

Last Week at Zion Mennonite Church

Worship attendance (with no visitors; & x2 Twitchers):	c.76
Offering: Nov. 26: Mennonite Central Committee	\$530
Dec. 6: Local Fund	\$3,005
Nov. receipts for Local Fund (\$12,284 needed)	\$10,328.01
Dec. receipts-to-date for Local Fund (\$11,132 needed)	\$3,005.00

This Week at Zion Mennonite Church

Adult SS classes meet , if they choose	9 A.M., etc., Dec. 13
Children's SS classes meet via Zoom	10:25 A.M., Dec. 13

Next Sunday at Zion Mennonite Church

Accompanist: Kristyn Esau (Gracia & Joy, gathering)	Next Sun.
Vocalist(s): Bonnie Brewer	Next Sun.
Children's Time: Brett Klingenberg	Next Sun.
Offering: Western District Conference	Next Sun.

Calendar of Upcoming Zion Events

Material for 2020 Annual Report due to Becky Nickel	Dec. 13
Cong. mtg. via Zoom for budget & elections	c.11:45 A.M., 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, 2021
Spiritual Life Board meets (via Zoom)	7 P.M., Jan. 12

Pray This Week for...

- members awaiting medical diagnoses, and rescheduled surgeries.
- Delila Wedel, mourning the death of her sole remaining sister Diane Desmond, who died Fri. morning, Nov. 11, of COVID and leukemia; services are pending.
- the family of Elda Hiebert, reflecting today on the first anniversary of her death.
- Joe Sawatzky, who recently became an international education liaison for Mennonite Mission Network and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Pray for Joe and global church leaders, as they seek to strengthen the body of Christ through Anabaptist education initiatives around the world.

Zion Mennonite Church

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

December 13, 2020: Third Sunday of Advent *"On the road... to restoration"*

(As of Nov. 22, services are closed to most in-person attendance)
Virtual Worship at 10:45 A.M.

Gathering Songs "O come, all ye faithful" Lauren Klingenberg
"The first Noel" Maya Klingenberg

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements
Call to Worship *Psalm 126.2-6, adapted* from Leader
Leader: The Lord has done great things for us,
and so we rejoice!

**People: Our mouths are filled with laughter,
and our tongues with shouts of joy.**

L: Those who sow in tears will reap shouts of joy.

**P: Those who go out weeping
will come home with shouts of joy.**

All: The Lord has done great things for us—we rejoice!

The third Advent candle is lit

Confession

L: God, we confess we do not always recognize you.

**P: We confess that when we do, we do not always receive
you.**

All: Open our eyes to see you and our hearts to receive you.

Children's Time Kristy Andres

Hymn "Hark! The glad sound" HWB #184

Monologue "John the Baptist denies being the Messiah" Lisa Scott
Scripture Reading(s) *Isa 61.1-4, 8-11; Jn 1.6-8, 19-28*

Meditation "There was a man..." Ray Reimer

Response Song “Where is this stupendous stranger” HWB #200

Offering *Area food banks in Peabody and Whitewater*

Sharing Celebrations and Concerns: Prayer Karen Andres

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

Benediction *based on 1 Thess 5.23-24, 28*

Accompanist: Brett Klingenberg

Vocalist(s): 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 wks. Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #737503-A. All rights reserved)

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.

Congregational Announcements

Supporting area food banks through December: Most of us 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; a limited number may attend in person. Resources for and details regarding participation in this meeting have been distributed via a separate surface mailing / e-mail.

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>, preferably as a MSWord attachment. Questions? Please contact Becky.

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.

Dec. 20, 6-8 P.M.: With not being together Christmas Eve this year we are putting together Zion **Christmas Cheer Trips** on the date/time noted. We have designated greeters/carolers who will be delivering Christmas Cheer Bags to everyone in the congregation (in the Elbing-Peabody-Whitewater-Newton area) on this evening. The greeters/carolers may sing you a Christmas carol, read you a verse or poem, or simply wish you a Merry Christmas while remaining outside of your home. *Please* do not ask them to come into your home, ask for a hug/handshake, or give them any treats. We want to keep everyone safe, maintain 6 feet of distance, and wear masks. If you will not be available/home on this date/time please contact June Entz by email, phone call, or text: <juneentz1@gmail.com> or 316-708-2721.

