

## *Last Week at Zion Mennonite Church*

**Worship attendance** (with no visitors; & 37x2 Twitchers): c.79

**Offering:** The Corinthian Plan – Access \$80

Nov. receipts-to-date for Local Fund (\$12,284 needed) \$9,256.18

## *This Week at Zion Mennonite Church*

Zion serves (with others) at **New Hope Shelter** Nov. 25-Dec. 1

Adult **SS classes meet**, if they choose 9 A.M., etc., Nov. 29

Children's **SS classes meet** via Zoom 10:25 A.M., Nov. 29

**Spiritual Life Board** meets via Zoom 7 P.M., Dec. 1

**Youth group & ensemble practice** 6:30 P.M., Dec. 2

### *Next Sunday at Zion Mennonite Church*

Greeter(s): [*greeting is discontinued*] Next Sun.

Accompanist: Carol Klingenberg Next Sun.

Vocalist(s): Bonnie Brewer Next Sun.

Children's Time: Bonnie Brewer Next Sun.

Offering: Local Fund Next Sun.

## *Calendar of Upcoming Zion Events*

**Cong. mtg.** via Zoom for budget & elections c.11:45 A.M., Dec. 13

Material for 2020 **Annual Report due** to Becky Nickel Dec. 13

**Governing Council** meets via Zoom 1 P.M., Dec. 13

**Deacons** meet via Zoom 9 A.M., Dec. 14

Zion **Christmas Cheer trips** 6-8 P.M., Dec. 20

**Cong. mtg.** via Zoom for reports & projects 7 P.M., Jan. 6, 2022

### *Pray This Week for...*

- those in our congregation & beyond struggling with COVID-19.
- Thelma Wedel, reflecting this Tue. on the anniversary of her marriage to Clarence.
- God's hope and encouragement for WDC congregations that have suffered significant loss and stress during the pandemic.
- David and Sophie Lapp Jost of Mennonite Mission Network, who live in Germany but were on the Greek island of Lesbos to witness more than 12,000 people displaced by a fire that burned a migrant camp. Pray that God's people throughout the world will open their hearts to welcome as neighbors those who without homes.

# Zion Mennonite Church

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

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*November 22, 2020: First Sunday of Advent*

*"On the road... to readiness"*

*(As of Nov. 22, services are closed to most in-person attendance)*

*Virtual Worship at 10:45 A.M.*

Gathering Songs "Away in a manger" Wyatt Klingenberg

"Joy to the world" Eva Rutschman

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Prelude Annette Voth

Call to Worship and Confession *Is 64, Ps 80, adapted from Leader*

Leader: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence.

**People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

L: We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

**P: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

*The first Advent candle is lit*

L: Is there any hope for us? Can we be saved?

**P: All of us are unclean. Our righteous acts are like filthy rags.**

L: Do not be angry beyond measure, O Lord; do not remember our sins forever. Look upon us, we pray.

**P: O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are our potter. We are all the work of your hand.**

L: Forgive our sins.

*All: No ear has heard, no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him. Mold us and make us into vessels you can use. Restore us, O God. Make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.*

Children's Time		Rosie Epp
Hymn	"O come, O come, Immanuel"	HWB #172
Monologue	"The day and hour unknown" <i>based on Mark 13.24-37</i>	Karen Andres
Meditation	"Ready or not, here I come!"	Ray Reimer
Response Song	"Come, thou long-expected Jesus"	HWB #178
Offering	<i>Mennonite Central Committee</i>	
Sharing Celebrations and Concerns		
Prayer		Ray Reimer
Sending Song	"He came down"	SJ #31
Benediction		

Accompanist: Josh Andres                      Vocalist(s): Josh and Kristy Andres  
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.; calls (and occasional visits) some afternoons. Karen is preaching (virtually) at Trinity Menn. Ch. (Hillsboro, KS) this morning.

