

Last Week at Zion Mennonite Church

Worship attendance (including no visitors): 74

Offering: ... \$...

Nov. receipts-to-date for Local Fund (\$12,198 needed) \$...

This Week at Zion Mennonite Church

Co-Pastors' **Advent open house** 3-5 P.M., Dec. 1

Wed. evening activities this week Dec. 4

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

Activity leaders / meal: Bonnie & Allie / Becky This Wed.

Greeter(s): Andrew & April Wedel Next Sun.

Worship Leader(s): Jeanne Schmidt Next Sun.

Musician(s): Students / Students / Carol + Children's Choir Next Sun.

Offering: Area Food Banks Next Sun.

Calendar of Upcoming Zion Events

Zion **cong. mtg.** for budget & elections 11:45 A.M., Dec. 8

Governing Council meets c.12:15 P.M., Dec. 8

Deacons meet 9 A.M., Dec. 10

Material for 2019 **Annual Report** due to Becky Nickel Dec. 13

Women in Mission **Christmas Dinner** 6 P.M., Dec. 13

Zion **cong. mtg.** for reports & projects 7 P.M., Jan. 8, 2020

Food & Thought @ S&J Kauder's 12:30 P.M., Jan. 19

Pray This Week for...

- Thelma Wedel, as she reflects today on the anniversary of her wedding to Clarence in 1959.
- God's care and strength for members of WDC congregations and communities who struggle with grief, trauma or mental health concerns, especially during the winter and holiday season.
- for the Conference Ministers Gathering (MC USA and Mennonite Church Canada), on Dec. 4-7 in Banff, AB, Canada.
- the Argentina Menn. Ch. as it enters its second century, thankful for its strong relationship with Mennonite Mission Network. May its vibrant ministries of preaching, teaching, planting churches, and running businesses to support missions flourish.

Zion Mennonite Church

P.O. Box 68, Elbing, KS 67041 (316) 799-2071

zionelbing@gmail.com www.zionmenno.org

December 1, 2019: The First Sunday of Advent

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

* Gathering Hymn "Come, thou long-expected Jesus" HWB #178

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

From *Leader* (Winter, 2019)

Leader: Oh God, our God, we cry out to you.

People: Asking, will your kingdom of peace be established on this broken earth?

L: Are you coming to intervene, to make whole your divided creation?

All: God, what are you waiting for?

Children's Time

Margaret Brewer

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Wes and Bonnie Brewer family

* Hymn "Come and be light for our eyes" SJ #5

Scripture Reading *Isaiah 2:1-5*

Responsive Reading *based on Isa. 2:1-5* From *Leader* (Winter, 2019)

Leader: The word of the Lord has been established for us.

People: Come, let us walk in the word of the Lord.

L: The Lord has come to teach us God's ways.

P: Come, let us walk in the way of the Lord.

L: The Lord has come to bring peace to all nations.

All: Come, let us walk in the peace of the Lord.

Sermon "Our wait begins"

Rosie Epp

* Response Hymn "Come! Walk in the light"

SS #10

Offering

Local Fund

Offertory

Sharing Celebrations and Concerns: Prayer Ray Reimer

Beginning with responsive confession: From *Leader* (Winter, 2019)

Leader: Forgive me, Lord, for not expecting you,

People: even when you have told me that you are coming.

L: Forgive me, Lord for being asleep,

P: even when you have asked me to wait for you.

L: Forgive me, Lord, for my carelessness,

P: when all you have asked of me is to care.

L: Forgive me, Lord, for failing to see you,

P: when your face is so obvious.

L: Blessed be our God, who invites us to walk in the light of the Lord!

* Sending Song “Praise the One who breaks the darkness” SS #1

* Benediction and Postlude

Worship Leader(s): Margaret Brewer Musician(s): Carol Klingenberg

Greeter(s): Edwin Andres & Ann Schowengerdt

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 weekdays—Ray on Mon. & Fri. mornings by about 9 A.M., Rosie on Tue. mornings & Wed. afternoons; they’ll be visiting some afternoons. This week they’ll host an Advent open house this afternoon to which all in the congregation are invited!

Congregational Announcements

Children’s SS teachers for the winter quarter: Pre-preschool, Ben & Halie; Preschool & Kindergarten, Nadine; 1st & 2nd grades, Ann; 3rd & 4th grades, Becky; 6th grade, Sharon W. Thanks to all!

It’s time to renew our **church subscription to *The Mennonite***. If anyone is not receiving it and would like to—or receiving it and wishes to cancel—please let Jeanne Schmidt know *by Dec. 1*.

Dec. 1, 3-5 P.M.: Come to the home of Co-Pastors Rosie Epp and Ray Reimer (5 Jasper Court, North Newton) for an **Advent open house**. Come and go as you wish. Refreshments will be served. Please note that there are a minimum of four steps to any floor.

Dec. 8, c.11:45 A.M.: A **business meeting** has been called, starting immediately after worship. In addition to the annual consideration of budget and elections, a “sense of the congregation” ballot vote will discern the congregation’s interest in Pastor Ray’s ongoing leadership once Pastor Rosie retires.

Dec. 13: Reports for the Zion Menn. Ch. **Annual Report Book** are due *by this Friday*. Please email them to Becky Nickel, at <bnickel77@gmail.com>, preferably as a MSWord attachment. Questions? Please see Becky.