Dec. 24: The **Zion Christmas Eve service** this year will be pre-recorded and available for you to watch at your convenience on Christmas Eve (a link will be circulated a day or two ahead). Many families and individuals from Zion have cooperated to put this service of scripture and music together. In preparation you may want to get a hymnal so you can sing along with the carols, and a candle to light with the singing of “Peace, Peace.” The offering will be split between Mennonite Central Committee and local food banks; donations may be sent to the church, dropped off made via our online donation process. Contact one of the pastors if you need access to a device for viewing the service.

Jan. 9, 2021: With appropriate precautions in place, **Kara Klingenberg's Dominican Republic medical mission trip** is scheduled to begin on the date noted. No surgery this year—only medical and dental care in villages. COVID rates are very low in the region, with strict laws like masks and curfews. Donations are appreciated to serve patients including toothbrushes, hair bows, new flip flops, first aid supplies, unwanted medical equipment, small toys like cars, baseballs, reusable masks, etc. Monetary donations will be used to purchase medications. Donations can be left by the Zion mailboxes or mailed to Kara. Thank you!

Christmas greeting: “I am pleased to tell how much I appreciate all the cards, notes, pictures, visits & calls I have gotten over the seven years I have been at Ks. Chr. Home, also the church bulletin each week, and now also Thanksgiving and my 88th birthday. The nurses and lady helpers, including my kids, have been good to me and very helpful. I feel fortunate to be here, even though there is no place like home. Thank you again so much! Much love...

–Martha L. Wedel

Nurture / Faith Formation resources:

- Supplement to the *Adult Bible Study* for week: *attached*.
- Zion winter Faith Formation newsletter: *attached*.

Other Organizations

Dec. 13, 3 P.M.: Gene Chávez (Ed.D., Shawnee, KS), will give a virtual presentation on the rich **history of Mexican immigration to Kansas** and the journey of the humble but important flour tortilla. This Kauffman Museum “Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum” program is connected to the museum’s current special exhibit, “Crossroads: Change in Rural America.” Visit the museum website <kauffmanmuseum.org> and/or Facebook page for registration instructions.

Dec. 14, 6:30 P.M.: Everence will host a free **Social Security and retirement income planning** webinar. Attendees will learn about Social Security strategies, risks that can impact retirement savings and strategies to help income last throughout retirement. Register soon by contacting our office at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294, or <central.kansas@everence.com>.

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>.

Dec. 13, 8 P.M.: Bethel College alumni and friends are invited to take part in the annual **Lighting of the Green** from wherever you are. This is a long-standing Bethel Advent tradition celebrating the Light that shines in the darkness, the life and light of Christ who came into the world giving light to all humankind. This year, the gathering will take place virtually, live, with parts pre-recorded. Join via YouTube: <<https://youtu.be/LZeLxduHoVk>>; or Zoom: <<https://zoom.us/j/98444357235?pwd=N1MzQlpiQ29HQWZiWUs2NGpNWWtIZz09>>.

A memorable, meaningful and unique MCC gift to give this Christmas! Grab a piece of MCC history to use in a modern-day Mennonite feeding station—your home! Each tray was uniquely handcrafted by an artisan in Siberia using Siberian hardwood. The tray is 16" in diameter and 2" deep. Suggested donation per tray is \$150. Full details and pictures are available at <<https://mcc.org/feeding-station-tray>>.

MCC Comforter Blitz update: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Kansas Friends of MCC Comforter Blitz in Yoder, KS has been canceled. However, the Blitz committee still has a goal of collecting at least 300 comforters between February and April. We need your help to meet this goal! Fabric kits and comforter sets to tie (top, back, and batting) are available to check out from MCC in North Newton. For contactless drop-off of completed comforters the 24-hour donation room is always available. To arrange drop-off or checkout materials, contact <katemast@mcc.org>, or 316-804-8432.