

West Zion Mennonite Church

10:30 AM: Morning Worship

Vol. LVIII November 26, 2023 No. 48

Prelude Donna Stucky

Lighting of the Christ candle

Welcome Ellen Kaufman

The Lord be with you / **and also with you.**

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Give thanks to God, who is good.

People: God's love is everlasting.

Leader: Come, let us praise God joyfully.

People: Let us come to God with thanksgiving...

Leader: For this congregation of your people,

People: thank you, God.

Leader: For this place in which we gather for praise and prayer,
witness and service, in the name of Jesus Christ,

People: thank you, God.

Leader: For young and old who have been nurtured here in faith,

People: thank you, God.

Leader: For the faithful who have led and loved us, and by the
the offering of their gifts, equipped us all for the work of ministry,

People: thank you, God.

Leader: Receive our gratitude, Holy God, for the years through
which you have led us, and open us to the future you promise. Give
thanks to God, who is good.

People: God's love is everlasting. Amen!

**Song *This is the Day S&R 118 (vs. 1 & 3)*

ADORATION

Psalm 34:1-3

Song *Lord I lift your name on High*

Kirk Stucky

CONFESSION

Sing Antiphon "Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good."

Jennifer Suarez

Antiphon Psalm 107

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.

Colossians 1:20-22

Sing Antiphon

Silent prayer of confession

THANKSGIVING

Carla Stucky

For the earth - Psalm 33:4-8

Song *For the Beauty of the Earth HWB 89 vs. 1,2,5*

For friends & family - Romans 12:9-13

Poem "Hard Stuff of Little Things" written & read by Dan Pohl

Song *Count Your Blessings*

For God's faithfulness – Lamentations 3:22-24

**Song *Great is Thy Faithfulness HWB 327*

Poem "Let Us Give Thanks" by Gerhard E. Frost

SUPPLICATION (humble requests)

Ellen Kaufman

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

Song for Meditation

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

**Sending Song *How Deep the Father's Love*

**Benediction

**Postlude

**please stand if you are able

Greeter(s): Terry & Shery Kessler

Antiphon is written by Donna Stucky. The poems are printed in the bulletin. All words to songs will be printed on the screen.

CCLI # 9106321

Stream CCLI #20084674

OneLicense #A-738752

Livestream can be found on our West Zion Youtube page

First Sunday in Advent, December 3, 2023

9:30 AM: Sunday School **10:30 AM:** Worship Service
Message: Steve Sherbenou **Scripture:** Laura Bretz
Worship Leader: Connie Kaufman **Accompanist:** Donna Stucky
Greeter(s): Frances Neufeld
Special Music: Friends & Family

Coming Events

Nov. 27: Yoga 4-5 PM
Nov. 29: Supper 6:00 PM then decorate church for Christmas
Dec. 3: First Sunday in Advent, Steve Sherbenou preaches
Dec. 6: Christian Homemakers meet at Sharon Gehring 6 PM
Dec. 9: Fellowship & Prayer 9 AM
Dec. 10: Steve Sherbenou preaches
Dec. 17: Steve Sherbenou preaches
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve service

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

Office Hours: Thursdays 9-11:30 AM, 1-4 PM

Cell: 620-386-0414

Email: secretary@westzionmc.org

Church: 620-345-8143

Church website: www.westzionmc.org

West Zion Announcements

Please have bulletin announcements to the office by Thursday noon.

1. **Decorating the church:** Please come help us decorate our church for the Christmas Season this Wednesday, November 29th, at 6:00 PM. CDT will be serving chili and cinnamon rolls in the fellowship hall at 6:00. Following our meal together, we will head upstairs to decorate.

2. **2023 White Christmas Offering:** This year's White Christmas Offering will be a towel drive for MCC. MCC is in desperate need of hand towels for their Hygiene Kits and bath towels for their Relief Kits. During the four Sundays of Advent we will be collecting the following items: **Hand towels-** (medium weight, dark or bright colors preferred); approx. 40 cm x 65 cm (16 in x 26 in) and **Bath towels-** (medium weight, dark or bright colors preferred); approximately 70 cm x 125 cm (28 in x 50 in). If you would like CDT to purchase towels for MCC, please make out a check for West Zion with **White Christmas offering** in the memo. Our goal is to collect 100 towels. Can you help us reach our goal?

3. **Moundridge Angel Trees:** The Associated Ministries of Moundridge is seeking your help to provide gifts for families who are struggling this Christmas. An Angel Tree is located in our foyer. **NOTE:** There is a new way of buying for a family. Please scan the QR code on the angel to go to a website and pick the family you would like to help. Once you've signed up, an email will be sent with the wish list for that family. Please return all gifts WRAPPED and LABELED with the family code written on each gift to either the Moundridge Police Station (225 S Christian) or Moundridge EMS (225 N Wedel) any time (24/7). **The deadline for receiving gifts is December 8.** Call Austin Regier at 316-218-7763 or email director@stepmc.org for questions or help with sign up.

4. **Christian Homemakers** are meeting for a Christmas gathering Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 6:00 PM at Sharon Gehring's home. Bring some goodies for snacks and an idea to share with the group of one of your memorable Christmas traditions or memory of a meaningful item in your family like a recipe or ornament.

5. **December reading plan:** Carl and Tracy Duffman invite you to join them in reading one chapter of Luke every day of December (Luke

has 24 chapters). On Christmas Day, you will know the story of Jesus and why we believe in Him!