Dec. 13, 6 P.M.: Women in Mission is hosting a **Christmas Dinner** at Zion Church... and everyone is invited! Joe and Lois Friesen will offer a program on their recent trip to Europe. The cost of the meal is \$10.00 (make checks to “Women in Mission”). Please sign up *by next Sunday, Dec. 8*, on the sheet on bulletin board. The offering will be for MCC.

As board chairperson for **Offender/Victim Ministries** (OVM), I’d like to thank my church community for designating an offering for OVM. I’m also grateful for M-2 volunteers and a volunteer bookkeeper from Zion. Your support is so very important to those impacted by conflict, trauma, crime and incarceration in our communities. Please continue to keep this ministry in your prayers. —Becky Nickel

Donations are requested for Kara Klingenberg’s upcoming medical mission project to the Dominican Republic. Examples include medical supplies, unexpired medications, or hygiene items. List of specific needs can be found on the bulletin board. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated and will be used for prescription medications and specialty supplies for surgery. Thanks for your support!

Other Organizations

Dec. 1, 3 P.M.: The Treble Clef Club invites you to a **Christmas Vespers** at First Presbyterian Ch. (900 Columbus Ave., Newton). A free-will offering will benefit the Club’s Scholarship Fund.

Dec. 3—the first Tue. after Thanksgiving—has come to be designated as “**Giving Tuesday**.” Many organizations our congregation supports have appealed to us to support their ministries via this mechanism. Consider making additional year-end, deductible donations to such non-profit organizations.

Dec. 3, 7:30 P.M.: **The Swingles** will present the Hesston-Bethel Performing Arts (HBPA) annual holiday performance with their “Winter Tales” program at Hesston Menn. Ch. Tickets are available starting at \$25 (with discounts available for senior citizens and students), and can be purchased online, by calling 620-327-8104 or in person at the Hesston or Bethel College stores.

Dec. 4, 11 A.M.: Annual sing-along to Christmas portions of **Handel’s Messiah**, with Bethel College instrumentalists, soloists & student conductors, Bethel College Menn. Ch.; scores provided.

Dec. 4, 7 P.M.: Bethel College **Steel Drum Band Christmas concert**, in Mem Hall (NOTE: different from some calendars).

Dec. 5, 5 P.M.: **Voice studio recital** by students of Soyoun Chun, Bethel College instructor of voice, Administration Building chapel.

Dec. 6, 8 P.M.: **Christmas Gala jazz concert** with Bethel College Jazz Ensembles I & II, in Krehbiel Auditorium in Fine Arts Center.

Dec. 6, 12:45 P.M.: Remington High School is hosting their annual **Senior Citizen Christmas luncheon**. Reservations are due by *Dec. 2*, and should include name, address, phone, and \$4/person. Please mail reservations to: Lola Coats, Remington High School, 8850 NW Meadowlark Rd., Whitewater, KS 67154; or call 316-799-2123 ext. 103.

Dec. 7: **All bakers and craft makers** are invited to make items for Bethel College’s part in 5 Places of Christmas! The BC Women’s Association will again be selling baked goods, and crafts and poinsettias. Christmas candy, zwieback, peppernuts, poppyseed roll and cinnamon rolls are always a great seller. Please bring your items on Fri., Dec. 6 from 1:30-4:30 P.M. or on Sat. from 7-8 A.M. to Room 140 in the Fine Arts Center (behind the Box Office).

Dec. 7, 9-11:30 A.M.: Everence® will hold an all-inclusive **retirement planning workshop** at its North Newton office. Topics will include Medicare, Social Security and retirement income planning. Reserve your spot soon by contacting 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or michelle.ramer@everence.com.

Dec. 7, 10 A.M.-4 P.M.: **Five Places of Christmas:** Kauffman Museum offers free admission (including the special exhibit “K is for Kansas”), refreshments, and sale items in the museum store. Bethel College Women’s Association will have holiday food and gift items for sale in Luyken Fine Arts Center.

Dec. 7, 8 A.M.: Kauffman Museum **First-Sat. Bird Walk**. Meet in museum parking lot; experienced birders lead walk of 1-1.5 hours.

Dec. 7, 5-7 P.M.: Join us for our annual **German Dinner and Bake Sale** at First Menn. Ch. (1161 E. Ave. A, McPherson)! The menu: verenika, sausage, green beans, homemade sauerkraut, zwieback, and cherry moos for a free will donation. Baked goods as priced.

Dec. 7, 7 P.M.: Hesston College Music and Theatre will present a **Christmas performance**, “Still, Small Voice,” in Hesston Menn. Ch. The concert is free and open to the public.

Dec. 8, 7 P.M.: The 17-piece McPherson Community Brass Choir under the direction of Jerry Toews will be performing great **brass Christmas music** in the historic Alexanderwohl Menn. Ch. The Goessel High School Elbiata Singers under the direction of Braden Unruh will also be performing. During the service, a free will offering for the Goessel Ministerial Alliance will be received, with proceeds to help local needs.

Dec. 8, 8 P.M.: 34th annual **Lighting of the Green**, Bethel College.

Dec. 12, 5-7 P.M.: All MCC volunteers and alumni are invited to our annual come-and-go **Christmas Soiree** at the MCC center in North Newton (121 E. 30th). We’ll have food and plenty of time for fellowship. A short program about Christmas around the world from our International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) participants will occur at 6 P.M. You don’t want to miss this event!