

## West Zion Mennonite Church

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

Vol.XLIX                      December 7, 2014                      No 47

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### Advent 2

Words for silent meditation: *The Lord gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart (Isaiah 40:11).*

Prelude    Donna Stucky  
Lighting of the Christ candle                      Samson Petersen

Welcome!            In the name of Jesus,  
                         light of the world that cannot be extinguished,  
                         grace and peace be with you all!  
                         **and also with you.**

Announcements

Call to Worship    Isaiah 40:1-11 (on screen)                      Pastor Brad

Greeting in Christ's Peace

**\*\*Celebrating in song**    Emmanuel    on screen  
   Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)  
   Helpless and hungry/ What child is this

Lighting of the Advent candle - Ken Stucky

   Longing for light    STJ 54

Scripture    Mark 1:1-8    Connie Kaufman  
   Pg 990

*Preschool Children dismissed to Little Flock*

Message    "Prepare the way"    Pastor Brad

Song of Response    Comfort, comfort, O my people                      HWB 176

Sharing from John Stoesz of Camp Mennoscah

Offering and White Christmas offering (*Please bring items forward and lay them in the canoe.*)

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

**\*\*Sending Song**    We will follow    STS 40

**\*\*Benediction**

**\*\*Postlude**

**Ushers:** Mel Becker, Norman Funk, & Vicky Kessler

**Jr. Usher:** Samson Petersen

### Sermon Notes

Prepare the way

Mark 1:1-8

Theme

**What's blocking Jesus' way?**

Key Verse

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. (Mark 1:3)

Notes

A Prayer

God who comes to us during this season of expectation, bless your people with the courage to make a straight path for you.

*Sermons are online @ westzionmc.org*

**Our Mission :** God calls us into community to worship God and follow Jesus through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Brad Roth

**Pastor's Office hours:** Tues. and Wed. 10 am -12:30 pm  
Thurs. 1-4 pm

Pastor's Cell:620-386-4838

Pastor Brad's email:bradroth@westzionmc.org

**Sec. hours:** Tues. 8:00 am-10:00 pm, Thurs. 12:30-5:30 pm

Church: 620-345-8143

Becky's cell: 345-6696

Church's email: secretary@westzionmc.org

Website: www.westzionmc.org

## **West Zion Announcements**

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

1. Our White Christmas Project this year will go to Camp Mennoscah. Be thinking how you might be able to share with Camp Mennoscah this holiday season. Please see our Camp Mennoscah Christmas wish list in the foyer.
2. This year for the **Food Pantry** holiday baskets, West Zion has been asked to provide money for hams. Last year they gave away 30 baskets. Please mark your check or envelope for Food Pantry and put it in the offering plate.
3. A Gifts Discernment Survey is in your box. Please prayerfully mark places where you would be willing to serve God and his church in 2015 and return the survey to the Pastor's box **Today**. Thanks!
4. **Ariane Bergen** continues to serve with MCC in Nicaragua. She suggests the following ways to support her:
  - 1.) Donate to MCC or attend MCC events. (MCC; 21 S 12th St; Akron, PA 17501; or donate online)
  - 2.) Donate to Ariane specifically by writing a check to MCC and writing in the memo line "Ariane Bergen - PDA" (MCC covers all of Ariane's basic needs, like housing, food, and transport. Money given to Ariane's PDA - "Personal Drawing Account" - helps her cover "extras," like ½ of the cost of internet access and gym membership. Note: PDA donations are not tax deductible.)
  - 3.) Pray!
  - 4.) Write her a letter:  
Ariane Bergen  
Comite Central Menonita  
Apartado 5594
5. Mission Team is sponsoring West Zion members/attenders who would like to go to the Rural Ministry Seminar on Jan.24, 8:00-12:00. Lunch is included. This seminar is especially designed for congregational lay leaders in a rural setting. It will explore the unique mission of the church in a rural context, focusing on questions of God's unique calling for rural congregations and what makes for successful rural ministry. Talk to Pastor Brad or Geneva to register. For more info, see: <http://www.ambs.edu/academics/Rural-Ministry-Seminar.cfm> .

