

Last Week at Zion Mennonite Church

Worship attendance (including no visitors): 85
Offering: Local Fund \$2,601.21

This Week at Zion Mennonite Church

Governing Council meets 7 P.M., Dec. 11
Wed. Evening Activities Dec. 13

5:45-6:30 P.M. Supper
 6:30-7:15 P.M. Children's Activities, Adult Choir practice
 7:15-8:15 P.M. Adult Bible Study

Wed. eve children's activities: all This Wed.
 Greeters: David and Karen Andres Next Sun.
 Worship leader coordinator: Steph Entz Next Sun.
 Musicians: Kristyn / Kristyn / Kristyn / Adult Choir Next Sun.
 Offering: New Hope Shelter Next Sun.

Calendar of Upcoming Zion Events

Material for **2017 Zion Annual Report** due to Allie K. Dec. 17
 Co-pastors' **Open House** (5 Jasper Ct, NNewton) 2-4 P.M., Dec. 17
Lunch for kit packers @ Newton McDonalds 12:15 P.M., Dec. 20
Pack relief kits @ MCC offices (NNewton) 1 P.M., Dec. 20
Christmas program/party @ Wheat State Manor 7 P.M., Dec. 20
 No SS, but **light refreshments, fellowship** 10:00 A.M., Dec. 24
Zion worship service 10:45 A.M., Dec. 24
Zion Christmas Eve program 7 P.M., Sun., Dec. 24
 (No **Wednesday evening** meal and activities) P.M., Dec. 27
Zion cong. mtg. for reports & projects 7 P.M., Jan. 3, 2018
Epiphany communion observance 10:45 A.M., Jan. 7
 Pastors and deacons take **communion fieldtrips** P.M., Jan. 7
 Resume regular **Wed. evening** meal and activities Jan. 10
 Zion serves at **New Hope Shelter** during wk of Jan. 10-16
WDC "Year of Evangelism" kick-off event Jan. 20
 Co-pastors on **vacation** Feb. 12-21
 First Sunday in **Lent** Feb. 18
Guest speaker: Jim Juhnke Feb. 18
Easter Sunday Apr. 1
"Open Road" ensemble from BC in worship Apr. 8

Zion Mennonite Church

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December 10, 2017: The Second Sunday of Advent

"Let it be so"

Sunday School at 9:45 A.M. Worship at 10:45 A.M.

Pre-Service Music "We Three Kings" Joy Rutschman
 "Silent Night" Alyssa Klingenberg
 *Gathering Hymn "Longing for light" SJ #54
 Welcome, Introductions, Announcements
 Prelude (on organ) "Joy to the World" Abi Entz
 Call to Worship

Leader: Awake!

The invitation to carry light comes from the voice who
 cries out for a smooth way through wild places.

People: O God, your call is uncomfortable.

**How can we who are weak remove the rough and
 rugged places?**

(Pause for silence)

L: Quiet our questioning souls.

All: Lead us into your presence so all can see your way.

L: Let it be so.

Lighting of Advent Candle Ben and Halie Duerksen
 Advent Skit The Rutschman family
 Children's Time "Journey to Bethlehem" June Entz
 Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 40-1-11* Allie Klingenberg
 *Hymn "Come, thou long-expected Jesus" HWB #178
 New Testament Reading *Mark 1:1-8* Allie Klingenberg
 Sermon "God's people comforted" Rosie Epp
 *Response Hymn "Comfort, comfort, O my people" HWB #176

Offering *Zion Scholarship Fund*
Offertory “The First Noel” Anna Klingenberg

Sharing Celebrations and Concerns

Confession (in unison):

O God of blazing heavens, you come to us gently and tenderly,
speaking peace and comfort into our fear.

We long for you,

we yearn for your promise of a new heaven and earth.

Yet we confess that though we know who to get busy
and prepare for this season,

we do not know how to slow down or wait

and make space for your presence.

May our ordinary lives intersect with the power of your Word
and the transforming presence of your grace.

Empower us to “let it be so.”

Prayer

Ray Reimer

*Sending Hymn

“My soul cries out”

SS #124

*Benediction

Postlude

**Please stand if you are able*

Greeters: Joe and Lois Friesen

Worship Leader coord.: June Entz

Musician: Carol Klingenberg

Co-Pastors: Ray Reimer (316-217-2012) and Rosie Epp (316-217-7338)

Pastors Ray and Rosie’s Schedules/Contacts: One of them is at the church office several weekday mornings by about 9 A.M., Ray on Mon. & Fri., Rosie on Tue. & Wed. (all day); they’ll be visiting some afternoons. This week Ray’s pastor cluster meets Wed. noon, he’ll join the Remington Area Ministerial Alliance Thur. noon, and both plan to be at the MCC Soiree Thur. evening.

