

## *Last Week at Zion Mennonite Church*

<b>Worship attendance</b> (including 7 visitors):	77
<b>Offering:</b> Nov. 24: Offender Victim Ministries	\$492.03
Dec. 1: Local Fund	\$2,861
Dec. receipts-to-date for Local Fund (\$12,198 needed)	\$4,461

## *This Week at Zion Mennonite Church*

Zion <b>cong. mtg.</b> for budget & elections	11:45 A.M., Dec. 8
<b>Governing Council</b> meets	c.12:15 P.M., Dec. 8
<b>Chime Choir</b> practice	6:30 P.M., Dec. 9
<b>Deacons</b> meet	9 A.M., Dec. 10
<b>Wed. evening activities</b> this week	Dec. 11
5:45-6:30 P.M. Supper	
6:30-7:15 P.M. Ch. Eve program practice, Adult Choir practice	
7:15-8:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study	
Zion serves at <b>New Hope Shelter</b>	during wk of Dec. 11-17
<b>WiM Christmas Dinner</b> ( <u>note date change</u> )	6 P.M., Dec. 12
Material for 2019 <b>Annual Report</b> due to Becky Nickel	Dec. 13
Activity leaders / meal: (Christmas program practice) / Kara	This Wed.
Greeter(s): Gary & Sharon Wedel	Next Sun.
Worship Leader(s): Jeanne Schmidt	Next Sun.
Musician(s): Kristyn / Kristyn / Kristyn + Adult Choir	Next Sun.
Offering: New Hope Shelter	Next Sun.

## *Calendar of Upcoming Zion Events*

Deacons, pastors and children <b>visit senior members</b>	P.M., Dec. 15
Full <b>Christmas Eve program practice</b>	6:30-8:00(?) P.M., Dec. 18
<b>Christmas Eve</b> program	7 P.M., Dec. 24
Zion <b>cong. mtg.</b> for reports & projects	7 P.M., Jan. 8, 2020

## *Pray This Week for...*

- Elda Hiebert, unable to worship with us regularly.
- pastors, musicians, teachers, and others who coordinate and lead special activities in WDC churches in the Christmas season.
- David and Sophie Lapp Jost of Mennonite Mission Network, who have shifted from the Middle East to Germany, where David serves with the German Menn. Peace Committee and Sophie with the Bammental Menn. community.

# Zion Mennonite Church

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*December 8, 2019: The Second Sunday of Advent*  
*Sunday School at 9:45 A.M. Worship at 10:45 A.M.*

\* Gathering Hymn "Comfort, comfort, O my people" HWB #176  
Welcome, Introductions, Announcements  
Prelude "Silent night" Donovan Brewer

Call to Worship From *Leader* (Winter, 2019)

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

**People: Asking, when will you bring righteousness, defend the poor, deliver the needy? Asking, when will you make creation harmonious? When will you crush the oppressor?**

L: When will your love, mercy, and justice rule us?

**All: God, what are you waiting for?**

Children's Choir  
Children's Time Jeanne Schmidt  
Lighting the Advent Wreath Matt and Lindsey Regier family

\* Hymn "Longing for light" SJ #54

Scripture Readings *Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12*  
Responsive Reading *based on Rom. 5:4-11* From *Leader* (Winter, 2019)

Leader: God calls us to live with endurance.

**People: We glorify the God of hope.**

L: The God of encouragement calls us to unity.

**P: We thank the Lord for the bounty of God's mercy.**

L: God calls us to a new vision for all of creation.

**All: Let us all praise the Lord.**

Sermon "Stumped no more" Ray Reimer  
\* Response Hymn "Wild and lone the prophet's voice" SS #8

Offering                      *Area Food Banks*  
 Offertory                  “Little drummer boy”                  Emma Entz

Sharing Celebrations and Concerns: Prayer                  Rosie Epp  
 Beginning with responsive confession:      From *Leader* (Winter, 2019)

***All: John the Baptist did not fit the religious structures of any time. He wore funny clothes, he ate distasteful food, and he preached costly peace. His solo voice carried your beautiful song. Forgive us when our voices create disharmony with your people and your creation.***

L: Restore our voices to join in your holy song. Thanks and glory be to God!

\* Sending Song                  “Hope is a candle”                  SS #15  
 \* Benediction and Postlude

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Worship Leader(s): Ralph & Jeanne Schmidt  
 Greeter(s): Andrew & April Wedel                  Musician(s): Carol Klingenberg  
 Co-Pastors: Ray Reimer (316-217-2012) and Rosie Epp (316-217-7338)

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**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. Ray will join the Remington area ministers for lunch on Thur.; Rosie will drop in on the MCC Christmas Soiree before the WiM Thur. supper.

