

West Zion Mennonite Church

10:30 AM: Morning Worship

Vol. LVII December 18, 2022 No. 51

Advent 4

Prelude Carla Stucky
Lighting of the Christ candle

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

Announcements

Lighting of the Advent candle Sharon Gehring & Jan Dyck

Call to Worship

L: We gather in preparation,

P: for good news is about to be proclaimed.

L: We gather in expectation,

P: for joy is about to break forth in our midst.

L: We gather in celebration,

P: for we are people who say yes to the manger, yes to the One made flesh for others, yes to the wholeness of God.

All: In preparation and expectation, let us celebrate!

**Celebrating in song

Love Came Down at Christmas HWB 208

Joy to the World HWB 318

O come all ye faithful HWB 212

Scripture Luke 4:18-21 Carolyn Schmidt

Message Austin Regier & Alyssa Pollman

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 *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* words on screen

**Benediction

**Postlude

Welcome to Austin Regier and Alyssa Pollman! We thank you for coming this morning to share your work and your story with us.

Greeter(s): Frances Neufeld

Christmas Sunday, December 25, 2022

10:30 AM: Worship Service **Accompanist:** Donna Stucky
Message: Sharon Gehring **Scripture:** Donna Stucky
Worship Leader: Sharon Gehring
Greeter(s): Dan Pohl

Coming Events

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
 4:30 PM: Christmas Eve 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. 9: 7:00 PM: Church Council
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. **Dear West Zion family**, Thank you so much for the wonderful send-off meal and gifts! It was touching to share memories. We're grateful for these 10 years of fruitful ministry together. Thank you so much for the love offering. It helps make it possible for me to take a mini sabbatical before I dive back into full-time ministry. Thank you also for the lovely bench and "Fingerprint of God" Scripture artwork. Much love to you, and may God continue to richly bless you! - Brad, Lici, Mateo, Elijah, and Pablo
2. **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.
3. Join the **Christian Homemakers** to work on projects at the MCC Center in North Newton on January 9 at 1:00 PM. If you wish to carpool and eat lunch at the Breadbasket, meet at West Zion at 11:30 AM.
4. **We invite you** to send Gene, Amy, and Boyd Bachman a Christmas card to their son Greg's address where Amy and Boyd are staying. The address is 2445 West View Terrace, Emporia, KS 66801.
5. I will be working on the lovely **yearbook** beginning in January! Please check your yearbook and make sure your contact information is correct. Let me know of any changes needed.
6. A **2023 greeter's list** can be found in the church mailboxes. For those who will greet, be sure to pick yours up and note your upcoming dates.
7. **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.
8. **The Deacons are available** for visits, care, and prayer during December. Feel free to call Carla Stucky, Sharon Gehring or Will Kaufman as needed.

9. The **livestream function** for our church services has not been working and worship services are not livestreamed currently. 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.

10. Our **White Christmas** project this year is STEP MC and Oxford House. STEP MC 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.

11. **Frances Neufeld's** Corning Ware square glass lid went missing after our meal on Dec. 4. Please check your lids to make sure you took the correct one home, thanks.

12. **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 with cards found on a table in the back of the sanctuary.

General Announcements

13. The **Moundridge Community Blood Drive** is scheduled for Friday, December 30 from 12:00 noon until 6:00 PM at the Pine Village Wellness Center. For an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or visit www.redcrossblood.org and use "Moundridge" for the sponsor code. If you have any questions, call Carol at 620-345-6774 or email bczenger@mtelco.net. Thank you for your support.

14. **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.

15. **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.

16. **Mark your calendars!** The Ball Brothers will be coming to perform at Eden Mennonite tonight at 6:00 PM. 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	\$ 3,772.00	\$ 3,697.00
Regular collections – year to date	\$140,038.26	\$144,563.93
White Christmas to date	\$ 380	

West Zion Prayers

West Zion leadership as they lead through the challenges of change

Prayer Request from Western District Conference

In this Advent season, give thanks for God's gifts of creativity and joy celebrated in the diverse cultural and ethnic traditions of congregations across WDC.

Prayer Request from Mennonite Mission Network

Today, Jewish people around the world will begin to celebrate Hanukkah at sundown. Pray for peace, so all the world's people can join in this Hanukkah prayer: "Blessed are you, our God, sovereign of all, who has kept us alive, sustained us and brought us to this season."

Mosaic Directory

Laurelville Christian Retreat Center in Pennsylvania, pg 40



We wish a **"Happy Birthday"** to:
 December 22: Carla Stucky
 December 23: Connie Kaufman