

West Zion Mennonite Church

10:30 AM: Morning Worship

Vol. LVII December 11, 2022 No. 50

Advent 3

Prelude Donna Stucky
Lighting of the Christ candle

Welcome Carla Stucky
The Lord be with you / **and also with you.**

Announcements

Lighting of the Advent candle Erin Kelley & Angela Azzarito family

Call to Worship
God of hope, You call us home from the exile of selfish
oppression
**You call us to the freedom of justice, and the joy of
sharing.**
Give us courage to join your holy work,
To be friends of strangers and victims,
To be companions of those whom others shun,
**To be comforters of those whose hearts are
broken.**
We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

****Celebrating in song**

My Soul Cries Out STS 124
It Came upon a Midnight Clear HWB 195

Scripture Luke 1:46-55 Lory Fisher

Message “Blessed are those who _____” Pastor Kurt Horst

Offering (*Offering will be received in the basket on the back table.*)

Song for Meditation

Sharing of Joys and Concerns (*Raise your hand, and we'll bring the
mic to you.*)

Prayers of the People

****Sending Song** *O Little Town of Bethlehem HWB 191*

****Benediction**

****Postlude**

Greeter(s): Terry & Shery Kessler

*Welcome and thank you to Pastor Kurt Horst for bringing the morning
message! Pastor Kurt comes to us from Yoder, KS, having retired and
moved there from Hesston. He will come out of retirement soon to
begin his Interim ministry here at West Zion on January 2! His wife,
Elaine, works part-time at Partners in Family Care in Moundridge.
Kurt and Elaine have three children and eight grandchildren, three of
whom live in Moundridge (their daughter is Becky King, married to
Derek King who is pastor at Eden).*

Services are livestreamed on the West Zion Facebook page
Sermons are online @ westzionmc.org

Streaming license # 20084674
OneLicense #A-738752

Sunday, December 18, 2022

9:00 AM: Sunday School with Austin Regier teaching on poverty

10:30 AM: Worship Service

Message: Austin Regier & Alyssa Pollman

Accompanist: Carla Stucky

Scripture: Carolyn Schmidt

Worship Leader: Ellen Kaufman

Greeter(s): Frances Neufeld

Coming Events

- Dec. 14: 6:00 PM: Homemakers @ Sharon Gehring's
7:00 PM: Children's Choir practice for Christmas Eve
- Dec. 18: 9:00 AM: Sunday School with Austin Regier
10:30 AM: Alyssa Pollman and Austin Regier
- Dec. 23: 4:00 PM: Children's Choir practice
- Dec. 24: 5:30 PM: Prelude, 6:00 PM: Christmas Eve service
- Dec. 25: 10:30 AM: Worship Service with a reading and carols
- Jan. 1: Kurt Horst preaches
- Jan. 2: Pastor Kurt begins as Interim Pastor
- Jan. 22: Meal and Annual Meeting

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

Secretary Carla Stucky's hours in office through Dec.

Thursdays 1:00-4:00 pm

Church: 620-345-8143

Deacon contacts:

Carla: 620-386-0414

Sharon: 620-386-0379

Will: 620-345-6787

Church's email: secretary@westzionmc.org

Website: www.westzionmc.org

West Zion Announcements

Please have all bulletin announcements to the office by Thur. noon.

1. **Pastor Kurt Horst** will be our interim pastor and will begin a nine-month ministry on January 2. His office hours will be Monday through Wednesday (times to be determined) and he will preach 3 out of 4 Sundays. Carla Stucky will begin coming into the office on Wednesdays and will be printing the bulletin on Wednesday afternoons beginning January 4.

2. **We encourage people** to move towards the front to help build a sense of community and encourage singing. It is also helpful for the pastor and speakers as they bring a message.

3. **The Deacons are available** for visits, care, and prayer during December. Feel free to call Carla Stucky, Sharon Gehring or Will Kaufman as needed.

4. The **livestream function** for our church services has not been working and worship services are not livestreamed at the moment. The DVD will be available if someone would like to watch a morning service. This is in the process of being fixed and will hopefully be working soon.

5. **Next Sunday** Austin Regier, Director of STEPNC and Alyssa Pollman, recent graduate from the STEPNC program will be speaking for morning worship. Alyssa will courageously share her story and testimony. Please keep her in prayer and invite someone you know who might need to hear a story of hope.

