

### *Last Week at Zion Mennonite Church*

<b>Worship attendance</b> (with no visitors; & x2 Twitchers):	c.97
<b>Offering:</b> Area food banks in Peabody and Whitewater	\$580
Also: WDC, \$600; MCC, \$250; MMN, \$100	
Dec. receipts-to-date for Local Fund (\$11,132 needed)	\$4,950

### *This Week at Zion Mennonite Church*

Adult <b>SS classes meet</b> , if they choose	9 A.M., etc., Dec. 20
Children's <b>SS classes meet</b> via Zoom	10:25 A.M., Dec. 20
Zion <b>Christmas Cheer trips</b>	6-8 P.M., Dec. 20
<b>Material for Dec. 27 bulletin</b> due	9 A.M., Dec. 24

#### *Next Sunday at Zion Mennonite Church*

Accompanist: Karen Andres (Makayla Klingenberg, gathering)	Next Sun.
Vocalist(s): Bonnie Brewer	Next Sun.
Children's Time: Ann Schowengerdt	Next Sun.
Offering: Mennonite Mission Network	Next Sun.

### *Calendar of Upcoming Zion Events*

<b>Epiphany worship</b> , including communion 10:45 A.M., Jan. 3, 2021	
<b>Cong. mtg.</b> (via Zoom) for reports & projects	7 P.M., Jan. 6
Worship includes <b>guest speaker</b> , Todd Lehman of OVM	Jan. 10
<b>Deacons meet</b> (via Zoom)	9 A.M., Jan. 11
<b>Spiritual Life Board</b> meets (via Zoom)	7 P.M., Jan. 12
Wed. <b>adult Bible study</b> resumes	7:30 P.M., Jan. 13

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

- USPS has approved the relocation of Lester and Delila Wedel's mailbox, allowing easier access. If there's a volunteer (or two) willing to carry out this project fairly soon, please contact Pastor Ray.
- thanks for the gift of multicultural diversity within WDC, and the many ways congregations embody the presence of Christ.
- Join Mennonite Mission Network in praying for the peace witness of the Meserete Kristos Church in Ethiopia amid the conflict between the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and the Northern Tigray region.

# Zion Mennonite Church

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## *December 20, 2020: Fourth Sunday of Advent* *"On the road... to revelation"*

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

Gathering Songs	"Good King Wencelas" "Away in a manger"	Gracia Brewer Joy Rutschman
Welcome, Introductions, Announcements		
Prelude		
Call to Worship	<i>Ps 89.1-2, 26, adapted</i>	from <i>Leader</i>
Leader: We will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;		
<b>People: we will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.</b>		
L: We declare that your steadfast love is established forever;		
<b>P: your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.</b>		
<b><i>All: You are our Father, our God, and the Rock of our salvation!</i></b>		
<i>The fourth Advent candle is lit</i>		
Children's Time		Brett Klingenberg
Hymn	"No wind at the window"	SS #11
Monologue	"The birth of Jesus revealed"	Karen Andres
Scripture Reading(s)	<i>Lk 1.26-38</i>	
Meditation	"Revealing the treasure"	Ray Reimer
Response Song	"I wonder as I wander"	
Offering	<i>Western District Conference</i>	
Sharing Celebrations and Concerns		
Prayer		Karen Andres

Beginning with confession (adapted from Lk 1.26-38):

L: God, you come to us with the words “Do not be afraid.”

**P: Yet we cower and live in anxiety and fear.**

L: We lack faith and trust in your ways.

**P: We want to respond like Mary, “I am your servant.”**

*All: Give us humble, willing hearts to follow your call.*

Sending Song “Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child” SS #19  
Benediction

Accompanist: Kristyn Esau  
Pastor Ray Reimer (316-217-2012)

Vocalist(s): Margaret Brewer

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!

**Holiday season greens** have been placed at the Zion cemetery for those who requested such; thanks to Lois Friesen for organizing this!

*Anabaptist World* has had a challenging year; in addition to all else, they’ve had to merge two subscriber databases. Thus, some (especially those previously receiving *Mennonite World Review*) may be receiving subscription notices in the mail. If you’re on the Zion group subscription plan you may safely ignore these.

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](mailto:juneentz1@gmail.com)> or 316-708-2721. We trust this will be a welcome opportunity for fellowship within our church; thanks to June Entz for doing much of the organizing, Steph Entz for arranging a photo card of Zion’s children to share with our seniors, and Lois Friesen for coordinating peppernut baking!

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 candles to light with the singing of “Peace, Peace” at the close. The offering will be split between Mennonite Central Committee and local food banks; donations may be sent to the church, dropped off, or made via our online donation tool. Contact one of the pastors if you need access to a device for viewing the service.

Jan. 3, 2021: Our Epiphany worship on this date will include (virtual) **communion**; members are encouraged to prepare, both by searching themselves spiritually, and gathering elements (bread and juice/wine).

Zion is eligible to have two **delegates at the upcoming MC USA assembly** (July 7-10, 2021; in Cincinnati, OH); plans are still underway, but the anticipation is that attendance could be either in-person or virtual. At least one of the pastors is willing to be a delegate. If other members of the congregation have interest, *please indicate that to Becky Nickel*, congregational secretary, prior to our upcoming congregational meeting on Jan. 6, so that delegates might be affirmed.

Jan. 6, 7 P.M.: Zion's **Congregational meeting** for reports and projects is scheduled for this date / time, again via Zoom; those without internet access are encouraged to contact Pastor Ray regarding options for participation. Agenda is anticipated to include: review of 2020 reports (including auditors' report), report from the "space exploration committee," process for review and / or renewal of call vote on interim pastoral team, affirmation of Zion delegates to MC USA assembly in summer 2021, discussion of Elda Hiebert estate gift and surplus in the local fund. The Zoom link and associated resources (including 2020 report book) will be circulated about 10 days ahead of the meeting.

Jan. 9: 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!

Jan. 13, 7:30 P.M.: **Wednesday evening adult Bible study** resumes, focusing on Paul's epistle to the Romans. Sermons through the winter / early spring will have similar focus, with sequential passages—so plan to participate in both for the full experience! A Zoom link will be circulated closer to the date.

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

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

#### *Other Organizations*

A video recording of the worship portion of last Sunday's **Voices Together launch event** can be found at <<https://youtu.be/8ru5E1yBcLY>>.

**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 Feb. and Apr. 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](mailto:katemast@mcc.org)>, or 316-804-8432.

**Camp Mennoscah** is a wonderful space for families and groups needing space to spread out! Facilities for differently sized groups are available with a variety of gathering areas. Trails and fields are waiting to be hiked and used for fun activities, too! Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or [office@campmennoscah.org](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org) to reserve! You are invited to enjoy this sacred space!

