

West Zion Mennonite Church

10:30 AM: Worship Service

Church phone (620-345-8143)

Email: www.westzionmc.org

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude Sharon Schrag

Welcome and Announcements

You may give an offering in the lock box at the back of the sanctuary

Call to Worship Vicky Kessler

Lighting the Candle of JOY Ignacio Suarez & Maria Saucedo
(translation on back of bulletin)

****Songs** *Angels We Have Heard on High HWB 197*
 Hark! The Herald Angels HWB 201

Parade of The Fruit Snacks

Sharing Joys and Concerns
Prayer Pastor Mike Hiebert

Message "JOY" - 1 Peter 1:3-9 Pastor Mike

****Sending Song** *Joy to the World HWB 318 (vss. 1 & 4)*

****Benediction** Pastor Mike

****Postlude**

****Please stand if you are able**

Greeter(s): Geneva Wedel

Our Mission: God calls us into community to worship God and follow Jesus through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. As part of our mission, let us fervently....

Pray – for growth spiritually and physically

Invite – others, the Holy Spirit will do the rest

Fall – More in Love with the WORD of GOD

West Zion Prayers

Theone, 2-year-old dealing with seizures

Pastor Mike & family on the death of his uncle Don Klaassen

The family of Ron Krehbiel, former WZ pastor, who died recently

Dorothy Toews & family on the death of son John D. Toews

Karen Hess, WZ missionary partner

4th Advent Sunday, December 21

Greeter(s): Brian & Laura Bretz

Worship Leader: Sharon Gehring

9:15 a.m.: Sunday School Advent study

10:30 a.m.: Worship Service

Accompanist: Ellen Kaufman & Carla Stucky

Message: Pastor Mike Hiebert

Coming Events and Church Use

December 15: STEP MC 4-8 p.m., PV lunch with pastor 11:30 a.m.

December 16: Hieb @ the Hub 1:30 p.m.

December 17: Evangelism 101 with Pastor Mike 7:00 pm

December 19: Pastor Mike will not be in the office

December 22: Pastor Mike on vacation

NO STEP MC, NO PV lunch with pastor

December 23: Pastor Mike on vacation, NO Hieb @ the Hub

December 24: Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 p.m. service

Pastor Mike on vacation

December 29: NO STEP MC

December 30: Hieb @ the Hub

January 14: Church Council 7:00 p.m.

January 18: Meal and Annual Meeting

December 7 attendance: 66

Pastor Mike Hiebert

Office Hours: 9 – 11:15 am on Mon

9 am – Noon on Tues & Wed

9 am – Noon, 1 – 4 pm on Thursday

8 – 11 am on Friday

Cell: 620-747-2310

Email: mike@westzionmc.org

Secretary Carla Stucky

Office Hours: Thursdays 9 am – Noon, 1 – 4 pm

Cell: 620-386-0414

Email: secretary@westzionmc.org

Reading for Lighting the Candle of JOY:

This morning we light the 3rd advent candle, the candle of JOY! The candle of Joy reminds us of the Good News the shepherds received about the coming of the Christ child. Luke 2:10-11 says, "The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great JOY for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'" Philippians 4:4 states "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, Rejoice!" Today we celebrate that true everlasting Joy is not based on circumstances or situations, but rather in a relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord.

your support and if you have any questions, call Jerry at 501-388-0177 or mail jerryschrag@gmail.com.

13. Progress on the **retreat center at Camp Mennoscah** continues to be made. This work is possible only through a combination of your on-going support, and funds from our financial reserves. If you are in a position to help us re-build those reserves with your year-end giving, please text "RESERVES" to 6207552583 to discuss your giving options with our Director of Development.

14. The **Schowalter Singers** will be performing Christmas music at Hesston Mennonite Brethren Church, Dec. 14 @ 7:00 p.m.

15. **MCC Christmas Giving** - Choose gifts that honor your loved ones and change lives across the globe. MCC has 20 alternative gift options for you to choose from this Christmas season starting at just \$12. Start here mcc.org/christmas and if you have any questions please contact the MCC Central States office at 316.283.2720.



