

Last Week at Zion Mennonite Church

Worship attendance (with no visitors; & 11x2 Twitchers):	c.87
Offering: Area food banks in Peabody and Whitewater	\$752
Dec. receipts-to-date for Local Fund (\$11,350 needed)	\$4,225

This Week at Zion Mennonite Church

SS classes meet	9:45 A.M., Dec. 18
Adult Choir rehearses in basement	10:15 A.M., Dec. 18
Worship	10:45 A.M., Dec. 18
Wed. evening activities	Dec. 21
5:45-6:30 P.M.	Supper (<i>will be served this week</i>)
6:30-c.7:30 P.M.	Christmas Enactment practice, with Choir
c.7:30-c.8:15 P.M.	Adult Choir practice

Next Sunday at Zion Mennonite Church

Worship Leader(s): (pre-recorded: pastors)	Next Sun.
Accompanist / Vocalist(s): (pre-recorded: choir)	Next Sun.
Children's Time: –	Next Sun.
Offering: Mennonite Mission Network	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
Deacons meet (in person, if status low; otherwise Zoom)	9 A.M., Jan. 9
Gov. Council meets (in person, if status low; or Zoom)	7 P.M., Jan. 9

Pray and Give Thanks This Week for...

- Ann Schowengerdt, having a mastectomy this Tue. at St. Francis Hospital in Wichita.
- thanks for God's gifts of joy celebrated in the diverse cultural and ethnic traditions of congregations across WDC.
- Matthew and Toni Krabill, serving with Mennonite Mission Network, engaging in ministries of relationship building and teaching in French-speaking countries around the world, through in-person and online classes, conferences, and seminars, from their base at the Paris (France) Mennonite Center. Pray for them as they encourage communication and understanding between Christians and Muslims.

Zion Mennonite Church

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zionelbing@gmail.com www.zionmenno.org

December 18, 2022: Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Do not be afraid

Reflection: Where do you see echoes of Mary and Joseph's bravery around you?

Gathering Song	"O come, all ye faithful"	VT #241
Prelude(s)	Jeremiah B., Gracia B.	
Welcome, Introductions, Announcements		
Interlude(s)	Donovan B., Anna K.	

Call to Worship

Leader: Behold! Do not be afraid; God is with us.
God is our strength and our salvation!

People: Lord, we stand in your presence in faith, not fear.

L: God will send angels to keep watch over you,
to comfort you, to keep you.

**P: Lord, our strong hope is built on your unfailing love.
Our hearts yield to you and trust in your transforming power.**

All: Praise ye the Lord!

Offering	Western District Conference	
Offertory		Abi E.

Advent Candle Lighting

Leader: We cry out for restoration, we call upon God to give us life.

People: Do not be afraid, says the Lord. I have promised to be with you.

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

L: As we hold fast to God's promise, we light this candle as a sign of our joy.

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

Special Music Adult Choir
 "Lo, how a rose e'er blooming" (arr. Speath / Schultz)
 "It came upon a midnight clear" (arr. Holst / Causey)

Children's Time Brett Klingenberg
Song "Away in a manger" VT #257

Scripture(s) *Isaiah 7.10-16; Matthew 1.18-25*
Sermon "Of graves and goodness at Christmas time" Ray Reimer
Response Song "Oh, how shall I receive thee" VT #215

Sharing Celebrations and Concerns
Prayer Karen Andres

Sending Song "Go tell it on the mountain" VT #252
Benediction and Postlude

Worship Leader(s): Steph Entz & family Adult Choir Director: Renee Reimer
Accompanist(s) / vocalist(s): Brett Klingenberg
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 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

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.

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.)

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. 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>.

Do you have a hankering for a **giant bonfire**? Camp Mennoscah has several burn piles and tall grass areas that need to be burned. This takes several people, a full day and cooperating weather. Burning hasn't been done for a few years and we'd like to have the piles and tall grass done for safety reasons. Call 620-297-3290 or email <office@campmennoscah.org> to volunteer.