

## *Last Week at Zion Mennonite Church*

**Worship attendance** (with no visitors; & 12x2 Twitchers): c.104

**Offering:** Camp Mennoscah \$...

Nov. receipts-to-date for Local Fund (\$11,350 needed) \$...

## *This Week at Zion Mennonite Church*

**SS classes meet** 9:45 A.M., Nov. 27

**Worship** 10:45 A.M., Nov. 27

**Wed. evening activities** Nov. 30

5:45-6:30 P.M. Supper

6:30-7:20 P.M. Children's Activities; Adult Bible Study

7:25-8:00 P.M. Choir

### *Next Sunday at Zion Mennonite Church*

Worship Leader(s): Steph Entz & family Next Sun.

Accompanist / Vocalist(s): Josh & Kristy Andres (prelude: students) Next Sun.

Children's Time: Kristy Andres Next Sun.

Offering: Local fund Next Sun.

## *Calendar of Upcoming Zion Events*

**Congregational mtg** for budget & elections c.11:45 A.M., Dec. 11

Material for 2022 **Annual Report due** to Becky Nickel Dec. 11

**Deacons meet** (in person, if status low; otherwise Zoom) 9 A.M., Dec. 12

**Gov. Council meets** (in person, if status low; or Zoom) 7 P.M., Dec. 12

**Christmas Enactment program** 7 P.M., Dec. 24

**No in-person worship**, but a virtual service will be shared Dec. 25

**Congregational mtg** for reports & projects 7 P.M., Jan. 4, 2023

## *Pray and Give Thanks This Week for...*

- Martha Wedel, unable to worship with us regularly; she will celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday Mon.
- Thelma Wedel, remembering this Thur. the anniversary of her wedding to Clarence in 1959.
- Austin Roberts, who is serving through Mennonite Mission Network; he requests prayer for Northern Ireland, where Queen Elizabeth's death has fueled tensions between Catholics and Protestants. Inflation and the rise in utility prices, brought on by the war in Ukraine, add to the unrest. He asks us to pray for "a swift and peaceful end to this aggression," for the benefit of the people of Ukraine, all of Europe and the world.

# Zion Mennonite Church

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

zionelbing@gmail.com www.zionmenno.org

*November 27, 2022: First Sunday of Advent*

*Worship in the sanctuary at 10:45 A.M.; also live-streamed*

**Watch: The Day Is Almost Here!**

*Reflection: Where is your community earnestly longing for restoration? What is your role in that context of brokenness?*

Gathering Song "We praise thee, O God" VT #91

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Prelude(s) Wyatt K. and Alyssa K.

Call to Worship

Leader: Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel;  
you who sit on the mercy seat between the cherubim,  
we stand in your presence, seeking your face.

**People: Shine forth, O Lord, in the sight of your people,  
that we may see you clearly.**

**Stir up your strength in us; come, rescue us.**

L: The time is near, we are watching; restore us again, O God.

**P: Cause your face to shine and we shall be saved,  
made whole by your gracious love and kindness.**

**All: We are watching and waiting for you, O Lord.**

Offering *The Corinthian Plan – Access*

Advent Candle Lighting

Leader: Watch! You know what time it is,  
how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.

**People: The night is far gone, the day is near.**

Song "O come, o come, Immanuel" VT #210, vss. 1, 6

L: As we watch, we light this candle as a sign of our hope.

**P: Bring your restoration to your people, we pray.**

Children's Time		Lois Friesen
Song	"Sleepers, wake"	VT #226
Scripture	<i>Isaiah 2.1-5; Matthew 24.36-44</i>	
Sermon	"Expecting the unexpected"	Ray Reimer
Response Song	"I know not why God's wondrous love"	VT #590
Sharing Celebrations and Concerns		
Prayer		Karen Andres
Sending Song	"For the healing of the nations"	VT #705
Benediction and Postlude		

Worship Leader(s): Steph Entz & family      Accompanist: Karen Andres  
 Pastor Ray Reimer (316-217-2012)      Assoc. Pastor Karen Andres (316-799-2857)

(Our worship is live-streamed and recorded at <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:** Ray is usually at the church  
 office from about 9 A.M.–NOON on Mon. and Fri.; Karen on Tue.  
 and Thur. afternoons from about 1–4 P.M.

### *Congregational Announcements*

The winter quarter of the **Rejoice! devotional** is now available  
 under the church mailboxes.

Attached to this week's Friday email is a digital **Advent at Home  
 resource** that accompanies our Sunday worship focus week by  
 week; families are encouraged to utilize it as they choose (it  
 includes a variety of scriptures, discussion themes, projects).

Zion members and friends are encouraged to collect **items for area  
 Food Pantries** during Nov. and Dec. Bring non-perishable foods  
 such as rice, beans, pasta, sauce, mac and cheese, peanut butter,  
 cereal, soup, canned vegetables or fruit (remember—nothing  
 expired!). Monetary donations are also welcome (dedicated  
 offerings occur on Nov. 13 and Dec. 11).

