

Last Week at Zion Mennonite Church

Worship attendance (with 3 visitor & 6x2 YouTube) c. 93
Offering: Western District Conference \$435
Local Fund for December - \$8,650
(Need approx \$11,500 per month)

This Week at Zion Mennonite Church

SS classes meet 9:45 A.M., Dec. 24
Youth Christmas Eve Practice 9:45 A.M., Dec. 24
Worship 10:45 A.M., Dec. 24
Christmas Eve Service 7 P.M., Dec. 24

Wednesday Evening Activities

No Wednesday Night Activities
{ Regularly scheduled activities will commence January 10th }

Next Sunday at Zion Mennonite Church

Worship Leader: Wes & Bonnie Brewer Family Next Sun.
Accompanist /Vocalist/Prelude: Carol/Margaret Next Sun.
Makayla/Lauren
Children’s Time: Sharon Wedel Next Sun.
Offering: SafeHope Next Sun.
AV: Wes Brewer Next Sun.
Greeters: Matt & Lindsey Regier Family Next Sun.

Calendar of Upcoming Zion Events

Education Board Meeting 6:10 P.M., January 3
Annual Congregational Meeting 7 P.M., January 3
Snow Camp Parent Meeting 6:30 P.M., January 10

Pray and Give Thanks This Week for...

- God to teach each of us His path. That hearts are open to God’s guidance, and God’s guidance alone. Trusting in the Holy Spirit and seeking the will of God.
- all those who grieve this Christmas season.
- peace on earth goodwill to all.

Zion Mennonite Church

P.O. Box 68, Elbing, KS 67041 (316) 799-2071
zionelbing@gmail.com www.zionmenno.org

December 24, 2023

Worship in the sanctuary at 10:45 A.M.; also live-streamed

Gathering “O Come all ye Faithful” VT#241 (vs 1, 2, 4)
Welcome, Introductions, Greeting One Another
Announcements Wes & Bonnie Brewer Family
Prelude Caleb Klingenberg & Abi Entz
Call to Worship Wes & Bonnie Brewer Family
Lighting of the Advent Candles and Peace Lamp

Leader: God sent the angel Gabriel to a young woman in Nazareth named Mary. He said to her, “Greetings, favored one! God is with you.”

High voices: But Mary was perplexed by Gabriel’s words, and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Leader: The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God.”

People: Like Mary, we’re also ordinary. Will God really work through us?

(Light the advent candle and the Peace lamp)

All: Together we ponder.

Song “Oh How Shall I Receive Thee” VT#215

Offering *Mennonite Mission Network*
(Offering plate located in the back of the sanctuary – youth bring forward for prayer)

Children’s Time Bonnie Brewer

Song “Your Love is Amazing” VT#96

Scripture *Luke 1:26-38*

Sermon “How will we know...why me? Why not me?” Pastor Micah

Response Song “Lo how a Rose” VT#216

Sharing of Our Life Together
Prayer Pastor Micah

Sending Song “Blessed be the God of Israel” VT#223

Benediction Pastor Micah

Micah: Together we ponder.

People: We're so ordinary. Will God really work through us?

Micah: Do not be afraid! Nothing is impossible with God.
Go, for the mighty one has done extraordinary things, and holy is God's name!

Worship Leader: Wes & Bonnie Brewer Family Music: Brett Klingenberg
Sermon: Pastor Micah AV: Wes Brewer
Greeters: Josh & Kristy Andres Family

Our worship is live-streamed and recorded. To access go to:

<https://www.zionmenno.org/watch-live.html> OR

<https://www.youtube.com/@zionmennonitechurch-elbing5666/streams>

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE,
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Pastor's Schedule: Pastor Micah's office hours and contact information:

Office Hours

Contact Information

Tuesday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Cell #: (540) 810-5087 (call or text)

Wednesday: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Email: zionelbing@gmail.com

Thursday: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Office Administrators: All bulletin items, notes/information to be sent out to the congregation through email needs to be sent to:

office.zionelbing@gmail.com

Congregational Announcements

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION will meet on January 3 at 6:10 P.M. in the Elevator room.

CHRISTMAS EVE EVENING OFFERING will go to IRC (International Rescue Committee), specifically the Ukrainian & Palestinian relief.

EDWIN IS TURNING 98! Join us in celebrating an amazing man and all his years December 30th from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. at d'Veers Family Center, 227 N Main, Elbing, KS. We would like everyone to write a story/memory that you have with Ed. You can bring it to the party or mail/email them to: Edwin Andres, Box 13, Elbing, KS 67041 or mistered1230@yahoo.com.

DAVID AND ELENA WIEBE have a new address:
300 E 11th Street Newton, KS 67114.

AGENDA FOR JANUARY 3rd CONGREGATIONAL MEETING includes approval of Agenda, approval of December Minutes, report from auditors, 2023 Annual Report with questions and discussion, report from Pastoral Search Committee, Peacebuilding Team consideration, and an announcement by Wes Brewer. Additional items may be added by contacting Becky Nickel or Mark Unruh.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help the residents play Bingo on Friday, January 5th at Wheatstate Manor at 3-4 P.M. Please talk to or e-mail Lois, if you can help. Thank you!

JUNIOR HIGH SNOW CAMP PARENT MEETING will be held January 10th at 6:30 P.M. Parents and youth will meet with sponsors in the parsonage basement to learn more about this event.

The **SOUTH FURNACE ROOM** needs to be cleaned up. There are various items which require disposal. Please feel free to go and look through the room, and you're invited to take old hymnals. Note: following February 1st, the furnace room will be emptied of all remaining items.

~Thank you. Spiritual Life and Facilities Boards

Other Organizations

Open to new participants: Healing & Hope, a confidential group of women supporting each other after experiencing betrayal trauma (a spouse or partner's use of pornography, affair, or sexual addiction). Bimonthly meetings are held via Zoom. This group is hosted by First Mennonite Church of Newton and facilitated by Audrey Ratzlaff, M.Div. Contact Audrey at aaratzlaff@yahoo.com or 316-619-4580 for more information.

Grief Share offers a safe, welcoming support group to help you discover relief, comfort, and peace of mind in loss. Manhattan Mennonite Church will host an online Grief Share group beginning November 1, 6:30-8pm, and continuing every Wednesday night through January 31. This group meets intentionally through the holidays because grief can be especially difficult in these seasons. A zoom link and a workbook will be available to those who register. More information here: <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/175924>

Melva Kauffman Lecture Series: Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery This year the Melva Kauffman Lecture Series is pleased to host Mark Charles who will present on the topic of Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery. Charles is the son of an American woman (of Dutch heritage) and a Navajo man. He teaches with insight into the complexities of American history regarding race, culture and faith in order to help forge a path of healing and conciliation for the nation. The public is invited to hear his presentation at Hesston Mennonite Church Sunday, January 21, 2024, at 7 p.m.

MCC responding to the Palestine and Israel conflict - MCC laments the violence and mourns all lives lost in Palestine and Israel. MCC remains committed to a just peace for all, and is planning an emergency response that will focus on the humanitarian needs in Gaza, given the vulnerability of the population and lack of resources available to families. We are also planning to offer trauma healing support and housing reconstruction. Donate online at mcc.org/Palestine-Israel or call 1-888-563-4676.

Christmas Bells

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
1807 –1882

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."