

Last Week at Zion Mennonite Church

Worship attendance (with no visitors; & x2 Twitchers):	c.92
Offering: Local Food Banks	\$1,760
Dec. receipts-to-date for Local Fund (\$11,132 needed)	\$11,300

This Week at Zion Mennonite Church

Adult SS classes meet , if they choose	9 A.M., etc., Dec. 27
Children's SS classes meet via Zoom	10:25 A.M., Dec. 27
Material for Jan. 3 bulletin due	9 A.M., Dec. 31

Next Sunday at Zion Mennonite Church

Accompanist: (AMBS ensembles)	Next Sun.
Vocalist(s): (AMBS ensembles)	Next Sun.
Children's Time: Allie Klingenberg	Next Sun.
Offering: Local Fund	Next Sun.

Calendar of Upcoming Zion Events

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

Pray This Week for...

- Edna Stucky and Ed Andres, as they celebrate birthdays this Wed.: their 92nd and 95th, respectively!
- those healing in the aftermath of recent medical procedures—especially Margaret Brewer and Ben Duerksen.
- Sharon Schowengerdt, mother-in-law of Ann, dealing with difficult-to-diagnose medical issues; COVID restrictions make it additionally difficult for family to connect with her.
- sympathy to Carol Klingenberg, whose brother-in-law Terry Janzen died on Dec. 18 of cancer.
- Jane and Jerrell Ross Richer of MMN, who are in North America and unable to return to Ecuador in Jan. due to COVID travel restrictions. Pray for them as they communicate electronically with congregations in Ecuador and the United States.

Zion Mennonite Church

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December 27, 2020: First Sunday of Christmastide
“On the road... to rejoicing”

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

Gathering Song “Carol of the bells” Makayla Klingenberg
Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Prelude “Joy to the world” arr. Hugo Gehrke

Call to Worship *Psalm 148.1-4, 13, adapted* from *Leader*
Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens;

People: praise the Lord in the heights!

L: Praise the Lord, all God's angels; praise the Lord, all God's host!

P: Praise the Lord, sun and moon; praise the Lord, all you shining stars!

L: Praise the Lord, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

P: Praise the name of the Lord; God's glory is above earth and heaven.

All: Praise the Lord!

Children's Time Ann Schowengerdt

Song “Ring the bells” arr. Harry Bollback

Monologue “Jesus presented in the temple” Deanna Entz

Scripture Reading(s) *Luke 2.22-38*

Meditation “The divine gaze” Karen Andres

Response Song “Oh, how joyfully” HWB #209

Offering *Mennonite Mission Network*
Sharing Celebrations and Concerns
Prayer Ray Reimer
Sending Song “Go, tell it on the mountain” arr. John W. Work
Benediction

Accompanist: Karen Andres Vocalist(s): Bonnie Brewer
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!

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. 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).

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** will begin on this date—only medical and dental care this year. COVID rates are very low in the region, with strict laws like masks and curfews. Donations are appreciated 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.

Contact information updates:

Bryan and Kristyn Esau’s address: 400 Maple Ridge Rd, Apt. #34, Hesston KS 67062.

Silas and Edna Stucky’s new address: 8115 NE 12th St, Newton, KS 67114; phone remains the same—(316) 799-2410.

Thanks to Jim Nickel, for relocating Lester and Delila’s mailbox this last week!

Update: “I want to thank everyone for all of the prayers, cards, phone calls, texts and food, given during this unplanned life interruption. This is a time when people are in the giving mode and I’d much sooner be giving than receiving.

“My second surgery was much more invasive. And since a lot of you don’t know exactly what I’m talking about, I’ll explain. Nov. 30 I had a softball-size tumor removed from my right buttock that was a sarcoma—a rare but serious cancer. To make sure all of the cancer is gone I had a second surgery on Dec. 21. At that surgery 2 fists-full of tissue, fat and muscle were removed. I have a large incision and sitting is painful, but I’m definitely on the mend. As long as the recently removed tissue is cancer free the oncologist doesn’t think I’ll need anything but CT scans for follow up.

We’re looking forward to a beautiful Christmas tomorrow as we celebrate the mystery of Christ’s birth.” —Margaret Brewer

Thank you to all who assisted in making Zion’s Christmas Cheer visits occur Dec. 20! Thanks to the bakers: Gladys, Becky, Reinhold, Annette, Janice Kauder, Jeanne, and Lois for making peppernuts. Thank you to Bonnie who made the note. Thank you to Ed who arranging the routes. Thank you to several families—Josh and Kristy’s, Wes and Bonnie’s, Jeremy and Steph’s, Derek and Kara’s, Grant and Allie’s, Brett and Cassie’s, Matt and Lindsey’s, and Ann—for bringing Cheer to each home. And special thanks to June for organizing it all, and to her family for assembling the bags and delivering them to those taking the routes.

Nurture / Faith Formation resources:

- Supplement to the *Adult Bible Study* for week: *none this wk.*

Other Organizations

Applications for Camp Menoscah **Summer Staff positions** are now being accepted! Although there is a chance positions will change for pandemic-impacted summer youth camps, the current positions are naturalist, crafts leader, lifeguard, grounds/maintenance, music leader, office, and all-round/media. For those 21 years old or older, there is also a Director of Support opening. Find details at <www.campmenoscah.org> under Summer Youth Camps!