



**BUILDING
HOPE**
75
YEARS
1950 • 2025

Schedule and registration form inside >>>

Building Hope

**MDS 75TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION OF
SERVICE**

**WICHITA, KANSAS
FEB 14–15, 2025**

**AT RIDGEPOINT CHURCH
8000 W 21ST STREET**

Join us in celebrating 75 incredible years of MDS – a legacy of service for individuals, families, and communities impacted by disaster. Hear powerful stories from both volunteers and survivors, as they share their journeys from hardship to hope. Together, we'll reflect on our achievements and reaffirm our commitment to being the hands and feet of Jesus.

mds.org/annual-celebration



SCHEDULE

FEB 14 – FRIDAY

WORKSHOP THEME: MAKING NEW MDS FRIENDS

8:00AM DOORS OPEN

9:00AM WELCOME

10:00AM HOUSE BUILD BEGINS

10:00AM WORKSHOP SESSION 1

Opt A: Capacity Building—Growing the MDS Network

Opt B: Instilling Service and Compassion in Our Youth

12:00PM LUNCH / TOURS DEPART

1:00PM WORKSHOP SESSION 2

Opt A: Capacity Building—Growing the MDS Network

Opt B: Event Planning

2:45PM WORKSHOP SESSION 3

Opt A: Capacity Building—Growing the MDS Network

Opt B: Partnering with Local Businesses

4:30PM REGION MEETINGS / HOUSE BUILD ENDS

5:30PM DINNER

7:00PM CELEBRATION SERVICE

Joint Choir from Bethel, Hesston, Tabor Colleges

Keynote: MDS in an Upside-Down World—God's Faithfulness

Year-in-Review Video

8:30PM CLOSING

FEB 15 – SATURDAY

8:00AM DOORS OPEN

8:30AM WELCOME

Testimonials

Special Guests: FEMA and NVOAD

10:15AM MORNING ACTIVITIES

First Reading of *Mended*, a new MDS children's book

Storm Reunions

House Build

12:00PM LUNCH / TOURS DEPART

1:00PM AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

House Build (ends at 5:00pm)

Sewing Circle

Cornhole Tournament

MDS Storytelling Open House

4:00PM DINNER

5:00PM EVENING ACTIVITIES

Volleyball Tournament

10:00PM END OF EVENT

LODGING + SHUTTLE SERVICE

You are responsible to book and pay for your hotel room.

There is no room block or group rate. Hotel rates offered are based on market value, are subject to change, and do not include taxes/fees.

These hotels provide free shuttle service between the airport and hotel. MDS will offer shuttle service to Ridgepoint Church from these hotels.

DOUBLETREE HOTEL AT WICHITA AIRPORT

2098 S Airport Rd / 316-945-5272

\$122 retail rate per night before taxes

12 min drive to Ridgepoint Church

Breakfast available at hotel for \$20 per person

HAMPTON INN HOTEL AT WICHITA AIRPORT

7230 W Harry St / 316-942-2000

\$132 retail rate per night before taxes

11 min drive to Ridgepoint Church

Free hot breakfast

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL AT WICHITA AIRPORT

1236 S Dugan Rd / 316-522-0008

\$116-\$130 retail rate per night before taxes

10 min drive to Ridgepoint Church

Free breakfast included

COMFORT SUITES AT WICHITA AIRPORT

7515 W Taft St / 316-733-1700

\$95-\$115 retail rate per night before taxes

10 min drive to Ridgepoint Church

Free breakfast included

HAWTHORN EXTENDED STAY BY WYNDHAM WICHITA AIRPORT

5500 Kellogg Dr / 833-577-3079

\$90-110 retail rate per night before taxes

11 min drive to Ridgepoint Church

Free breakfast included

NOTE: You may also choose to book a room at another hotel of your choice.

WORKSHOPS THEME: MAKING NEW MDS FRIENDS

CAPACITY BUILDING: GROWING THE MDS NETWORK

FRIDAY – 10:00AM, 1:00PM, 2:45PM

The breadth and depth of the MDS network is well-known to many of us. But is there more? This interactive workshop explores familiar and not-so-familiar practices and opportunities for growing volunteer capacity.

EVENT PLANNING

FRIDAY – 1:00PM

This is an interactive workshop where participants will learn best practices to coordinate engaging MDS events that guests will be excited to attend!

INSTILLING SERVICE AND COMPASSION IN YOUTH

FRIDAY – 10:00AM

A panel of leaders for children and youth will share from their experience ways to teach about service, compassion, and loving your neighbor in the context of disaster response and mitigation.

PARTNERING WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES

FRIDAY – 2:45PM

A panel conversation with business leaders whose companies are involved with MDS in various ways. Hear how and why they decided to partner with MDS. Learn ways to build connections with local businesses.