6. Our **White Christmas** project this year is STEPNC and Oxford House. STEPNC works to equip and educate people to break free from poverty in McPherson County. Oxford House (formerly the Mt. Hope Sanctuary in McPherson) is a refuge house for women and families who need a place to stay. A list of items needed for the Oxford House is available at the back of the sanctuary. You can bring items purchased up to the front during the Song for Meditation or after church. The White Christmas offerings will be collected through Dec. 24. If money is given, write checks to West Zion and put "White Christmas" in the memo line.

7. **Austin Regier**, Executive Director of Steps to End Poverty in McPherson County (STEPNC) will be **leading two Sunday School**

hours on December 11 and December 18 at 9:00 AM. What does poverty look like in Moundridge? How can we help? All are encouraged to come learn more about poverty and the important work of STEPNC.

8. **Frances Neufeld** is missing her Corning Ware square glass lid after our meal last Sunday. Please check your lids to make sure you took the correct one home, thanks.

9. **Christian Homemakers** are invited to Sharon Gehring's for a Christmas Tasting Bee on **Wednesday, December 14** at 6:00 PM.

10. **The West Zion Christmas Eve program** will help us "Discover the Light of the World!" A prelude will begin at 5:30 pm and the program will begin at 6:00 PM on Dec. 24. Come enjoy special music, singing of Christmas carols, telling of the Christmas story, and a candlelight service. Invite a friend or a neighbor!

General Announcements

11. There will be a **cookie swap** at the Moundridge Public Library on Dec. 12 from 6:30-8:30 PM. Make as many cookies and bring as many copies of your recipe as you'd like to trade with others. Gloves are provided. Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1155809335040043>

<https://moundridge.sckslibrary.info/event/holiday-cookie-and-recipe-swap/>

12. **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!

13. In this original, delightfully askew, **musical look at the first Christmas**, Jeff Raught and Ted Swartz (Ted&Co) 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. December 11 at 7:00 PM at Whitestone Mennonite Church. Free will offering directed to MCC in support of relief efforts in Ukraine.

14. **WANTED:** Your stories. To share at the "Schweitzers and Friends" 150th celebration of Swiss Volhynian Mennonites coming to the U.S. in 1874, planned for August 23-25, **2024**. Everyone loves the stories Grandma told us about days gone by. This event gives us the opportunity to collect ancestor stories. Gathering for Christmas reunions? Great places to hear stories from the cousins. Brian Adams from Massachusetts would like to edit the stories for a Swiss Volhynian book. Brian says no stories are too small or inconsequential. He has heard stories from his Grandfather Jacob (Red Jake) Krehbiel from Moundridge. Think of a story you could share and send to Brian smoltz123@yahoo.com or call 413-586-3063.

15. **Mark your calendars!** The Ball Brothers will be coming to perform at Eden Mennonite on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 6:00 PM. Check out their #1 hit on iTunes Christian chart "It's About the Cross" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYSJj-EHAAk>. Donations will go to the **Pine Village Benefit Fund** to help with the kitchen expansion, transportation van, and various other needs.

BUDGET SUMMARY	This Year	Last Year
Regular collections – this week	\$ 3,669.00	\$ 3,986.00
Regular collections – year to date	\$136,266.26	\$140,866.93
Budget	\$157,300.00	\$165,158.00
Less: expended to date	(136,197.85)	(147,866.93)
Less: cash balance	(4,885.48)	(2,381.01)
Receipts needed to meet budget	\$ 16,216.67	\$ 15,445.91
Avg. offering per Sunday needed to meet budget	\$ 5,406	\$ 5,149
White Christmas to date	\$ 280	

West Zion Prayers

Randy Kessler had successful minor throat surgery and is back home.

Prayer Request from Western District Conference

In this Advent season, give thanks for God's gifts of justice, peace and restoration offered through ministries of WDC congregations.

Prayer Request from Mennonite Mission Network

Laura Schlabach, who is serving with Mennonite Mission Network, asks for God's wisdom for the decision-makers at JCS International, a consortium of mission agencies in Mongolia. She also requests prayer for those who have been affected by the extreme winter air pollution that has caused respiratory illnesses in Ulaanbaatar, the country's capital, and other cities.

Mosaic Directory

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp volunteers and leaders, pg 40



We wish a "Happy Birthday" to:
December 13: Mac Bretz

We wish a "Happy Anniversary" to:
December 17: Brian & Laura Bretz