The family of Martha Wedel would like to request a **card shower**  
 for Mom's 90th birthday on Nov. 28. Her address is: 512A Lance  
 Lane, Newton, KS 67114. Thank you.

**Thank you** so much for all of the cards, food, interest and  
 concern! There is the normal pain to deal with yet but I am  
 definitely improving. The fact is, I have two new knees and that is  
 a relief!  
 –Ralph Schmidt

**Sunday School teachers** for children's and youth classes for the  
 fall quarter:

- Pre-K & 1<sup>st</sup>: Sharon Wedel
- 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grades: Ann Schowengerdt
- 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grades: Kristy Andres
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Lisa Scott

Dec. 11: 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. 11, c.11:45 A.M.: Our **first winter congregational meeting** is  
 scheduled for this Sunday, immediately after worship, to consider  
 the 2023 budget and elections, and hear a report on pastoral  
 transition options. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary, but  
 also be live-streamed.

Dec. 11, 3-5 P.M.: Pastor Ray and Rosie invite the Zion  
 congregation to a **come-and-go Christmas open house** at their  
 home (5 Jasper Court, North Newton, KS 67117; from the light at  
 24<sup>th</sup> & Main, go 3 blocks west on 24<sup>th</sup> to Regal Crescent, 1 block  
 north to Jasper Court, then northeast to the end of the court). Please  
 join us to enjoy some warm fellowship and some goodies!

Dec. 24, 7 P.M.: **Christmas Enactment**: All (children, youth,  
 adults) are invited to put on a costume and join in the reenactment  
 of the Christmas story at Zion on Christmas Eve. Be a part of the  
 story by borrowing (Zion has a few) or making a costume as a  
 stable animal, shepherd, sheep, angel, or wise person. On  
 Christmas Eve don your costume and join us for an evening  
 celebrating the birth of Jesus. If you have questions talk to Rosie  
 Epp or Deana Entz. (At its Nov. meeting, the Governing Council  
 determined the Christmas Eve offering would be monetary  
 donations for MCC kits.)

## *Congregational Announcements, cont.*

Dec. 25, etc.: Both Spiritual Life Board and Governing Council have discussed **Sunday worship during the upcoming holiday season**. This year we will have no in-person worship on Dec. 25; the pastors will post online a pre-recorded service which families are encouraged to watch on that day at a time convenient to them. We will plan to worship in-person on Jan. 1, but delay our Epiphany communion observance until Jan. 8.

### *Other Organizations*

Nov. 29: Many of the organizations Zion supports via offerings encourage added donations on **#Giving Tuesday**; check out respective websites, which usually include a link for contributions.

Nov. 29, 6:30-8:30 P.M.: You can help make the world a better place by joining Everence® and MCC to **assemble hygiene kits**. The kits will be distributed through worldwide relief organizations to places like refugee camps where unclean conditions can lead to the spread of serious diseases. The event will take place at Hesston Menn. Ch. Community Center. You can also help by donating supplies to MCC or your Everence office in North Newton or by making a financial contribution to MCC. For more details, contact MCC at 316-283-2720 or Everence at 316-283-3800.

Dec. 2-4: Experience the quiet beauty of Kansas at **Prairie Lights** at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains: native grasses shifting in the wind, lights reflecting in the pond and leafless trees lit like living sculptures. Observing tens of thousands of twinkle lights adorning the arboretum and illuminating the grounds is a great way to kick off the Christmas season and find renewed appreciation for the prairie landscape. Tickets available at <dyckarboretum.org>.

Dec. 3: Join Hesston College for **Holly Jolly Community Day** at Yost Center. Guests receive free admission to the Lark women's and men's basketball games that day. At 1 P.M. the Lark women will take on Bethel College JV and at 3 P.M. the Lark men will take on Haskell Indian Nations University. The day includes free popcorn for all in attendance, Christmas activities for kids, a holiday photo booth and performances by the HC dance team.

Dec. 3, 8 A.M.: Kauffman Museum **bird walk**: start in the museum parking lot at the corner of Main and 27th streets (2801 N. Main St., North Newton 67117). Experienced birders lead a walk of 1-1.5 hours in Chisholm Park and on Sand Creek Trail.

Dec. 3, 10 A.M.-4 P.M.: **Five Places of Christmas**, the annual holiday open house, includes Kauffman Museum and Goerz House on the Bethel College campus. No charge for admission. The Bethel College Women's Association (BCWA) is the host at Goerz House, where there will be baked goods, candy by the pound and other items for sale. Kauffman Museum features Ten Thousand Villages and many other gift items in the museum store, a Weave Your Own Ornament activity, the special exhibition "Reeds and Wool: Patterned Screens of Central Asia" and the permanent exhibits indoors and out. (Other Five Places of Christmas locations: Warkentin House, Harvey County Historical Museum and Carriage Factory Gallery, all in Newton.) Bethel College Women's Association **invites all bakers and crafters** to make items for this event; Christmas candy, cookies, zwieback, peppernuts, poppyseed rolls and cinnamon rolls are always great sellers. Please bring your items on Fri., Dec. 2 from 1:30-4:30 P.M. or on Sat., Dec. 3 from 8:30-10:00 A.M. to Goerz House. Thank you for your support of Bethel College!