Congregational Announcements

Through Dec. 13: **Food for area food banks** is being collected at Zion. Bring non-perishable, non-expired items such as rice, beans, pasta, sauce, mac & cheese, peanut butter, cereal, soup, etc.; place food items in the grocery cart in the foyer. As you shop for the holidays get a little extra. Monetary donations are also welcome.

Dec. 17, 2-4 P.M.: Pastors Ray and Rosie invite the Zion congregation to a **come-and-go Christmas open house** at their new home (5 Jasper Ct, N. Newton, KS 67117; from the light at 24th & Main, go 3 blocks W on 24th to Regal Crescent, 1 block N to Jasper Court, then NE to the end of the court). Please ensure our neighbors can access their drives; we encourage those who are able to park at the end of the court (or even on Regal Crescent), leaving the spaces nearer our house for those less mobile. Note there are at least 4 steps to any floor, and we don’t yet have railings installed. We may not be completely settled, but look forward to some warm fellowship and a few goodies nonetheless.

Dec. 20: Adults and children interested in **helping to pack the MCC Relief kits** Zion has gathered meet at the Newton McDonald’s for lunch at 12:15 on Dec 20 if you wish. We’ll gather at the Newton MCC center at 1 P.M. to pack our relief kits. There’ll be jobs for all ages.

Jan. 5: Kara Klingenberg will again travel to the Dominican Republic for a **medical mission trip** and you can help! Donations like unexpired medications and medical supplies, adult and children’s vitamins, hygiene items, small toys, empty prescription bottles, and new flip flops needed. Monetary donations will be used to order specialty supplies like sutures and other surgical instruments and prescription medicines. Thank you!

Other Organizations

Dec. 10, 3 P.M.: Bethel College Alumni Choir performs a **short Christmas concert** Trinity Heights Un. Methodist Ch., Newton; punch and cookie reception follows.

Dec. 10, 6:30 P.M.: **Brass Christmas:** Come join us at Alexanderwohl Menn. Ch. for an evening filled with Christmas music! The evening will feature the McPherson Brass Choir under the direction of Jerry Toews along with the Elbiata Singers from Goessel High School under the direction of Andrew Voth. A freewill offering will be received to support the ministries of the Goessel Ministerial Alliance. We hope to see you there!

Dec. 10, 7 P.M.: Tabor College Arts Dept. presents **Handel's Messiah** in Richert Auditorium, Shari Flaming Center for the Arts.

Dec. 10, 8 P.M.: 32nd **Lighting of the Green** at Bethel College.

Dec. 14, 5-7 P.M.: You're invited to the annual come-and-go **MCC Christmas Soiree** at the MCC Center in North Newton (121 E. 30th St.) to enjoy food, drinks and great conversation. At 6 P.M. we'll hear about MCC's work with refugees in Jordan. Bring your family and friends! Contact patsydirksen@mcc.org with questions.

Dec. 16, 2:30 P.M.: The **Christmas gathering** of Camp Mennoscah volunteers from any and all years at the Retreat Center for conversation, games (indoor or outdoor), and cookies! There will also be an optional white elephant gift exchange.

Through Dec. 17: **Ten Thousand Village / Fair Trade International Gift Festival** is coming to Newton at the Mezzanine above Prairie Harvest (601 N Main). It will be open on Nov. 24-25, Dec. 1-3, 8-10, 15-17. Hours on Fri.'s and Sat.'s: 10 A.M.–5 P.M. Hours on Sun's: 1-4 P.M.

Dec. 17, 4 P.M.: Free admission to the Music on Site presentation of “**Amahl and The Night Visitors**” at several locations (see bulletin board) this next week, the nearest being Bethel College Menn. Ch. (Casey Guthals has a role, and is production asst.).

Jan. 19-20, 2018: **Year of Evangelism Kick Off:** Anabaptist Witness has two terrific speakers planned. Fri. evening missional author, Heidi Roland Unruh, will share insights and Sat. morning Mennonite Mission Network Director of Discipleship Initiatives, Marvin Lorenzana, offers challenge and encouragement. Register now at: <http://mennowdc.org/year-of-evangelism/>

Pray This Week for...

- Evelyn Buller, unable to worship with us regularly.
- Eva Rutschman, celebrating her 10th birthday this Wednesday!
- Western District Conf. congregations undergoing construction projects to better serve their communities and members.