ACTIVITIES

HOUSE BUILD

FRIDAY – 10:00AM–4:30PM (2-hour time slots)

SATURDAY – 10:15AM–5:00PM (2-hour time slots)

MDS will begin a house build indoors at the 4-H Hall (7001 W 21st St N) near Ridgepoint Church. Once completed, the house will be transported to a homeowner in need. Registration is strongly encouraged as space is limited.

MENDED, A NEW MDS CHILDREN'S STORYBOOK

SATURDAY – 10:15AM

Meet the author and illustrator of a delightful new MDS storybook about Tyler and his stuffed bear Leroy. Hear a first reading, get your copy and enjoy children's activities.

SEWING CIRCLE

SATURDAY – 1:00PM

Sewing groups and individuals across Canada and the U.S. are invited to join the MDS International Sewing Bee. Come in person or from your hometown via Zoom to learn how you can spread the word about MDS with your sewing group. Then spend the afternoon sewing wall hangings or creating prayer shawls for MDS clients. We can't wait to see what you create!

STORM REUNIONS

SATURDAY – 10:15AM

Join us for a heartfelt reunion with fellow MDS volunteers. Reconnect and share memories over light refreshments.

MDS STORYTELLING OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY – 1:00PM

Hear from a variety of talented storytellers about the many memories made over MDS's 75-year history.

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY – 1:00PM

Discover how to use cornhole as a fun way to introduce people to MDS! Afterward, enjoy participating in a cornhole tournament. The format will be based on the number of participants. Registration is required—sign up as a single player or as a team of two.

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY – 5:00PM

Enjoy a game of volleyball and learn about MDS! We especially encourage youth groups to participate—though all ages are invited to play. The tournament format will be determined by the number of participants. Registration is required—sign up as a single player or as a team.

GUIDED TOUR OPTIONS

Kansas is a region where Mennonites settled in four central counties starting around 1874. Our tours offer an immersive experience in the area's history, agriculture, terrain, and culture.

- Each tour features a local Mennonite historian who will share insights into the area's history and Mennonites.
- We'll travel in Standard Motorcoaches with on-board restrooms.
- Box lunches will be provided and eaten on the bus while en route. Please bring your own water bottle.
- Tour payments are due upon check-in at the Ridgepoint Church welcome table.
- Each tour accommodates up to 50 people on a first-come basis. *If a tour exceeds capacity or does not reach at least 30 participants, you will be notified.*

Questions? Contact Glen Ediger at 316-288-1066 or Karen Ediger at 316-288-0054.

HISTORIC HOMES / SPACE MUSEUM TOUR

THURSDAY – 9AM–4PM

The day includes a visit to Newton to explore the 1886 Victorian home of Bernhard and Wilhelmina Warkentin, a significant Mennonite miller/entrepreneur who spurred Kansas to become the Breadbasket of America. A box lunch from The Breadbasket will be served as the group travels through Hesston, Dutch Avenue, and Buhler to Hutchinson. An all access pass to the Cosmosphere, a space museum of artifacts and replicas, also gives the option to explore the Kansas sky in the planetarium, and watch science documentaries in their digital dome theatre.

Cost: \$60 per person. Lunch included.

Travel distance: 130 miles

Departs Ridgepoint Church at 9am, returns by 4pm

More info: cosmo.org

MENNONITE HERITAGE AND AG MUSEUM / MDS CABINET SHOP TOUR

FRIDAY – 12PM–4:30PM

The afternoon begins with a box lunch during the drive to Goessel, where you'll visit the Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum. Explore the recreated Immigrant House with its living space, view exhibits of family artifacts, a display on Doc Schmidt (a medical missionary to Paraguay), and learn about the Turkey Red Wheat Palace, which showcases equipment used to develop Kansas' wheat industry. The tour continues with a visit to the nearby MDS Cabinet Shop and Warehouse for an informative tour.

Cost: \$30 per person. Lunch included.

Travel distance: 100 miles

Departs Ridgepoint Church at 12pm, returns by 4:30pm

More info: goesselmuseum.com

KAUFFMAN MUSEUM / MDS CABINET SHOP TOUR

FRIDAY – 12PM–4:30PM

SATURDAY – 12PM–4:30PM

The tour begins with a box lunch on the drive to North Newton and the Kauffman Museum, located on the Bethel College campus. The museum offers a deep dive into the evolving story of Central Plains Mennonites, with exhibits such as Of Land and People, Mennonite Immigrant Furniture, Mirror of the Martyrs, prairie reconstruction, and a farmstead. Next, the tour will visit the MDS Cabinet Shop and Warehouse in Goessel for an informative tour.