### *Congregational Announcements*

**Zion membership:** "Lindsay and I both would like to remove our membership from Zion. The church we are partnering with does not need a transfer of membership so just a removal is OK. We still value the community there and the investment they made in Lindsay as she grew up as well as welcoming me when I was in the area. We will always remember the generosity and friendship provided by those who attend." —Brian and Lindsay Lightner

**Online donation option:** As noted during prior announcements, we now have an option for online giving to Zion; check our webpage at <<https://www.zionmenno.org/>> (the top menu bar now includes a "donate" link). We will also attempt to include links in the weekly e-mail. This is via PayPal, with which many are familiar. *Note carefully:* your donation will go to the offering you designate in the "Add a note" section; if there's no note, the contribution will go to Zion's local fund. Be aware there is approximately a 3% transaction fee with online giving.

Another possibility that those who usually write a weekly check might consider is providing a monthly check, noting in the memo line how you desire the contribution to be distributed.

Many thanks to all; you have continued with strong support for Zion (and other benevolences) through this unusual year!

**Supporting area food banks** through December: Most of just enjoyed a good Thanksgiving meal (even if it may not have had all the usual festivities); let's not overlook those struggling to get by, without enough to eat. Local food pantries note they've been heavily utilized this year, and their shelves are often sparse. We've recently had an offering for Harvest of Love (Newton), with another coming up soon for the pantries in Peabody and Whitewater (with similar focus as part of our Christmas Eve offering), but consider buying extra staples, and dropping them by church for us to pass on. Preferred items: canned goods, mac & cheese, cereal, spaghetti noodles/sauce, peanut butter/jelly, hamburger/tuna helper. Remember—nothing expired!

Dec. 13, c.11:45 A.M.: The first winter Zion **congregational meeting** has been scheduled. Agenda includes approval of the budget, affirmation of the slate, a presentation regarding the sanctuary screen project. This will primarily be a virtual meeting via Zoom. We are still planning how those without online access will participate, how voting occurs, etc.; watch for further details!

Dec. 13: Reports for the Zion Menn. Ch. **Annual Report Book** are due *by this date*. Please e-mail them to Becky Nickel, at <[bnickel77@gmail.com](mailto:bnickel77@gmail.com)>, preferably as a MSWord attachment. Questions? Please contact Becky.

Nov. 30: All Zion **expenses for the 2020 fiscal year** should be submitted to our treasurer, Daryl Regier, by this date.

Dec. 14: Various individuals, families, ensembles, etc. already have been at work preparing video segments **for Zion's (virtual) Christmas Eve program**. Thanks! Derek Klingenberg has generously agreed to do the video editing, so please forward (via Google Drive, Dropbox, Youtube uploads, etc.) video resources (of music, readings, etc.) to Derek as soon as possible—*no later than Dec. 14!* If possible, remember to record in landscape (horizontal) rather than portrait (vertical) mode.

Lois Friesen is willing to provide **greenery sprays / arrangements to decorate graves** at the Zion Cemetery during the holiday season; if interested, contact her at (620) 752-3369.

#### **Nurture / Faith Formation resources:**

- Supplement to the *Adult Bible Study* for week: *attached*.

#### *Other Organizations*

Through Advent: Celebrate Advent with Mennonite Church USA's **2020 Advent at Home devotional**, "We Wait for Jesus." The free annual guide for home-based worship provides daily and weekly Scripture readings, prayers and activities for individuals and families observing the season of anticipation leading to the birth of Jesus. Web: <[mennoniteusa.org/resource/advent-at-home](http://mennoniteusa.org/resource/advent-at-home)>.

Dec. 1: "**Giving Tuesday**" is coming up, and various entities are encouraging your support: WDC at <<https://mennowdc.org/>>, <[MennoniteMission.net/Donate](http://MennoniteMission.net/Donate)>, etc.

Dec. 1: **Cookies in a Box!** Camp Mennoscah is expanding on the theme of a "Camp in a Box" for Giving Tuesday with "Cookies in a Box" for anyone who gives \$25 more than their total giving in 2019 *on Dec. 1*. We'll carefully pack up the dry ingredients for approximately 20 cookies from camp cook Leslie Schrag's famous Chocolate Crinkle cookies. Add a few ingredients that don't pack well and bake them at home! Send a check to Camp Mennoscah with "Giving Tuesday" in a note, or give online at <[campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org)>. Food allergies? Let us know. Limited to donations given or postmarked *on Dec. 1*.

