

# Zion Mennonite Church

Zion Mennonite Church covenants to grow together as a Christ-centered community, extending our Anabaptist branch into our world, bearing the lasting fruit of discipleship, and planting the seeds for God's reign through hospitality, service, and reconciliation with God and others.

December 17, 2017

*Third Sunday of Advent*

Welcome

## Call to Worship

Leader: Awake! The invitation to carry light comes from the God of restoration.

**All: Oh God, you amaze us with your promise to build up the ancient ruins. You say you will replace the ashes of the past with your garlands of beauty. Your bold vision dazzles our doubting souls.**

Leader: Quiet our questions.

**All: Lead us beyond our fears, and guide us on the path to peace.**

Leader: Let it be whole.

Lighting of Advent Candles: *"My soul is filled with Joy"*

Singing: *HWB 172 O come O come Immanuel*

*HWB 178 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

*HWB 180 The Angel Gabriel*

Offering

Children's Story

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:46-55

Sermon: "Call Me Blessed"

Response Song: *Breath of Heaven*

## Confession

O God of peace, your justice wells up like a spring, bringing dreams, laughter, and wholeness to the world.

We confess we so often stifle your Spirit.

We are afraid to claim that you anointed us to carry your upside-down vision into our broken world, where the lowly are trampled upon, the hungry go away empty, the rich increase in power and might.

We confess we lack the courage to build up and repair what we have broken, imprisoned, and oppressed.

Forgive us when we do not catch your vision.

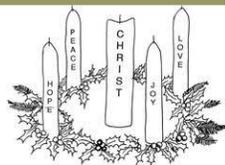
Lead us beyond our fears, and guide us on the path to peace.

## Words of Assurance

**Oh God, Emmanuel, in Jesus, the Christ, you have come among us. You have given us life, and we are restored.**

Congregational Prayer

Sending Song: *STJ 98 All will be well*



Worship Leader: Jana Gingerich  
Song Leader: Julie Yoder  
Children's Story: Karl Birkey  
Prelude/Offertory: Karen Tro, Kristin Oakes

## **This Morning:**

9:00am

Coffee Time

9:30am

Sunday School For All Ages

9:45am

Prayer Team meets (upstairs)

10:45am

Worship Service

## **This Afternoon/Evening**

5:00-7:00pm

MYF/Jr. Hi Caroling at Hope Village

refreshments following at Rachel Kropf's

## **This Week:**

Tuesday 10:00am

Bible Study in Library

Wednesday 12:15pm

Prayer Meeting at Zion

Thursday 9:00am

Quilting

## **Worship Schedule:**

December 24: Christmas Eve Sunday. Luke 2:1-21.

December 31: Mathew will be preaching "On The Presentation"

Luke 2:22-40



**Everyone is invited to come to a New Year's Eve party at Zion** from 8:00pm to midnight on Sunday, December 31. Bring snacks to eat and games to play. We will welcome in the new year with a short service right before midnight. If you have any questions, contact Stan Oyer.

**The Youth Ministry Visioning Task Group** invites parents, youth, and all others who are interested to a **meeting on Sunday, January 7 at 4:00pm** in the Skylight Room to discuss the visioning process and to prepare for youth activities for the upcoming year. Your input is valued and appreciated. Please come and participate in the meeting!

**DINNERS FOR EIGHT.** It's time again! If you would like to participate in the January, February and March round of Dinners for 8, please sign up today. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Contact Vonnie Oyer if you have any questions.

*I would like to thank the church family for cards, plants, visits, prayers, and food, especially the great soups, brought during my back surgery and recovery. It's been a long journey but I am thankful to the Lord for Him being by my side.*

—Darlene Kauffman



## Advent and Christmas Calendar

### **MYF and Jr. Hi Caroling at Hope Village Tonight, 5-7pm**

Adults and families are invited to join the group as well.  
Refreshments afterward at Oliver and Rachel Kropf's  
home (1346 S. Cedar Drive, Canby)

### **Zion's Christmas Eve Service Sunday, December 24, 10:45am**

Featuring special music by our Children's Choir and a Men's Choir.

### **Pacific Covenant Christmas Eve Service Sunday, December 24, 6:00pm**

The service will be held at the Hope Village Community Center.  
Hear the Christmas story and sing some of your favorite carols.  
If you have questions, contact Karie Smucker.



**MCC Relief Kit items** are still being collected through Sunday, January 7, and will be commissioned during our worship service that day. Items may be left in the church foyer. A list of kit contents is posted on the bulletin board.

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**Please keep in your prayers:**

- Any persons for whom “the holiday season” is marked by loneliness, grief, anniversaries and memories of loss, and major, unwanted life changes, as well as joy, togetherness and celebration.
- Mark and Mary Hurst, who serve as resource people and pastors with the Anabaptist Association of Australia and New Zealand, that they might build relationships with people seeking God and a way of living that centers on Jesus’ justice and shalom (Mennonite Mission Network)
- The 40 IBA (for Spanish language Biblical education) volunteer tutors who serve at 40 study centers, that God may bless them with wisdom, patience and lots of energy as they contribute to the training of new leaders for the Hispanic churches of Mennonite Church USA. (MEA)

**A prayer to carry through the week:** “We adore You because you came to us in the past...because you still come to us now...because you will come to us in the end, when your history has run its course.” Adapted from a prayer in “Contemporary Prayers for Public Worship” by Caryl Micklem

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Budget Report: Total giving year-to-date is \$333,494, for a budget deficit of \$44,444. \$14,813 is needed per Sunday until year end to meet budget.

**Nursery:**

This week: Wendy and Jaclyn Roth

Next Week: Emma Gingerich, Elizabeth Masingila

**Last Sunday:**

Attendance: 134

Offering: \$3068.56

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**Church Staff:**

Mathew Swora, Lead Pastor: [zionpastor\\_ms@canby.com](mailto:zionpastor_ms@canby.com)  
Jana Gingerich, Associate/Youth Pastor: [zionyouth@canby.com](mailto:zionyouth@canby.com)  
Jodi Hansen, Office Administrator: [zionmc@canby.com](mailto:zionmc@canby.com)  
Elders: Pat Hershberger, Karen Amstutz, Lynn Miller  
Ken Kauffman, Cynthia Hockman-Chupp

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OFFICE HOURS: TUES–FRI 9 A.M. TO NOON

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