6. **Christmas Gala Jazz:** Daniel Kaufman will be playing with the Bethel College jazz band on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 pm at the Krehbiel Auditorium in the Luyken Fine Arts Center. Music by Ellington, Mingus, and more will be featured.

7. **College care packages:** You are invited to encourage our college students as they anticipate semester finals by bringing care package items to the church and putting in the red bucket in the foyer. Collections will be received through Sunday, December 3. You can also send encouraging notes to our college students at the addresses listed below:

Kaleigh Guhr	Daniel Kaufman
Sterling College, Student Box 317	Bethel College
125 West Cooper St	300 E 27 th St
Sterling, KS 67579	N. Newton, KS 67117

Jerod Kaufman
1135 Ohio Street, Apt 10
Lawrence, KS 66044

8. Carla will begin putting together schedules for the **greeters and scripture readers**. If you are interested in being removed from these lists OR being added, please let Carla know by the end of November.

General Announcements

9. **Cradles to Crayons** is trying to raise 15% of capital funds so they can apply for a grant that would pay the 85%. It is a very fast turn around so funds are needed quickly but, it is a fantastic opportunity for Cradle to Crayons, businesses, and families in the area. A flyer with more information is on the foyer board. Thank you for your support!

10. You are invited to attend this year's **PRAIRIE LIGHTS event** (formerly called Luminary Walk) at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston. Prairie Lights will be from 5:30 to 8 PM on December 1, 2, and 3. Admission is \$5 for Adults and FREE for children 12 and younger. Tickets can be purchased at the Arboretum office or online at <https://dyckarboretum.org/prairie-lights>. Traditional outdoor highlights include the walking path lit up by thousands of twinkle lights, a nativity scene in the leaf house, and roasting marshmallows at the fire pits. Music, education and storytelling are

scheduled each night from 6:15 to 8:00 PM in the Prairie Pavilion "snow globe". The Hesston scout troop will provide hot drinks for a free will donation.

11. **Get busy giving on Giving Tuesday** at an *Evening of Service at MCC!* Nov. 28 from 6:30-8 PM at MCC in North Newton. Bring *new dark colored* hand towels with you to pack hygiene kits (the more towels you bring, the more kits we can pack!). MCC partner Offender Victim Ministries will be here with supplies to write holiday greetings to prisoners and we'll have comforters to tie and delicious snacks to enjoy.

12. **Bethel College and Tabor College** events can be found on the foyer bulletin board.

BUDGET SUMMARY	This Year	Last Year
Regular collections – this week	\$ 900.00	\$ 920.00
Regular collections – year to date	\$107,198.83	\$129,155.26
 Budget	 \$163,155.00	 \$157,300.00
 Expended to date	 \$101,946.10	 \$131,325.57
 Cash balance	 \$ 10,966.89	 \$ 2,646.76

West Zion Prayers

Geneva Wedel is at Mercy Hospital
Those dealing with health issues and recovering from surgery
Carl Duffman as his breathing difficulties continue
Search for a new pastor, interim pastor, pulpit supply, Deacon

Prayer Request from Western District Conference

Pray for chaplains and other ministers in WDC who offer pastoral care for members of our communities experiencing pain, loneliness, loss or grief, particularly during this holiday season.

Prayer Request from Mennonite Mission Network

María Chub and María Santos Tiul are traveling missionaries, appointed by the Kekchi Mennonite Church in Guatemala. Pray for these two women as they travel to all six regions of the Kekchi Mennonite Church, teaching and supporting women leaders who work with women's groups throughout the church, and as they gain acceptance of their leadership.

Mission Mosaic Prayer

Eli Reimer, Anna Lubbers, Cassidy Bush, Rachel Miller
serving MVS in California

November 12 attendance: 33



We wish a **“Happy Birthday”** to:
November 27: Jerod Kaufman

Hard Stuff of Little Things by Dan Pohl

Fixed in memory, more heart than head, looking into
The crystal of a poetic dusk, beyond the day's gung-ho
Of too many climbing, medieval minor kings, perjorative
Wannabees, and offended, pretending queens, beyond
Their part of unwelcome and pushy moves across
Manipulative checkered-past chessboards, a full moon
Gently peeks into the bedroom window as a friendly
Nightlight with no ego and makes me blush in time
In thought of the pursuit of so much moola, and I, like
Most of the sleepy earth, get to leap past the monsters
For awhile to help two small girls scale their beds after
Little prayers to tuck-in after the Hide-and-Seek cousins
Of Red Light-Green Light's and the Mother-May-I's to
Watch a simple gift, the fermented honey bee drink of
A once upon a time to release the busy day and, eventually
Hear the resting sound of deep, satisfied breathing.

"Let Us Give Thanks" by Gerhard E. Frost

Let us give thanks this moment:
for the sturdy fact of God's continuing love,
for mercies which go before us
and follow after us,
for those free gifts
which cost God so much.

Let us give thanks:
for memory and expectation,
for the good that we have known
and know today in Jesus Christ,
for the Spirit's brooding presence
in our nights and our days.

Let us give thanks:
for pleasures which comfort
and pains which force our growth
and keep us at the Shepherd's side,
for deep meanings revealed
and mysteries mercifully concealed,
for the image of God within us,
the capacity to inquire and adore.

Let us give thanks for one another,
for just being together,
for differences that complement and complete,
for gifts which enrich
and disagreements which challenge,
for our oneness in Christ.

Let us give thanks for melody and mirth,
for rhythm and beat,
for the repeated and the common,
for the ever-unfolding,
and for senses with which to respond.

And let us give thanks for Someone to thank.