

Last Week at Zion Mennonite Church

Worship attendance (including 5 visitors):	65
Offering: Offender Victim Ministries	\$473
November receipts-to-date for Local Fund (\$12,112 needed)	\$8,491

This Week at Zion Mennonite Church

Wed. evening activities Dec. 5

5:45-6:30 P.M.	Supper
6:30-7:15 P.M.	Children's Activities, Adult Choir practice
7:15-8:00 P.M.	Adult Bible Study

Deacons meet 9 A.M., Dec. 7

WiM Christmas Dinner @ MCC/NNewton 5:30 P.M., Dec. 7

Activity leaders/meal: Kristy + Carol / Becky	This Wed.
Greeter(s): Ralph and Jeanne Schmidt	Next Sun.
Worship Leader(s): Mark Unruh	Next Sun.
Musician(s): Drew / Alyssa / Carol	Next Sun.
Offering: Zion Scholarship Fund	Next Sun.

Calendar of Upcoming Zion Events

Zion cong. mtg. for budget & elections	c.11:45 A.M., Dec. 9
Governing Council meets	7 P.M., Dec. 10
Deacons, pastors and children visit senior members	P.M., Dec. 16
Material for 2018 Zion Annual Report due to Allie K.	Dec. 17
Wheat State Manor Christmas party	7 P.M., Dec. 20
Zion Christmas Eve program	7 P.M., Dec. 24
(No Wednesday evening meal and activities)	P.M., Dec. 26
Zion serves at New Hope Shelter	week of Dec. 26-Jan. 1, 2019
Zion cong. mtg. for reports & projects	7 P.M., Jan. 2, 2019

Pray This Week for...

- Elda Hiebert, unable to worship with us regularly.
- Martha Wedel, and other friends and relatives of Wilmer Wedel; this coming Sat. is the 2nd anniversary of his death in 2016.
- Linda Oyer, who retired this year after three decades of service in France through Mennonite Mission Network. Pray for a smooth transition as she moves to the United States and speaks in churches. In "retirement," she plans to return to France twice a year to teach and lead workshops.

Zion Mennonite Church

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

December 2, 2018

First Sunday of Advent: "Watching and Waiting"
Sunday School at 9:45 A.M. Worship at 10:45 A.M.

* Gathering Hymn "Guide me, O thou great Jehovah" HWB #582
 Welcome, Introductions, Announcements
 Prelude Emma Entz

Call to Worship

Leader: Now is the time of waiting and watching.

We wait expectantly for the Messiah, for God's promises to be fulfilled.

People: We turn to you, O God, in the midst of this chaotic world, longing for that day of salvation to arrive.
How long must we wait?

L: Pay attention, be still and know that God is with us.
 The signs are all around us.

P: Fill us with the faith and the hope of what is to be as we come before you with open hearts.

All: Come, Lord Jesus; come!

Special Music "Rejoice, rejoice! O come, O come, Emmanuel" Chime Choir

Children's Time Mark Unruh
 Lighting the Advent Candle

Old Testament Reading *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

* Hymn "Teach me, O Lord" HWB #487

New Testament Reading *Luke 21:25-36*

Sermon "The nearness of desolation... and redemption" Ray Reimer

* Response Hymn "Longing for light" SJ #54

Offering	<i>Local Fund</i>	
Offertory		Anna Klingenberg
Sharing Celebrations and Concerns: Prayer		Rosie Epp
* Sending Song	“O come, O come, Immanuel”	HWB #172
* Benediction and Postlude		
	<i>*Please stand if you are able</i>	

Greeter(s): Joe and Lois Friesen Musician(s): Karen Andres
Worship Leader(s): Mark Unruh Chime Choir Director: Karen Andres
Co-Pastors: Ray Reimer (316-217-2012) and Rosie Epp (316-217-7338)

Pastors Ray and Rosie’s Schedules: One of them is at the church office several weekday mornings by about 9 A.M., Ray on Mon. & Fri., Rosie on Tue. & Wed.; they’ll be visiting some afternoons. This week they’ll attend a presentation at First Menn. Ch. (Newton) this evening regarding pastoral ethics; Ray’s pastor cluster meets Thur. afternoon; and both will be at the Women in Mission Christmas dinner this Friday.

Congregational Announcements

During the month of December, the Zion’s Outreach Board is inviting members and friends to donate materials or cash for **Infant Care Kits** to be given to Mennonite Central Committee (as identified in the Nov. 25 bulletin insert). Please place items in the pack-and-play-crib *no later than Dec. 30, 2018*.

Dec. 7, 5:30 P.M.: All from Zion are invited to the **Women in Mission Christmas Dinner**, to be held at the MCC Center in North Newton. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board (sign-up deadline is *Tue., Dec. 4*). The cost of the meal is \$12.00/person; please pay Nadine Epp by cash or check to “Women in Mission.” Heidi Huber, MCC-Central States Human Relations staff, will share about the MCC learning tour to Vietnam and Laos.

Dec. 9, c.11:45 A.M.: Zion will hold its regular **congregational meeting for budget and elections** immediately following the worship service. Agenda includes budget, elections, a report on the parsonage, and—as moved at the June business meeting—a vote regarding audio/visual use at the church.

Jan. 2, 2019: The Zion January **congregational meeting for reports and projects** will be held. Supper will be served beginning at 5:45 P.M. The boards will meet at 6:15, with the meeting following at 7:00.