### *Congregational Announcements*

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.

**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!

Dec. 12 [note date change], 6 P.M.: Women in Mission is hosting a **Christmas Dinner** at Zion Church... and everyone is invited! Dinner menu: *appetizers*—cider, naan bread and sweet-sour vegetables; *soup*—chicken noodle; *main course*—rice pilaf with golden raisins and beef (optional); *desserts*—grapes, homemade baklava, Turkish delight candy, green tea, coffee... catered by Ben Lichti of Bethel College church. The cost of the meal is \$10.00 (make checks to “Women in Mission”). Joe and Lois Friesen will offer a program on their recent trip to Europe. Please sign up by *Sun., Dec. 8*, on the bulletin board. The offering will be for MCC.

Dec. 13: Reports for the Zion Menn. Ch. **Annual Report Book** are due *by this Friday*. Please email them to Becky Nickel, at <bnickel177@gmail.com>, preferably as a MSWord attachment.

### *Other Organizations*

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.: 34<sup>th</sup> annual **Lighting of the Green**, Bethel College.

Dec. 10-21: Here are several opportunities for you to **serve with MDS in Eureka!** 8 to 10 Volunteers are needed for each of these times: Dec. 10-13, roof replacement; Dec. 14, Sat. workday; Dec. 16-20, window and door replacement; Dec. 21, Sat. workday. Transportation, lodging and meals are all provided; call, text or email 316-217-4570 or <Jordanmiller795@gmail.com>.

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!

Dec. 14, 2:30 P.M.: **Camp Mennoscah is hosting a gathering** for all who have volunteered (ever!). We'll have cookies and snacky items, hot drinks, games, and whatever reasonable activity you can think of—it's a time to enjoy camp and other camp folks.

Dec. 15, 7 P.M.: First Menn. Ch. (Newton) and community singers present **Handel's Messiah**, with an 80-voice choir, orchestra and soloists (Holly Swartzendruber, Monica Schmidt Spicer, Matthew Schloneger, and Christopher Kliewer); directed by Matthew Graber. The performance is open to the public.

Dec. 16, 11 A.M.: You are invited to join MC USA staff for "**Coffee and Conversation**" in the Newton offices (718 N Main St.) to hear from Mennonite Mission Network International Service Worker, Deb Byler, share about the ministries in which she is involved with Kekchi Menn. women in Guatemala. An article about Deb can be found at: <https://www.mennonitemission.net/news/Spiritual-direction-in-Kekchi-context-brings-mutual-growth>.

Dec. 18, 7 P.M.: All are invited to a **Wissmann Family Christmas Concert**—featuring 1 family of 9 musicians and 15 instruments—at Emmaus Menn. Ch.

Dec. 21-22, 5-7 P.M.: Everyone is invited to come to a come-and-go **Night in the Barn** at Papa's Pumpkin Patch (372 70th, Newton KS 67114). Interact with the characters, sounds, lights, and animals of this timeless tale and enjoy this walking tour with family and friends. A suggested donation of \$5/person includes a hot drink and a snack. Presented by Tabor Menn. Ch. Youth, with part of the proceeds going to the Tabor Menn. Youth Fellowship. Call 620-367-2721 with questions.

Jan. 18, 2020: MCC is celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and attempting to **collect 6,500 comforters** to deliver to people in need all around the world. Get involved by tying a comforter on this date (mark your calendars now!). We are looking for people to host a comforter tying event in their community. Contact Kate Mast at 316.283.2720 or <[katemast@mcc.org](mailto:katemast@mcc.org)> for details and supplies.

Jan. 24-25: Western District Women in Mission in cooperation with Everence Financial will host a two-day conference "**Let's Talk... Women, Money & Faith**" at Tabor Menn. Ch. (rural Newton). Featured speakers, Teresa Boshart Yoder and Rhoda Blough, from Everence Financial will address money and faith topics for women of all ages and stages of life. More info and registration coming soon on Facebook at <[https://www.facebook.com/WesternDistrictWomen/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/WesternDistrictWomen/?modal=admin_todo_tour)> or at our web page <<https://communicationswdwm.wixsite.com/wdwm>>.

**Openings:** Mennonite Mission Network is seeking a *full-time finance assistant and a half time recruiter*. You can see the positions descriptions at <[www.mennonitemission.net](http://www.mennonitemission.net)> under "employment opportunities". To apply for either of these positions, send your resumé to [StaffRecruitment@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:StaffRecruitment@MennoniteMission.net) or call 574-523-3009 for more info.

