

Last Week at Zion Mennonite Church

Worship attendance (including no visitors; 6 Twitchers): c.76

Offering: *Wheat State Manor* \$536

Aug. receipts-to-date for Local Fund (\$12,284 needed) \$1,900

This Week at Zion Mennonite Church

Worship includes **teacher appreciation** 9 A.M., Aug. 23

Adult **SS classes meet**, if they choose 10 A.M., 1 P.M., etc., Aug. 23

Older children's **SS class meets**, after worship c.10 A.M., Aug. 23

Outreach Board meets after worship c.10 A.M., Aug. 23

Mowing church & parsonage: Mike Scott Before next Sun.

Mowing cemetery: Klingenberg/Duerksen Before next Sun.

Greeter(s): ... Next Sun.

Accompanist: Carol Klingenberg Next Sun.

Vocalist: ... Next Sun.

Offering: Mennonite Central Committee - Meat Canning Next Sun.

Calendar of Upcoming Zion Events

Wedding shower for Kristyn 2 P.M., Aug. 30

Deacons meet 9 A.M., Sept. 14

Governing Council meets via Zoom 7 P.M., Sept. 14

Zion serves at New Hope Shelter Sept. 16-22

Midweek activities resume "virtually" Oct. 7

Spiritual Life Board meets via Zoom 7 P.M., Oct. 8

Pray This Week for...

- Elmo Murray, celebrating his 92nd birthday this Sat. (Aug. 29)!
- Silas and Edna Stucky, unable to worship with us regularly; this Wed. (Aug. 26) they'll be celebrating the anniversary of their wedding in 1948.
- the WDC Stewardship Commission as they meet this week, tending to the financial health of the conference, and promoting generosity and sharing of resources to further the mission of WDC.
- those who are transitioning from their completed assignments with Mennonite Voluntary Service to study or work. Pray also for those who are beginning to learn and serve in Alamosa (Colorado), San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

Zion Mennonite Church

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

zionelbing@gmail.com www.zionmenno.org

August 23, 2020

Worship (on the parsonage lawn) at 9 A.M.

Gathering Music "Abre mis ojos (Open my eyes)"

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Call to Worship from *Leader* (Summer, 2020)

Leader: Hear, O people. Our powerful, holy, merciful, and sovereign God is one.

People: And we will love our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and our neighbors as ourselves.

L: Do this and you will live.

Children's Time Ann Schowengerdt
(Children ages 3-kindergarten dismissed for a brief class time)

Scripture Readings *Luke 15:11-32 and Rom 5.1-11*

Sermon "Godly reconciliation" Ray Reimer

Words of intention and promise: from *Leader* (Summer, 2020)

As Christians united with Christ, we are called to participate in God's reconciling work in our world.

We offer ourselves as servants of God's peace, who will listen with the ears and heart of God, speak God's forgiveness, mercy, justice, and grace, lead with God's strong yet tender compassion, and reflect God's steadfast love and kindness.

* Response Song "O Power of love" HWB #593

Teacher Recognition / Bible Presentations

Offering Dedication *Mennonite Mission Network*

Sharing Celebrations and Concerns

Prayer of Confession from *Leader* (Summer, 2020)

We confess that we get in the way of your reconciling work in our world. Our words are often spoken with disrespect and violence.

We want others to yield to our viewpoints. We hang on to our grudges. Our actions often hurt the people and creatures that you love.

We fail to see your image in the people with whom we disagree. Our patience falters when the work of restoring relationships gets hard.

God, we pray for the Spirit of Jesus to work among us these next weeks. Open our minds, hearts, and spirits, that we may grow in maturity and humility. Prepare us to take up the work of reconciliation for the sake of this world that you so love.

Prayers of the People Karen Andres
(Whenever the leader says, “We pray together...,” the people are invited to respond: **God, you so love this world.**)

* Sending Song “Zephaniah 3.17”
Benediction

Greeter(s): Josh & Kristy Andres family
Vocalist(s): Brett Klingenberg & associates Accompanist: Brett Klingenberg
Pastor: Ray Reimer (316-217-2012) Assoc. Pastor Karen Andres (316-799-2857)

(Our worship is livestreamed and recorded at <[twitch.tv/zionmennonite](https://www.twitch.tv/zionmennonite)>;
recorded services are available for 2 weeks).

Pastors Ray and Karen’s Schedules: One of them is at the church office several weekday mornings by about 9 A.M.—Ray on Mon. & Fri., Karen on Tue. & Thur.; visits/calls some afternoons.

Congregational Announcements

Aug. 30, 2 P.M.: Women of the church are invited to a **wedding shower** for Kristyn Wedel Esau on the parsonage lawn (bring lawn chairs). Kristyn is registered at Target.

Sept. 1: Reminder! Please respond to the **Zion directory update** inquiry e-mailed/mailed recently prior to this date.

Zion now has a new **internet service provider** (Velocity); the wi-fi which is being shared for members’ use is named “ZMCOff-guest,” with the password “MennoWDC” (note upper/lower case).

