

Last Week at Zion Mennonite Church

Worship attendance (with no visitors; & 17x2 Twitchers): c.107

Offering: Local Fund \$3,825

Dec. receipts-to-date for Local Fund (\$11,350 needed) \$3,825

This Week at Zion Mennonite Church

SS classes meet 9:45 A.M., Dec. 11

Worship 10:45 A.M., Dec. 11

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

Wed. evening activities Dec. 14

5:45-6:30 P.M. **Supper** (no supper this wk; high COVID)

6:30-7:20 P.M. Children's Activities (no Adult Bible Study this wk)

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

Next Sunday at Zion Mennonite Church

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

Accompanist / Vocalist(s): Brett Klingenberg (prelude: students) Next Sun.

Children's Time: Brett Klingenberg Next Sun.

Offering: Western District Conference Next Sun.

Calendar of Upcoming Zion Events

Christmas Enactment practice 6:30 P.M., Dec. 21

Christmas Enactment 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...

- Elda Hiebert's family, remembering the 3rd anniversary of her death this Tue.
- thanks for God's gifts of justice, peace and restoration offered through ministries of WDC congregations.
- Laura Schlabach, who is serving with Mennonite Mission Network, and asking for God's wisdom for the decision-makers at JCS International, a consortium of mission agencies in Mongolia, as well as prayer for those who have been affected by the extreme winter air pollution that has caused respiratory illnesses.

Zion Mennonite Church

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

zionelbing@gmail.com www.zionmenno.org

December 11, 2022: Third Sunday of Advent

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

Tell what you hear and see

Reflection: What stories do you have to share to encourage the community of faith?

Gathering Song "He came down" VT #239

Prelude Cohen A.

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Interlude(s) Lauren K., Renee E.

Call to Worship

Leader: Look, I am sending my messenger, go tell what you have seen!

People: God's awesome wonders fill the earth, the lost are found, the blind receive sight, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the poor are preached to, and those who are dead in spirit receive new life.

L: Is this what you were expecting to see?

P: Blessed are they who trust in the Lord!

L: For his yoke is easy, his burdens are light.

All: Great is thy faithfulness!

Offering *Area food banks in Peabody and Whitewater*

Offertory Emma E.

Advent Candle Lighting

Leader: Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is soon.

People: Tell what you hear and see: even now, like water in the desert, we see God's action all around.

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

L: As we gather strength, we light this candle as a sign of your love made visible among us.

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

Children's Time		Kristy Andres
Song	"From the depths of sin"	HWB #136
Scripture(s)	<i>Psalm 146.5-10; Matthew 11.2-11</i>	
Sermon	"Grace without resistance"	Karen Andres
Response Song	"Far above the noise of life"	VT #625
Sharing Celebrations and Concerns: Prayer		Ray Reimer
Sending Song	"Praise God from whom"	VT #70
Benediction and Postlude		

Worship Leader(s): Steph Entz & family

Accompanist(s) / vocalist(s): Carol Klingenberg / Margaret Brewer

Pastor Ray Reimer (316-217-2012) Assoc. Pastor Karen Andres (316-799-2857)

(Our worship is live-streamed and recorded at <[twitch.tv/zionmennonite](https://www.twitch.tv/zionmennonite)>; recorded services are available for 7 days. 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

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).

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: 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.

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 24th & Main, go 3 blocks west on 24th 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. 21, 6:30 P.M.: **Christmas Enactment practice** for readers, choir, and all costume and tech support.

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.)

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.

Jan., 2023: Kara Klingenberg will again **serve in the Dominican Republic**. This year, Derek and Makayla will join her! Derek and Makayla will be helping in small villages with a mobile doctor's office; Kara will again be in surgery. Since our bags are nearly full already, donations for surgical supplies are especially appreciated. Contact Kara if you'd like to help or have questions!

Other Organizations

Dec. 11, 11:15 A.M.: Koinonia Indian Menn. Ch. invites WDC members and friends to a **celebration of Rev. Susan Peak Hart's anniversary as pastor** at the church (10348 Airport Rd., Clinton, OK) during the Sunday worship service.

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, 7 P.M.: **Ted & Co. performs "Just Give 'em the News"** at Whitestone Menn. Ch. (Hesston). In this original, delightfully askew, musical look at the first Christmas, Jeff Raught and Ted Swartz weave original songs, inspired piano playing and comedic theater around a new look at familiar Christmas stories. So what did Zechariah sound like before his temper rendered him mute? Did Gabriel ever tire of needing to tell people to "Fear not"? Did Mary ever... Come and find out. Free will offering directed to MCC in support of relief efforts in Ukraine.

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

Last week to view the annual **Senior Art Exhibit** in the Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College, featuring the work of Capri Bisom. Exhibit closes Dec. 15. Gallery hours are 9 A.M.-5 P.M. weekdays.

Camp Mennoscah is seeking **summer staff** to fill the following leadership positions for the 2023 summer: crafts, lifeguard, music, nature, office, and grounds. These positions are typically filled by college-age students, are summer-long and receive a stipend. A summer of fun, service and faith formation! Apply at <<https://campmennoscahstaff.campbrainstaff.com/>>.

Dec. 18, 3 P.M.: Central KS Master Chorale, Joel Garber, cond., presents **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>.

Jan. 21, 2023, 9 A.M.-2 P.M.: Trinity Menn. Ch. (Hillsboro) is planning to end its time as a congregation, donating their building at 211 S. Elm to the Hillsboro Community Childcare Center. A **church "close out sale"** (garage sale) will be at the church on the date / time noted with craft items, toys, Christmas decorations, artificial 6-foot trees, artificial flower bouquets, candles, vases, hymn books, ping pong table, fuss ball game, treadmill, costumes, etc. All purchases are by donation to the Childcare Center.

Now at Kauffman Museum on the Bethel campus: **"Reeds and Wool: Patterned Screens of Central Asia,"** in memory of John Sommer, who collected the screens (made by nomadic Kyrgyz women), and organized the original exhibit. Regular Museum hours are Tues.-Fri., 9:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M., Sat.-Sun., 1:30-4:30 P.M. (the museum will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day). There is a small admission charge for non-members. The Museum Store is open during exhibit hours and is the only local source for Ten Thousand Villages fair-trade gifts, as well as a selection of local gift and craft items. See <kauffmanmuseum.org> or Kauffman Museum Facebook page.

MCC Christmas Giving! Give gifts of comfort and joy and help meet the basic needs of our global neighbors this Christmas. Choose from unique gifts such as goats, bees, backpacks and more. Give at <mcc.org/delight>, call 888.563.4676 or visit the MCC Central States office in North Newton, KS at 121 E. 30th Street. With each gift you can get a card and insert explaining the project. These gifts (from \$10-\$4,000) make wonderful hostess/teacher gifts, stocking stuffers and are ideal for those on your Christmas list that are hard to shop for!