We wish a **Happy Anniversary** to:
December 17: Brian & Laura Bretz,
Wayne & Lory Fisher

BUDGET SUMMARY

	This Year	Last Year
Regular collections – this week	\$ 4,105.00	\$ 2,150.00
Regular collections – year to date	\$132,698.73	\$141,546.36
Budget	\$173,035.00	\$173,035.00
Estimated unspent budget	(26,500.00)	(40,000.00)
Less: expended to date	(135,901.50)	(120,002.24)
Less: cash balance	(47,092.92)	(44,719.97)
Receipts needed to meet budget	\$ 0	\$ 0
White Christmas – to date	\$615	\$390



West Zion Announcements

Announcements are due to the secretary by Thursday noon

1. **White Christmas Offering** will go to support Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) hygiene kits which are given to families who have fled their homes because of disaster or war. Buy one or more of the following NEW items and put in the foyer basket:

- 1 adult-sized toothbrush (in packaging)
- 1 large bar of bath soap (leave in wrapper)
- 1 nail clipper (good quality)
- 1 hand towel (medium weight, dark/bright color, approx. 16x26 in.)
- 1 wide-toothed comb (6-8 in.)

If you would like to give money, write check to West Zion and put White Christmas in the memo and put in offering box. **Items and money will be collected through Christmas Eve.**

2. **Thank you** to Ignacio Suarez & Maria Saucedo for reading our Advent meditation this morning and sharing their first language, Spanish. They are Berna's parents visiting from Bolivia.

3. Pastor Mike will lead an **Evangelism 101** gathering at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 17 in the sanctuary. All are invited to come and learn biblical steps and tips on how to share Christ's salvation with others.

4. **An Advent Study** on Hope, Peace, Joy and Love by Max Lucado has begun during the Sunday School hour (9:15 a.m.) on December 7 and continue through December. Please come join us!

5. **Nursery Helpers needed:** We are excited about the possibility of help to watch young children during worship. The nursery room will be located next to the upstairs bathroom and the livestream will be playing on the TV if you would like to listen while keeping an eye on the kiddos. If you are interested in helping with the nursery, please visit with Pastor Mike or Carla.

6. **Evana Network** would like to thank our congregations for their support of the Network through financial contributions, investment of time, and consistent prayer. As we approach the end of the year, we are asking individuals to consider contributing towards our \$150,000 Embrace the Future Campaign. Of course, we ask for members to support their local congregations first, but if you'd like to contribute

above and beyond, visit EvanaNetwork.org to make a donation.- Matt Hamsher, Executive Director

7. There is **still an opportunity to write a note of encouragement** to Karen Hess, our missionary who has now moved to Prague. The letter you write and send to the address on the Eastern Mennonite Mission folder will be put into the encouragement boxes sent to her at intervals. You can also email her at karen.hess@snapmail.net.

8. **The Kansas Department of Corrections** has a program called Mentoring 4 Success Program (M4S). This program delivers mentoring services to help residents safely and successfully return to community following incarceration. Mentors assist residents with completing community supervision. If any men are interested in helping with this, please contact Pastor Mike.

9. The **Gifts Discernment Committee** is in the process of replacing people whose terms have expired and they do not wish to renew at this time. We will be needing a Recording Secretary to begin in January. This person takes minutes at Church Council meetings on third Wednesdays and church meetings, types up the minutes and distributes as needed. Thank you to Carolyn Schmidt for filling that need these past 3 years!

10. **Carla Stucky will be putting together** a 2026 Greeter schedule soon. Please let her know by December 14th if you would like to be taken off of the greeting schedule, or if you would like to be added.

General Announcements

11. **Garden Community Church** will continue to offer their Griefshare and DivorceCare seminars/support groups in 2026. This video seminar series features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on grief recovery and divorce recovery as seen from a biblical perspective. The two separate seminars are combined with support group discussions of materials presented in the video. Classes are held at the Garden Community Church Office at 349 N. Old Hwy 81 in Hesston. Information can be found in the foyer.

12. The **Moundridge Community Blood Drive** is scheduled for December 18 at 12:00 noon until 6:00 p.m. at the Pine Village Center. Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit www.redcrossblood.org for an appointment and use "Moundridge" for the sponsor code. Thanks for