

West Zion Mennonite Church

9:30 am: Sunday School 10:30 am: Morning Worship

Vol. LI December 18, 2016 No 51

Advent 4

Words for silent meditation: *They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. (Isaiah 35:10).*

Prelude Carla Stucky

**Entrance hymn: Come, Light of the world STS 3

Lighting of the Christ Candle Elijah Roth

Welcome Connie Kaufman
The Lord be with you / **and also with you.**

Announcements

Call to Worship, Litany for Advent,
congregational response: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Greeting in Christ's peace

Lighting the Advent candle (kids come forward)

Scripture Isaiah 35:1-10 Pastor Brad
Pg 709

**Celebrating in Song

Bless'd be the God of Israel HWB 174
Love came down at Christmas HWB 208

Scripture Matthew 1:18-25 Mateo Roth
Pg 955

Children dismissed to Little Flock (for ages toddler - 1st grade)

Message "This is going to hurt" Pastor Brad

Song of Response Infant holy, infant lowly HWB 206

Offering ("Let it be Christmas" by Alan Jackson)

Sharing of Joys and Concerns
Prayers of the People

** Sending Song O little town of Bethlehem HWB 191

**Benediction

**Postlude

Greeters: Larry & Karen Loganbill

Ushers: Mel Becker, Norman Funk, Vicky Kessler

Sermon Notes

This is going to hurt
Matthew 1:18-25

Theme

Are we open to God's will?

Key Verse

Matthew 1:20 "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

Notes

A Prayer

Mighty God, conceive your will in us by the power of your Holy Spirit.

Sermons are online @ westzionmc.org
Find us on Facebook!

West Zion Announcements

Please have all bulletin announcements to the office by Thur. noon.
Check the bulletin board for more announcements.

1. Council meeting is **Tuesday, December 20th at 7PM** at Kirk & Carla's since the Preschool Christmas program is at the church.
2. Hey kids, Can you find the three wise men hidden somewhere in the church as they're journeying to Bethlehem? Look for them in a different place each week as we get closer to Christmas.
3. Gift Discernment Surveys have been placed in your box. Please take the time to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to use your gifts in the church in 2017. Please return to the secretary's box by **today**.
4. Join us for Christmas Eve worship. The prelude starts at 5:30 and the service starts at 6:00. This year's program includes videos, music, Scripture, and a kids choir.
5. Who can you invite to celebrate Christmas Eve or Christmas morning with you at West Zion? Bring a friend or neighbor to do something sacred during this special season. Invitational postcards are in the foyer for you to use.
6. We will not hold Sunday School on Christmas morning, Dec.25, or Jan. 1 New Year's Day. Worship will start at 10:30 AM as usual.
7. Ladies, join us for a diaper shower to pamper Holly on Friday, January 6 at 6:30 PM @ West Zion. We'll collect diapers and wipes and we'll have a basket for diaper money as well. RSVP to Lici at [620-386-4838](tel:620-386-4838) or aliciaeroth@gmail.com
8. Pastor Brad will take a sabbatical in 2017, July 2 - September 5 (10 Sundays). Part of that time will be spent at home. He is also planning a retreat at the Benedictine Center in Schuyler, NE and family trips to Boston and Peru.
9. Council recently approved starting a Sabbatical Fund with a goal of \$5,215. The church will use 70% of the money for a supply pastor, and Pastor Brad will use 30% for sabbatical-related expenses. If you'd like to donate, make your checks out to West Zion and write "Sabbatical Fund" on the memo line.

10. A new refugee family will be arriving in Hesston mid-December. More info about how we can help them as they get settled will be forthcoming.

11. Are you interested in learning more about becoming a member of West Zion? Membership is a covenant between you and the church. Members support the church with their time, finances, and prayers, and are entitled to vote in business meetings and serve on leadership Teams. Pastor Brad plans to lead a membership class on Wednesday nights in January, 5:30-7:00 PM. We'll eat together at 5:30 and then discuss our way through the *Confession of Faith*. Talk to Brad for more information.

12. A note from the Talita Cumi orphanage in Bolivia is on the bulletin board in the foyer. It reads: Season's Greeting from Talita Cumi Children's Home in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Dear Friends & Family of Jennifer, Feliz Navidad! We wish you all a beautiful Christ centered Christmas and a happy healthy New Year! Thank you so much for sharing Jennifer with us. Jen is a treasure who brings joy, and energy, and strength to the job every day. Her Spanish is really getting good. Thank you for raising up the next generation of Christians to stand in the gap for those who have no voice. We know it is a sacrifice to not be able to see her. May God Bless you for your generosity and prayers. Love in Christ, from the Talita Cumi Family.

General Announcements

13. **Bethel College is offering many of its classes for community audit.** Pay \$50 per credit hour (compared to the normal audit rate of \$85 per hour) OR, if you're age 62 and older, a flat rate of \$30. More information is at www.bethelks.edu/audit, where there are links for **interterm 2017 course schedule** (enrollment deadline **Jan. 4**) and **spring 2017 course schedule** (enrollment deadline **Feb 13**).

14. **Kauffman Museum at Bethel College seeks artifacts**, letters, photos and documents that tell the story of conscientious objectors during World War I. If you have an item for donation or long-term loan, please contact museum director Annette LeZotte at [316-283-1612](tel:316-283-1612) or alezotte@bethelks.edu.

~ Wish "Happy Birthday" to~

December 20: Brandie Foster

December 22: Carla Stucky

December 23: Connie Kaufman & Mindy Hill

December 24: Deanne Loganbill

Joys and Concerns

Prayer Requests for Jennifer Kaufman, serving in Bolivia:

-energy!

-kids of Talita Cumi--the school system is from February-November here so they are entering in their last week of classes! Pray for perseverance!

-"Summer Break"--pray for the workers as we come up with activities to not only keep them busy but to also help teach life skills through our summer program.

-financial state of my Bolivian host family

-Teresa, our cook at Talita Cumi who suffered a heart attack a couple weeks ago. She is recuperating but will finish her time here at Talita Cumi at the end of the year.

-La Paz--the capital of Bolivia is in a severe drought. The people have not had water for the past week.

-continued growth in my Spanish language ability

-continued safety on my commutes to and from work.

-for my Bolivian family--that they may realize how truly grateful I am for them.

Doris Loganbill, preparing to transition to Pine Village.

Edna Anderson, dealing with health issues

The Krehbiel family and Celia Mater at the passing of Carl Krehbiel

Prayer Requests from Mennonite Mission Network

Tom and Disa Rutschman, serving with MMN, have shared Jesus as the Light of the World through many long winters on the Arctic Circle in Sweden. Pray that this year they may again create sparks of life through teaching in schools and the leadership they provide at Jokkmokk Free Church.

Prayer Requests from Western District Conference

Pray for WDC pastors and chaplains as they lead worship and offer pastoral care during the holiday season.