



2026 MDS
CELEBRATION
OF SERVICE

mds.org/annual-celebration
SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION FORM INSIDE >>>

Working Together

FEB 27-28, 2026 | LANCASTER COUNTY, PA

AT RIEHL'S CONSTRUCTION (233 QUALITY CIRCLE, NEW HOLLAND, PA)

*"How good and pleasant it is
when God's people work together."*

PSALM 133:1



SCHEDULE

FEB 26 – THURSDAY

1:00PM TOUR: MCC IN LANCASTER COUNTY

For those arriving a day early, join Ken Sensenig for a 2-hour tour exploring MCC's work in Lancaster County. We will visit the Material Resources Center in Ephrata to see volunteers preparing relief shipments, quilts, and other items for global distribution. The tour includes stops at MCC headquarters in Akron and an MCC thrift shop.

Departs 1:00pm from Riehl's Construction and returns by 3:30pm. Please arrive 15 minutes before departure. COST: \$20 per person (cash or check at the MDS registration table)

FEB 27 – FRIDAY

8:30AM TOUR: AMISH + MENNONITE COUNTRYSIDE

This 3.5-hour tour, led by John H. Denlinger, begins with the 17-minute film *We Believe* at The Mennonite Life Visitors Center, then continues through Lancaster's scenic "Garden Spot of America." Stops include Riehl's Quilt Shop in Intercourse, the Clinic for Special Children, and Lapp Valley Farm Ice Cream and Emma's Popcorn.

Departs 8:30am from Riehl's Construction and returns by 12:00pm. Please arrive 15 minutes before departure. COST: \$30 per person (cash or check at the MDS registration table).

11:30AM LUNCH AT RIEHL'S CONSTRUCTION

1:00PM WELCOME

Begin the afternoon with prayer, greetings, and an invitation to listen for God's leading in our time together.

1:45PM GATHERING SESSIONS

Session A: MDS Executive Director Q+A

Join Kevin King (MDS U.S. Executive Director), Ross Penner (MDS Canada Executive Director), and Reynold Friesen (incoming MDS Canada Executive Director) for an open conversation about how God is moving through disaster response ministry. Bring your questions and hear how faith in Christ shapes MDS's decisions, priorities, and service.

Session B: Working Together with Partners

A panel conversation with representatives from several VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) partners. Learn how our organizations collaborate to respond to disasters and explore ways to strengthen partnerships in your own community.

2:45PM BREAK

3:00PM GATHERING SESSIONS

Session C: MDS's Anabaptist Community

Steve Nolt (Elizabethtown College) will share the history and variety of the Anabaptist groups that make up the MDS community. Includes time for Q&A.

Session D: Polarity Management: Grassroots and Staff-Led

Explore how MDS navigates the dynamic between grassroots volunteer engagement and centralized staff leadership, and how managing these natural polarities can bring greater clarity and purpose in our mission to bring people home.



4:00PM BREAK

4:15PM REGIONAL GATHERINGS

Gather with others from your MDS region to pray together, share stories of God's work, and seek God's direction for the year ahead.

5:00PM DINNER

7:00PM CELEBRATION SERVICE

A time of worship including a devotional, hymn sing, and the MDS Year-in-Review video—giving glory to God for the ways God has worked through volunteers and communities over the past year.

8:15PM FELLOWSHIP

Continue the evening with informal conversation and connection.

FEB 28 – SATURDAY

8:30AM FELLOWSHIP

A relaxed time to connect over coffee and conversation with fellow attendees before the morning program begins.

9:30AM MORNING PROGRAM

Hear updates, inspiring voices from across MDS, and testimonies of lives changed through God's love.

11:00AM CLOSING

A time to reflect on the weekend, express gratitude, and share final thoughts as we look ahead to the year to come.

11:30AM LUNCH

1:00PM TOUR: LANCASTER OFF THE BEATEN TRAIL

This 2.5-hour tour, led by Ken Sensenig, explores hidden Lancaster stories starting in Bird in Hand, where a Quaker community once aided freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad. Visit Misty Creek Goat Dairy to meet the goats and sample their products, tour MCC's Material Resources Center in Ephrata, and step inside an Old Order Mennonite Church for a glimpse into historic worship practices.

Departs 1:00pm from Riehl's Construction, returning by 4:00pm. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to departure.

COST: \$30 per person (cash or check at the MDS registration table)

SPECIAL GUEST

Steve Nolt is Director of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies and a professor of history at Elizabethtown College. He is the author or coauthor of many books on Mennonite and Amish history and contemporary life, including *Seeking Places of Peace*, the North America volume in the Global Mennonite history series. He is the editor for Young Center Books in Anabaptist and Pietist Studies published by the Johns Hopkins University Press. Steve and his wife Rachel live in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and are the parents of two young adult daughters.

