$50; Caring Fund \$600; Library Reserve Fund \$5; Kitchen Fund \$16; Al Penner Mem. \$200; Barbara Soth Mem. \$905.

Receiving the Offering and Prayers of God's People

*Hymn

Now the Green Blade Rises

VT 353

*Benediction

Postlude

Fanfare (Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens)

* You are invited to stand

VT—*Voices Together* Keyboard—Will Wiebe-Friesen Audio visual—Ken Lamp

Going Beyond Land Acknowledgement:

▪ Don't miss a wonderful opportunity for a free training—**MOVING TOWARD RIGHT RELATIONS:** Join us for a transforming personal accountability training as we seek together to move toward right relations with our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

Sponsored by the Kansas Repair Communities, Mennonite Central Committee-Central States, and Western District Conference and led by staff from the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery, Fri., Apr. 24, from 5:30-9 p.m. and Sat., Apr. 25, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All sessions in the Fellowship Hall of BCMC. Meals provided Friday evening and Saturday noon. There is no registration fee, but registration is required (deadline April 17). For more info, contact Ada Schmidt-Tieszen, 316-842-9751

or email adast@bethelks.edu. You can use the QR code to register.



▪ **Oak Flat:** Though the Ninth Circuit Court has not stopped the land transfer and drilling has begun, four court cases are still pending and the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery has a working group to “Mobilize Spiritual Communities for Oak Flat” that meets on zoom every other week. If you or anyone in your faith community is interested in joining, contact melanie.beikman@azipl.org

BCMC's Lenten Banners illustrate a progression created around the motif of the crown of thorns. The series is about the contrasts, emotion, and movement of the Lenten season. The artist, Anne Friesen Birky, lives in Denver, CO with her family and is the daughter of Duane and Elizabeth Friesen. Thank you to Matt Koontz for organizing the banner installation each week.

The Central Kansas Master Chorale will present Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass (*Mass for Troubled Times*) with orchestra. Join us for this special concert directed by Dr. Joel Garber, Sun., Apr. 19, 3 p.m. at Hesston Mennonite Church, 309 S Main St, Hesston. Admission is free, donations accepted. For more information, visit the chorale website: www.centralkansasmasterchorale.org

The current library theme is "The Story of Us: U S History Explored". We have chosen books that offer a different perspective of our 250-year history and if the highlighted ones don't interest you, we have more on the shelves. Come see what the BCMC Library has to offer!

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, immigration status, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, economic status, marital status, or age.

Land Acknowledgement from words by Mark Charles and VT #878

As we do on the first Sunday of each month, we acknowledge that we worship on the land of the Kanza, Osage, and Wichita.

We thank them for their care and respect for this land and acknowledge the injustice of their forced removal.

We ask the Spirit to heal our histories and find new paths of right relationships with them and all of creation.

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.

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.



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: Today, we celebrate Easter and the hope brought by the risen Christ amid a world that seems more chaotic and destructive every day. Pray that God's people would remember to be "Easter people" every day, displaying the love of Jesus through the everyday acts of seeking justice, doing service and hoping for a better future.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Give thanks for Jesus' resurrection power embodied in WDC congregations through acts of compassion and love, solidarity with those who suffer, and resistance to evil and oppression.

Bethel College Mennonite Church, 2600 College Ave., Box 364, North Newton, KS 67117
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Website: bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

- Pastor Joanna Harader, Day off: Monday; Café 1887 Hours: Thursdays 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cell phone: 407-201-0503; Email: joanna@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- Pastor Nathan Koontz, Days off: Mondays and Wednesdays
Cell phone: 316-212-4593; Email: nathan@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- Office/Facilities Manager: Monica Lichti, Email: office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- Faith Formation Coordinator: Jill Robb—Email: jill@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- Youth Coordinator: George Leary—Email: george@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- Music Coordinators: Verlène Garber and Will Wiebe-Friesen
- Chancel Choir Director: Joel Garber • Chancel Bells Director: Verlène Garber