Dec. 3, 5-7 P.M.: First Menn. Ch. (1161 E Ave A, McPherson) will host a **German dinner** at the church. The menu will include: veronika with ham gravy, sausage, green beans, bohne beroggi with cream sauce, zwiebach and cherry moos. There will be a free will offering.

Dec. 3, 7 P.M.: Hesston College Music and Theatre join together to produce ***It's a Wonderful Life*** at Hesston Menn. Ch., performed as a live 1940s radio broadcast. With the help of an ensemble that brings a few dozen characters to the stage, the story of idealistic George Bailey unfolds as he considers ending his life one fateful Christmas Eve. Bel Canto Singers and Global Voices bring music before, during and after the show! It will be a beautiful night of nostalgia and holiday warmth. More info at <Hesston.edu/theatre> or join us at <hesston.edu/livestream>.

Dec. 4, 3 P.M. (prelude begins at 2:45 P.M.): The **Newton Treble Clef Annual Vespers** will be held at First Presbyterian Church (900 Columbus, Newton). The prelude will feature Vada Snider, flute; and Karen Loucks, piano. The program will include the prelude; Treble Clef Chorus; Hearts 4 Him men's ensemble; Josue Coy Dick, violin solo; and the Prairie Bronze Handbell Ensemble. A freewill offering will be taken for the scholarship fund that will be awarded to high school seniors who are pursuing a music major.

Dec. 4, 7 P.M.: Emmaus Church invites the community to join them for an **evening of music and drama** to usher in the Advent season. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the service.

Dec. 5: SafeHope is taking donations now through the date noted for its 2022 **Holiday Boutique**, which allows families impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and mass violence to pick out gifts from the new items you donate. Please consider bringing kitchen items, toys & games, movies & music, gift cards, towels, arts & crafts, small appliances, room décor, etc. to 215 S. Pine, Suite 103, Newton, KS 67114. Questions? Call (316) 283-0350.

Dec. 6, 6:30 P.M.: Everence will hold an **informative Medicare webinar**. Topics will include, when and where to sign up for Medicare, what Medicare does (and doesn't) cover, Medicare Parts A, B, C and D plus budgeting for health care costs in retirement. There will also be time for your questions. Information will be presented by staff from the Everence offices in Central Kansas. To register contact Everence at <central.kansas@everence.com>, 316-283-3800, or 877-467-7294. Attendance recommended for those approaching retirement or those ready to sign up for Medicare.

Dec. 6, 7 P.M.: Bethel College **Steel Drum Ensemble concert**, directed by Brad Shores, in Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center (note changed location from previous announcement).

Dec. 6, 7 P.M.: Sunflower Performing Arts presents "**Calmus: Christmas A Cappella**" at Hesston Menn. Ch., featuring Christmas songs from around the world. The ensemble performs more than 50 concerts a year and will collaborate with Bel Canto Singers on two selections. What a great way to get into the holiday spirit! More info and tickets at <sunflowerarts.org>.

Dec. 7, 11 A.M.: **Singalong** to Christmas portions of Handel's *Messiah*, with chamber orchestra and soloists, at Bethel College Menn. Ch.; scores provided (or bring your own).

Dec. 9, 8 P.M.: Bethel College **Christmas Gala Jazz**, directed by Joel Boettger, in Krehbiel Auditorium, Luyken Fine Arts Center.

Dec. 11, 4 P.M.: Come enjoy a concert at Dyck Arboretum featuring **John Fullbright**. This performance is part of the Prairie Window Concert Series. Crust and Crumb will be there serving savory and sweet treats at intermission. Purchase tickets at <dyckarboretum.org>.

Dec. 11, 7 P.M.: Everyone is invited to enjoy the **McPherson Community Brass Choir** at Alexanderwohl Menn. Ch. (1304 K-15 Hwy, Goessel, KS). A free will offering will support local ministries.

Dec. 11, 8 P.M.: 37<sup>th</sup> annual **Lighting of the Green** on the Bethel College campus.

Dec. 18, 3 P.M.: The Central Kansas Master Chorale, conducted by Joel Garber, will present **Christmas with the Chorale** at Hesston Menn. Ch.

Jan. 14, 2023, 7 P.M.: Hesston College Masterworks presents: **I Believe**. Join us for a celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a performance featuring music by William Dawson, Robert Owens, and Margaret Bonds. Masterworks chorus and orchestra will be joined by soloists Evan Julius Nelson, Carren Moham, and Holly Swartzendruber. More info at <hesston.edu/masterworks> or join us at <hesston.edu/livestream>.

Feb. 4-5, 2023: Save the date for Hesston College's **Know Jesus conference** for junior high youth. Contact Michele Hershberger at <michele.hershberger@hesston.edu> for more information.

**Volunteer opening:** Western District Conference seeks a new *volunteer building manager* to offer several hours per week to manage maintenance and repairs at the 2500 Place in North Newton, KS. If you know of someone who is interested in supporting WDC in this way, please contact the office at 316-283-6300 or wdc@mennowd.org.