Cost: \$30 per person. Lunch included.

Travel distance: 100 miles

Departs Ridgepoint Church at 12pm, returns by 4:30pm

More info: kauffmanmuseum.org

MDS CABINET SHOP / CHURCH ROAD TOUR

SATURDAY – 12PM–4:30PM

The afternoon begins with a box lunch during the drive to Goessel, where you'll visit the MDS Cabinet Shop and Warehouse for a detailed tour and information about their projects. Following this, enjoy a scenic country drive through Moundridge, with stops at West Zion Church, First Church Christian, Hopefeld (to read the monument), and Eden. The tour continues through Hesston, including views of Whitestone, the MDS office and warehouse, Hesston Mennonite Church, and Hesston College, before passing by a rural Pennsylvania Church cemetery.

Cost: \$25 per person. Lunch included.

Travel distance: 120 miles

Departs Ridgepoint Church at 12pm, returns by 4:30pm

REGISTRATION FORM

Complete this form or register online at mds.org/annual-celebration

REGISTER BY JANUARY 27, 2025

The event is FREE, including meals. Tours have a fee to be collected at check-in at Ridgepoint Church.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Fill out both sides of this form + tear along perforation
2. Fold in half and seal (mailing address on outside)
3. Add a stamp, then mail

REGISTERED NAME(S)

Registrant 1: First name _____

Last name _____

Registrant 2: First name _____

Last name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State/Prov _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

MEALS [FREE]

☐ **Friday Lunch** Number of people _____

☐ **Friday Dinner** Number of people _____

☐ **Saturday Lunch** Number of people _____

☐ **Saturday Dinner** Number of people _____

Food allergies / requirements: _____

SATURDAY ACTIVITIES [FREE]

Indicate your choice.

HOUSE BUILD

FRIDAY ☐ 10am–12pm ☐ 12-2pm ☐ 2-4pm

SATURDAY ☐ 10am–12pm ☐ 12-2pm ☐ 2-4pm

Participant name: _____

Participant name: _____

☐ **CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT – SATURDAY 1:00pm**

Participant name: _____

Participant name: _____

☐ **VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT – SATURDAY 5pm**

Participant name: _____

Participant name: _____

SHUTTLE SERVICE [FREE]

NOTE: Hotels listed (bottom left) provide shuttle service to/from the airport.

☐ I need a shuttle from the Amtrak train station in Newton, KS, to my hotel.

☐ I need a shuttle from my hotel (listed on this form) to Ridgepoint Church on Friday/Saturday.

If checked, indicate your hotel: _____

TOURS [PAYMENT REQUIRED]

Indicate your choice. Registering for tours commits you to pay the cost of the tour when you check in at Ridgepoint Church (cash or check payable to "MDS"). Each tour accommodates up to 50 people on a first-come basis. If a tour exceeds capacity or does not reach at least 30 participants, you will be notified. Fees are in US dollars. Tours depart from and return to Ridgepoint Church.

☐ **HISTORIC HOMES / SPACE MUSEUM TOUR**
THURSDAY 9am–4pm [\$60 per person]

Participant name: _____

Participant name: _____

☐ **MENNONITE HERITAGE AND AG MUSEUM / MDS CABINET SHOP**

FRIDAY 12pm – 4:30pm [\$30 per person]

Participant name: _____

Participant name: _____

KAUFFMAN MUSEUM / MDS CABINET SHOP

☐ **FRIDAY 12pm – 4:30pm [\$30 per person]**

☐ **SATURDAY 12pm – 4:30pm [\$30 per person]**

Participant name: _____

Participant name: _____

☐ **MDS CABINET SHOP / CHURCH ROAD TOUR**
SATURDAY 12pm – 4:30pm [\$25 per person]

Participant name: _____

Participant name: _____

COMPLETE OTHER SIDE OF FORM >>>

Building Hope



REGISTRATION (CONTINUED)

FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

Each workshop session has two options. Select one.

SESSION 1 @ 10:00AM (SELECT ONE OPTION)

- ☐ Opt A: Capacity Building—Growing the MDS Network
Number of people _____
- ☐ Opt B: Instilling Service and Compassion in Our Youth
Number of people _____

SESSION 2 @ 1:00PM (SELECT ONE OPTION)

- ☐ Opt A: Capacity Building—Growing the MDS Network
Number of people _____
- ☐ Opt B: Event Planning
Number of people _____

SESSION 3 @ 2:45PM (SELECT ONE OPTION)

- ☐ Opt A: Capacity Building—Growing the MDS Network
Number of people _____
- ☐ Opt B: Partnering with Local Businesses
Number of people _____



Scan to register online

ADD STAMP
HERE



Mennonite Disaster Service

583 Airport Road
Lititz, PA 17543