Other Organizations

Dec.: Nurture children’s faith at home this Advent and Christmas through **family worship**. Find a free, downloadable guide at <AnabaptistFaithFormation.org> with daily scriptures, songs, activities and questions to ponder together.

Dec. 2, 8 & 9; 5-8 P.M. all days: Everyone is invited to attend and experience **Night in the Barn**, presented by Tabor Menn. Ch. Please note the new location, at Papa’s Pumpkin Patch (372 E 70th, Newton; just off K-15 between Newton and Goessel). Come and interact with the characters, animals, sights and sounds of the Christmas Story. Enjoy this walking tour of the Nativity with family and friends. The suggested donation of \$5 per person includes a hot drink and snack. Questions? Call (620) 367-2721.

Dec. 2, 3 P.M.: The Treble Clef Club invites all to a **Christmas Vespers** at Faith Menn. Ch. (Newton). In addition to the Treble Clef Chorus, the program will include a saxophone and piano prelude and offertory, as well as music from “Book of Jeb” and Bethel’s “Open Road” ensemble. A free will offering will be taken.

Dec. 4: Virtual author “visit” at the Western District Conference Resource Library. Hear from author Jacqueline Woodson as she shares her about new picture book *The Day You Begin* at 10 A.M. and her novel *Harbor Me* at 12 P.M. These presentations are geared for children and youth, but everyone is welcome!

Dec. 4, 7:30 P.M.: The Hesston-Bethel Performing Arts **Christmas concert** will feature Sons of Serendip at Hesston Menn. Ch. Tickets range from \$23-27, with discounts for students and seniors; order at <<http://books.hesston.edu/MerchList.aspx?ID=6948>>, (620) 327-8105, or at the Hesston College Bookstore or Bethel College Thresher Shop.

Dec. 5, 11 A.M.: Sing-along to Christmas portions of **Handel's Messiah**, with Bethel College instrumentalists, soloists and student conductors, at Bethel College Menn. Ch.; scores provided.

Dec. 6, 6-8 P.M.: **Closing reception** for Stephanie Lanter exhibit, "Terms," in the Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College.

Dec. 6, 7 P.M.: Bethel College **Steel Drum Band Christmas concert**, in Memorial Hall.

Dec. 7, 8 P.M.: **Christmas Gala jazz concert** with Bethel College Jazz Ensembles I & II, Krehbiel Auditorium in Fine Arts Center.

Dec. 8, 7 P.M.: Hesston College Performing Arts will celebrate the Christmas season with "**Peace on Earth**," a music and theatre performance at Hesston Menn. Ch. on the Hesston College campus, which is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be collected for MCC hygiene kits; monetary donations or donations of material items are welcome (items should be new and in original packaging: adult-sized toothbrush, bar of bath soap, nail clipper, hand towel [app. 16" x 26", medium-weight in dark or bright colors], wide-toothed comb [6" to 8"]).

Dec. 9, 4 P.M.: You are invited to begin your Christmas season with us at a **Hopeful Blues Christmas Concert** at Hope Menn. Ch. (868 N. Maize Rd, Wichita). Refreshments served.

Dec. 9, 7 P.M.: All are invited to Alexanderwohl Menn. Ch. (Goessel) to hear **Brass Christmas** with the McPherson Comm. Brass Choir under the direction of Jerry Toews, and the Goessel High School Elbiata Singers under the direction of Braden Unruh. A free will offering for the Goessel Ministerial Alliance will be received, with proceeds to help local needs.

Dec. 13, 5-7 P.M.: Everyone is invited to the annual come-and-go **Christmas Soiree** at the MCC Center in North Newton to enjoy festive food and fellowship! We'll pause at 6 P.M. to hear from International Volunteer Exchange participants share about their current work and Christmas traditions from their home countries. Call us with any questions: 316.283.2720.

Dec. 9, 8 P.M.: 33rd **Lighting of the Green** at Bethel College.

Dec. 15, 2:30 P.M.: Camp Mennoscah **Christmas Gathering!** Volunteers from all years are invited out to camp for conversation and cookies. Add this time of relaxation to your holidays!

Jan. 12, 2019: The **Neuf Memorial Run** (9K and 2 mile) returns to the campus of Bethel College to honor the memory of Russ Neufeld, a former MC USA and Hesston College employee. The run will raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and the Russ Neufeld memorial scholarship at Hesston College. Register and find details at <www.runtheneuf.neuf.ca>.

July 2-6, 2019: The first **MennoCon19 newsletter** is out now with details about what to expect at the MC USA convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Read it at <mennoniteusa.org/ConventionLetter1>.

Service Adventure is seeking leaders for its unit location in Anchorage, Alaska. This is a unique opportunity to serve as a mentor and to foster community with a household of young adults through faith formation, daily living, and house activities. For more info, contact <susann@mennonitemission.net>.

Volunteer with SWAP: Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP), a program of MCC Great Lakes, has openings for volunteer groups. Groups of all ages are an essential component of SWAP's ministry, addressing multiple challenges of low-income families in Appalachia, including home repair and personal need. If your church has never been to one of our SWAP locations, or if it has been a while since you have been to SWAP, please consider forming a group to come and experience a week at one of the locations in West Virginia or Kentucky. For more information go to <<https://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/volunteer/swap>> or call Angela Maggard at 606-633-5065. You can also check out the latest newsletter at <<https://mcc.org/media/resources/8302>>.