Nurture / Faith Formation resources:

- Supplement to the *Adult Bible Study* for week: *attached*.
- “Faith Talk” note accompanying the *Shine* curriculum: Hebrews 11:1–12:2: “Cloud of witnesses” Here are some ways to nurture faith at home based on this week’s story.* (1) Read Hebrews 12:1. Who would you want in the crowd cheering for you? (2) Act out the story of your favorite Bible character from the list in Hebrews 11. (3) What things do you hope for that can’t be seen or haven’t yet happened? Did you know? In Bible times, the writer’s name went at the beginning of a letter, not the end. Hebrews does not give the writer’s name. Prayer for the week: *Thank you, God, that we are part of a cloud of witnesses from the past and present who serve you faithfully. Amen.* *Preschool children have a “For families” page in the Early Childhood leaflet for the story “People of God.” (*Pastor Ray appears to have written—years ago—the background notes for teachers*).

Other Organizations

Sept. 12, 7-8:30 P.M.: **Western District Women’s Retreat 2020:** After much discussion and prayer, the Western District Women in Mission Retreat Committee has decided *not* to meet in person at Camp Mennoscah this year. We will miss all of you and the energy and joy you bring to camp. However, we *will* gather virtually via Zoom for a worship service. Our goal is to connect to and encourage each other through Christ and His love for us. Susan Jantzen (interim pastor of Worship/Visitation at First Menn./Newton) will lead us on “Reflections on God as Keeper.” Bethany Martin from Faith and Life Bookstore will review a few books. Annelle Claassen (Retreat Committee Chair) will lead singing, and Karen Mascho (Pastor and Retreat Committee) will lead communion together. No masks required! For free registration or questions, send your email to Tammy Duvanel Unruh at <2020womensretreat.rsvp@gmail.com>.

For the health and safety of participants and the wider community, **Life Enrichment at Bethel College** is canceled for fall of 2020.

The Bethel College Women’s Association (BCWA) is now online! See <bcwamarketonline.com>.

The August edition of *On the Level* is now available from **Mennonite Disaster Service**. In this issue, you can read how MDS volunteers with Early Response Teams are working in Iowa, engineers roll up their sleeves in West Virginia and help build bridges they designed, and you'll learn how MDS is cautiously planning for a few projects this fall. <<https://conta.cc/3gfccYK>>.

Sept. 7: Mental Health Spiritual Retreat at Camp Mennoscah will be a one-day event. This retreat is for those affected by mental illness, including friends and family. All activities will be outside. We will follow social distancing and mask guidelines (please bring a mask with you). Those interested in attending the retreat should contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290.

Sept. 21, 7 P.M.: Racial Justice from the US to Palestine: The WDC Israel-Palestine Task Force invites you to celebrate the International Day of Peace with a virtual conversation on racial justice. Palestinians Alex Awad and Jonathan Kuttub join US citizen Sarah Nahar. They'll share their own experiences of injustice and hope and discuss the similarities in both contexts. Join us for this free live event sponsored by WDC Resource Commission on WDC's Facebook page. You're welcome to donate to WDC at: <mennowdc.org>.

New Hope Shelter is returning to having volunteers provide coverage during most weekend evening/overnight shifts; if interested in assisting, talk with June Entz.

Due to the pandemic, Mission Network's Donor Relations team is not traveling to visit with our wonderful donors, but we are on the phone and writing notes! **Please know you are appreciated, valued, and prayed for.** Thank you for your continued generosity.

MCC is in need of school kits to fulfill requests from our partners around the world! Complete kits and/or supplies (find a full list of items at <mcc.org/kits>) can be shipped to MCC Central States (121 E. 30th St. North Newton, KS 67117) or dropped off in the 24-hour donation room at MCC. If you would like help unloading, please contact Kate at (316) 804-8432 or <katemast@mcc.org> to schedule a drop off time.

Mennonite Central Committee is **accepting donations to support people** in need of food and other assistance in Beirut, Lebanon, effected by the massive explosion on Aug. 4 which destroyed the country's main port and silos filled with grain and worsened an existing economic crisis. You can donate online at <mcc.org/beirut-response>, by calling (888) 563-4676, or by sending a check earmarked for "Beirut response" to MCC, 21 S. 12th St., Akron PA 17501.

Preschool Story Hour at the WDC Resource Library returns this fall with VIRTUAL LIVE story hours full of stories, rhymes, and craft ideas on Tuesdays at 10 A.M. and Thursdays at 3:30 P.M. Tuesday and Thursday sessions will be different—join us for one or both sessions each week. Story Hour will start **Sept. 8** and be geared toward ages 3-5. Story Hour will be led by Library Director Jennie Wintermote and will be shorter than our Summer Story Hour. Register at <<https://forms.gle/vpk7DXRwwHAbSo5A7>> and contact Jennie with any questions at <crlib@mennowdc.org>.

Gifts designated for **MCC Centennial Celebration Offering** go toward MCC's New Hope in the Name of Christ centennial fundraising campaign. These gifts will help meet urgent needs and support work for peace and justice now and as MCC moves into the next 100 years. Go to <mcc.org/offering> to learn more, to find links to worship resources or to give online.

Mennonite World Conference (MWC) has decided to postpone the global Assembly in Indonesia until July 5-10, 2022.

Openings: 1) Hesston Menn. Ch. seeks a part-time Office Manager to provides administrative duties that promote teamwork and efficiency supporting the pastoral staff, church governing body, commissions and other church ministries. For details, or to send cover letter / resume, contact <personnel@hesstonmc.org>.

2) Mennonite Central Committee is seeking to fill several essential positions: Canner Operator, Director of MCC U.S. National Advocacy and Program, UN Office Program and Communications Coordinator, and young adults interested in Seed programs in Colombia and Guatemala / El Salvador. Details at <<https://mcc.org/get-involved/serve>>.