## **General Announcements**

6. **Sun., Dec. 7 – Lighting of the Green at Bethel College, 8 PM on the Green**; refreshments follow in the cafeteria.
7. **Wanted: Peppernut Bakers:** Pat Krehbiel would like to serve peppernuts to the participants at the Senior Center on Dec. 22. If you are helping, contact Pat Krehbiel, at the Senior Center at 345-2729.
8. Everyone is invited to a retirement reception for Pastor James Dunn on Sunday, December 7, from 2-4 pm at the Burrton Mennonite Church, Burrton, KS.
9. The "Greencards" preform at Dyck Arboretum in Hesston for the next Prairie Window Concert. The concert is Sun., Dec.7 at 4 PM. Join us for an evening of great music and good food. Tickets: \$20 adults/\$10 kids. Arboretum members receive a 10% discount. Call 620-327-8127 to reserve your seats.
10. Everyone is invited to Mennonite Central Committee's Christmas Open House on Tues., Dec. 9 from 4-6 PM at the MCC Center in North Newton (121 E. 30th). Join us to meet the new people in MCC Central States, visit with MCC alumni and at 4:30pm hear a reflection from Carol Duerksen about her recent MCC Learning Tour to Palestine/Israel. We'll have lots of Christmas goodies for you to enjoy while you're here!
11. **Area Wide BRASS Advent Program** – Everyone is invited to enjoy your favorite Christmas carols and melodies. The McPherson Community Brass Choir under the direction of Jerry Toews is performing at the Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Sun., Dec. 7 at 5 PM. The Alexanderwohl Church is located one mile north of Goessel on K-15 hiway. Bring your friends for a festive Christmas Event.
12. **Mennonite Disaster Service** needs to replace one or both of their current vans. They began a replacement fund in 2013 and now both vans have 190,000 miles on them. More information about the project is posted on the bulletin board. Donations can be sent to: Mennonite Disaster Service, Kansas Unit, 312 N. Main Street Hesston, KS 67062, and mark it "Van Replacement Fund"

~ Wish “ **Happy Birthday**” this week

December 8: Vickie Smith

December 10: Lois Thiessen

December 12: Dennis Kaufman

December 13: David Schmidt , Jim Miller, & Mateo Roth

~ Wish “**Happy Anniversary**” this week

December 6: Phil & Lorene Lohrenz

(was not in last week’s bulletin)

### **Joys and Concerns**

Taylor Stucky is staying in St. Louis for intensive outpatient treatment of OCD and anxiety. He thanks you for your many cards and prayers! His address is: Taylor Stucky, Water Tower Inn, 3545 Lafayette Ave, St. Louis, MO 63104

Karen’s mother and stepfather in Colorado

Mel Becker, recovering after bypass surgery

Mission Partners, Wayne and Jeannie, Give Thanks to God for:

A replacement vehicle at about 25% market value

A supportive, prayerful ministry team seeking the best way to build the ministry

Another local prayer and support team

A company in a nearby country with transformational videos receiving up to 20,000 hits on Facebook

Workshops in schools where leading families send their girls

Their flat, large enough for guests and view of a green growing area

Mennonite Mission Network walking with them

West Zion’s prayers and support

### **Prayer Requests from Mennonite Mission Network**

Pray for the transition government in Burkina Faso after violent demonstrations forced Blaise Compaoré to relinquish presidential power. Anne Garber Kompaoré of MMN, requests us to pray “that the Lord will lead to a wide consensus for a person full of integrity and wisdom and courage to lead the country to elections next year.”

### **Prayer Requests from Western District Conference**

Pray God’s blessing on the Western District Church Planters Retreat on Dec. 12 and the Church Planting Dreamers Advance on Dec 13.

Attendance: Sunday School: 22 Worship: 65

## **Sunday- Dec. 14** ***Third Sunday of Advent***

**9:30 am:** Sunday School

**Worship Leader:** Pastor Brad

**Message:** Pastor Brad

**Candle Lighter:** Trynity Petersen

**Greeters:** Bob & Sharon Gehring

**Ushers:** Clark Graber, Dave Wedel, & Tim Diehl

**Jr. Usher:** Trynity Petersen

**10:30 am:** Worship Service

**Scripture:** Geneva Wedel

**Accompanist:** Donna Stucky

**Music:** Chancel Choir

### **Coming Events**

Dec. 7: Christian Homemakers Christmas get together at Randy Kessler’s’ 6 PM.

Dec. 9: Worship Team 4 PM

Dec. 10: CDT 4 PM, Choir 7 PM

Dec. 11: Mission Team Meeting 7 PM

Dec. 17: MYM Christmas program 5:30-7 PM in the Sanctuary,  
Christmas Eve Practice 7-8 PM in the Sanctuary ,  
Church Council 8 PM

Jan. 7: Deacons 4:30 PM

Jan. 18: Annual Business Meeting