Before Dec. 5: **Baked goods sign-up**: A call-out for local (Newton, KS area) bakers to support Bethel College via the BC Women's Association (BCWA), for the event on this date. Sign-up at the link noted. Thanks for your continued support!  
<<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BABA2EA4FDCF8-baked>>.

Dec. 5, 10 A.M.–NOON: **Order Christmas goodies and gifts** at Bethel College Women's Association online market. Find hand-made crafts, and one-of-a-kind items, and fresh homemade treats including peppernuts, zwieback, cinnamon rolls, poppyseed rolls, and candies at <[bcwamarketonline.com](http://bcwamarketonline.com)>. Place your order *by Dec. 1*, and pick up at Bethel College Menn. Ch. south entrance on the date / time noted. This event is part of the annual Five Places of Christmas, sponsored by Newton Chamber of Commerce, and all proceeds will support Bethel College.

Dec. 6, 7 P.M. (CT): A **free online concert** with groups such as "Girl Named Tom" and featuring the "Steel Wheels" will be streamed at <[PAReliefSasle.org](http://PAReliefSasle.org)> as part of the Pennsylvania Relief Sale; donations to support MCC will be accepted online during the concert, or send a check payable to "PA Relief Sale" to PO Box 416, Leola, PA 17540.

Through Dec. 11: Safehope in Newton is accepting donations through this date for their "**Holiday Boutique**," which allows families impacted by domestic, sexual, and mass violence to come pick out gifts from the new items you donate. Suggestions include: kitchen items, small appliances, towels, room décor, arts & crafts, toys & games, movies & music. Contact Safehope at (316) 803-1800 or 316 N. Oak, Newton.

Dec. 12, 2:30 P.M.: The Camp Mennoscah **Christmas Gathering** is being planned as an outdoor event on the date / time noted. *Registration required*—call (620) 297-3290! Plans may change depending on coronavirus case rates. Bring your mask!

Do you miss *The Mennonite*? **Subscribe to PeaceMail**, the only source for all the news and blogs from Mennonite Church USA in one, easy-to-read, weekly email. <[mennoniteusa.org/peacemail](http://mennoniteusa.org/peacemail)>.

Dec. 11, 4-6 P.M.: **Have yourself a honkin' good holiday** at MCC in North Newton! This drive-thru event on the date / time noted is a unique way to safely enjoy some delicious Christmas cheer while supporting the worldwide work of Mennonite Central Committee. Each charcuterie box is composed of seasonal artisan meats and cheeses, olives, fruit, mixed nuts and seasonal treats with crackers served on the side. Take a moment and treat yourself this holiday season! A box serves two generous appetizer portions. RSVP at <centralstates@mcc.org> by 5 P.M. on Dec. 4 to reserve your box—and share the Christmas joy by ordering extra boxes to deliver to family and friends! Suggested donation per box is \$25. Find more info and photos at <mcc.org/honkin-holiday>.

Dec. 13, 4-6 P.M. CST: **Voices Together Launch Event**—this celebration will take place via Zoom. It will include a time to worship with new songs and resources, hear stories, and offer blessings for *Voices Together* and all who receive it. After this time of worship there will be an overview of the process of creating *Voices Together* and a time for questions with committee members. This event is free but registration is required to receive the Zoom link: <[http://voicestogetherhymnal.org/digital-launch-registration/?utm\\_source=Robly.com&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Staying+Connected+%2B+Staying+Safe+with+Menno+Media&utm\\_content=cd1b6fb24a476abde7659ebba1e3833b](http://voicestogetherhymnal.org/digital-launch-registration/?utm_source=Robly.com&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Staying+Connected+%2B+Staying+Safe+with+Menno+Media&utm_content=cd1b6fb24a476abde7659ebba1e3833b)>.

The Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions is seeking participants from Mennonite Church USA congregations and universities to participate in its **cross-country 2021 Climate Ride** to raise awareness of critical issues related to climate change. More at <[mennoniteusa.org/news/climate-ride-seeking-riders/](http://mennoniteusa.org/news/climate-ride-seeking-riders/)>.

