

West Zion Mennonite Church

10:30 AM: Morning Worship

Vol. LVIII December 24, 2023 No. 52

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY

Prelude Donna Stucky
Lighting of the Christ candle

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

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Christmas - the day when love in its fullness became tangible.

People: A love that knows no bounds was bound in strips of cloth.

Leader: Tiny arms wrapped tightly...arms that came here to embrace all of mankind in forgiveness. To be with us.

People: Emmanuel. God with us.

Leader: Here with us as we continue to shine His light into a world that rejects Him.

People: Here with us, rejoicing in our worship and filling us with His Spirit.

Leader: For to us a child is born.

People: To us a son is given.

Leader: His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father.

All: The Prince of Peace!

**Songs *He Came Down* words on screen
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy HWB 202

Advent Candle Lighting and Reading Connie Graber & Sam Strausz

Songs *Peace before us STS 16*
Hope is a candle STS 15

Message Steve Sherbenou
"Peace Worth Fighting For" Psalm 29:1-4, 10-11

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

Song for Meditation *International Peace Medley* arr. Donna Stucky

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

Prayers of the People

**Sending Song *Come on, Ring Those Bells*

**Benediction Steve Sherbenou

**Postlude "Hallelujah" from Messiah by G.F. Handel
arr. Diane Bish Trumpet – Kirk Stucky

**please stand if you are able

Greeter(s): Jan Dyck

CCLI # 9106321
Stream CCLI #20084674
OneLicense #A-738752

Livestream can be found on our West Zion Youtube page

Sunday, December 31, 2023

10:30 AM: Worship Service

Message: Steve Sherbenou

Scripture: Steve Sherbenou

Accompanist: Donna Stucky

Worship Leader: Steve Sherbenou

Greeter(s): Geneva Wedel

Coming Events

Dec. 31: Steve Sherbenou preaches

Jan. 7: Praise & Worship service (originally Nov. 26 service)

Jan. 14: Matt Hamsher leads SS & brings message

Jan. 21: Meal & 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

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. **Interim Pastor:** On Dec 10 the Deacons announced they called Phil Slabaugh to become our Interim Pastor. Phil comes from eastern Ohio. He studied in the Hesston College Pastoral Ministries in the mid 1990's and has pastored in 2 different churches over the last 24 years. He will be coming mid-January. Thank you to Deacons for your work in securing an interim!

2. The Deacons have been researching the **EVANA Network** as a possible conference affiliation. The Executive Director of EVANA, Matt Hamsher, will be attending our church on January 14. There will be a Sunday School hour at 9:30 AM with an overview and a time for questions. Matt will also give the message that morning. Please take time to study the EVANA Network online at [Home - a community with a heart to see lives transformed by Jesus Christ. \(evananetwork.org\)](http://Home - a community with a heart to see lives transformed by Jesus Christ. (evananetwork.org)).

3. **Anyone who is willing and able** is invited to help after worship to get the church ready for Christmas Eve. Help will be needed with setting up the sanctuary, preparing the luminaries, and putting together the candles and holders.

4. The **Gifts Discernment Committee** announced they are still looking for a Deacon to fill a 2-year term. Please contact Carolyn Schmidt if you are interested.

5. **White Christmas Offering:** The last collection date is today. The following items are needed: 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. **There will be a White Christmas offering at the Christmas Eve program this evening.** Our goal is to collect 100 towels.

6. Our West Zion **Christmas Eve program**, "The Simplicity of Christmas" will take place this evening with a musical prelude beginning at 5:30 PM and program starting at 6:00. Friends, neighbors and family are all welcome! Thank you to Crysta Guhr for planning the program.

7. All are welcome to join the **Christian Homemakers** for a work afternoon at the MCC Center January 8 at 1:00 PM. Plans are to eat lunch at the Breadbasket in Newton at noon. If you wish to carpool, join the group at West Zion church at 11:30 AM.

8. **Wayne and Jeanne Larson** have sent West Zion an update of their work. Read the informative letter posted on the lobby bulletin board. Pray for two new board participants with them, one having led a vision-setting process. Also pray that the team finds a chief financial officer, as well as their ongoing ministry across the Middle East.

9. **Yearbook changes:** Please take time to check the yearbook in the foyer and make any changes in addresses for you and family members.

10. There is a **Christmas card** and letter from former pastor Marvin Zehr in the foyer.

General Announcements

11. **Register now for the MCC South Texas Learning Tour, February 4-9, 2024!** This immigration-focused learning tour presents a unique opportunity to engage directly with organizations making a positive impact on our neighbors. You won't want to miss this opportunity. Details and online registration can be found at mcc.org/south-texas-lt. Deadline to sign up is Jan. 20.

12. The **Moundridge Community Blood Drive** is scheduled for December 29, 2023 from 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. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, call Carol at 620-345-6774 or email bczenger@mtelco.net.

BUDGET SUMMARY

	This Year	Last Year
Regular collections – this week	\$ 7,310.00	\$ 1,212.00
Regular collections – year to date	\$118,488.83	\$141,250.26
Budget	\$163,155.00	\$157,300.00
Expended to date	\$104,891.84	\$137,477.18
White Christmas-to-date	\$ 605.00	

West Zion Prayers

Those dealing with health issues and recovering from surgery
Search for a new pastor

Prayer Request from Western District Conference

Rejoice in the gift of Emmanuel, God-with-us! Give thanks for the many ways that WDC congregations embody Jesus' presence in the world today.

Prayer Request from Mennonite Mission Network

Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for peace in the land where Jesus was born more than 2000 years ago. Pray, especially, for partners — Bethlehem Bible College, Nazareth Hospital and Nazareth Village — who faithfully work to peel away the layers of fear and hate that distort Jesus' message of peace, in a time of escalating violence in Israel-Palestine.

Mission Mosaic Prayer

Anicka Fast & John Clarke, Ann-Sophie and Maika

December 17 attendance: 49



We wish a “**Happy Anniversary**” to:
December 25: Richard & Glenda Golden