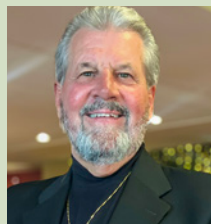


MEET YOUR TOUR LEADERS**Ken Sensenig**

Ken first volunteered with MDS in 1972 and has served with Mennonite Central Committee for more than 35 years, both in Africa and the U.S. In early retirement, he enjoys storytelling, adult education, and farm projects near Akron, PA. Ken and his wife, Karen, have three adult children around the globe and attend Laurel Street Mennonite Church.

**John H. Denlinger**

John grew up on a dairy farm in Lancaster County and has been an educator, coach, pastor, and nonprofit leader. Now retired from full-time work, he serves part-time at The Mennonite Life Visitors Center. He and his wife, Debbie, have three married children, six grandchildren, and enjoy motorcycling and traveling. They attend Ridgeview Mennonite Church.



ACCOMMODATIONS

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

(Hotel rates do not include taxes and fees.) You may also choose a hotel not listed here. MDS will offer shuttle service to Riehl's Construction from a select group of hotels noted below.

Hotels highlighted in green have reserved a block of rooms for MDS. To secure the special rate, make a reservation by January 20, 2026.

COMFORT INN NEW HOLLAND AMISH COUNTRY

626 West Main Street, New Holland, PA
717-355-9900

Special rate: \$109 plus tax — mention "MDS" when registering
Includes complimentary breakfast
2 miles from Riehl's Construction
Shuttle service available

THE INN AT LEOLA VILLAGE, A HISTORIC HOTEL OF AMERICA

38 Deborah Drive, Lancaster, PA
717-656-7002

Special rate: \$199 plus tax — mention "Mennonite Disaster Service"
Breakfast available for a fee on site
5 miles from Riehl's Construction
Shuttle service available

BEST WESTERN PLUS

3610 E. Newport Road, Intercourse, PA
717-768-3636

Special rate: \$165 plus tax — mention "MDS" when registering
Includes complimentary breakfast
5 miles from Riehl's Construction
Shuttle service available

AMISH VIEW INN & SUITES

3125 Old Philadelphia Pike (Route 340), Bird-in-Hand, PA
866-735-1600

Special rate: \$139–\$169 plus tax — mention "Mennonite Disaster Service"
Includes complimentary breakfast
6.5 miles from Riehl's Construction
No shuttle service

HAMPTON INN & SUITES

3476 Old Philadelphia Pike (Route 340), Intercourse, PA
717-768-4100

\$169–\$189 plus tax (AAA discount available)
Includes complimentary breakfast
5 miles from Riehl's Construction
Shuttle service available



REGISTRATION FORM

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

REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 11, 2026

The event is FREE, including meals.

Tour fees will be collected at check-in.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Fill out both sides of this form

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 _____

Please note: A variety of food options will be provided. While we aim to offer choices for everyone, we cannot guarantee accommodations for food allergies. If you have specific dietary restrictions or allergies, please consider bringing your own food as needed.

SHUTTLE SERVICE [FREE]

Do you need a shuttle from your hotel to the event?

☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, please provide an email address and we will send the shuttle schedule prior to the event:

Email _____

FRIDAY GATHERING SESSIONS [FREE]

Select one option per time slot and indicate the number of people attending.

FRIDAY AT 1:45PM (SELECT ONE)

☐ **SESSION A: MDS Executive Director Q+A**

Number of people _____

☐ **SESSION B: Working Together with Partners**

Number of people _____

FRIDAY AT 3PM (SELECT ONE)

☐ **SESSION C: MDS's Anabaptist Community**

Number of people _____

☐ **SESSION D: Polarity Management**

Number of people _____

TOURS [PAYMENT REQUIRED]

Indicate your choice. Registering for tours commits you to pay the tour fee when you check in at Riehl's Construction (cash or check payable to "MDS").
The fee covers transportation, gas, bus rental, and your tour guide. If a tour exceeds capacity, you will be notified prior to the event. All fees are in U.S. dollars.
Tours depart from and return to Riehl's Construction.

☐ **MCC IN LANCASTER COUNTY TOUR**

THURSDAY 1:00pm–3:30pm [\$20 per person]

Participant name: _____

Participant name: _____

☐ **AMISH + MENNONITE COUNTRYSIDE TOUR**

FRIDAY 8:30am – 12pm [\$30 per person]

Participant name: _____

Participant name: _____

☐ **LANCASTER: OFF THE BEATEN TRAIL TOUR**

SATURDAY 1pm – 4pm [\$30 per person]

Participant name: _____

Participant name: _____



2026 MDS ANNUAL CELEBRATION



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CELEBRATION
OF SERVICE

Working Together

LANCASTER COUNTY, PA
FEB 27-28, 2026

AT RIEHL'S CONSTRUCTION
233 QUALITY CIRCLE
NEW HOLLAND, PA

mds.org/annual-celebration





Scan to register online

ADD STAMP
HERE



Mennonite Disaster Service
583 Airport Road
Lititz, PA 17543