

**Church Office Hours**

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – noon

**Phone:** 345-8320; **Email:** [edenoffice@edenmennonite.org](mailto:edenoffice@edenmennonite.org)

Check out our website at [www.edenmennonite.org](http://www.edenmennonite.org)

Friend us on Facebook

**Interim Lead Pastor, Lee Suderman**

Home Phone: 316-283-4251; Cell phone 316-680-9031

[lsuderman@edenmennonite.org](mailto:lsuderman@edenmennonite.org)

Day off: Friday

**Associate Pastor, Derek King**

Cell Phone: 717-201-1147; [dking@edenmennonite.org](mailto:dking@edenmennonite.org)

Day off: Tuesday

**For pastoral care needs during non-office hours, listen to the office voicemail greeting at 620-345-8320.**

**Syrian Refugee Crisis:** Over 4 million refugees have fled Syria over the course of the nation's civil war. Mennonite Church USA encourages three ways to help extend the love of Jesus to these sisters and brothers: 1. Pray for an end to the violence that creates refugees. Until that time, pray for refugees to be welcomed into places of safety, where they can live in peace. 2. Urge Congress and state officials to support and welcome Syrian refugees. MCC Washington has compiled contact information for national and state officials. See <http://mcc.org/get-involved/advocacy/alert/support-syrian-iraqi-refugees> and <http://washingtonmemo.org/portfolio/support-syrian-and-iraqi-refugees/> for more information. 3. Support organizations that assist with refugee resettlement, and consider how your congregation or community can participate. Church World Service (<http://cwsglobal.org/get-involved/welcome-a-refugee/>) and World Relief (<http://refugeecrisis.worldrelief.org/usa>) are two such organizations.

*Peace*



**Eden Mennonite Church**  
**Moundridge, Kansas**  
**Website: [www.edenmennonite.org](http://www.edenmennonite.org)**

Lee Suderman, Interim Lead Pastor

Derek King, Associate Pastor

**Vol. 62**

**December 20, 2015**

**No. 51**

**Advent 4**

**Theme: Peace**

**Prelude**

Judy Goering & Kathy Ensz

*O Come All Ye Faithful* with "Sheep May Safely Graze" arr by Linda McKechnie

*Oh Holy Night* with "Jesu Bambino" arr by Linda McKechnie

**Welcome**

Pastor Lee

**Opportunities for Discipleship**

**\*Song of Expectation STJ 31**

*He came down*

**Lighting of Advent Candles:** Jacob Ewy & Brenda Wedel

**Call to Worship:**

L: Here we are, Lord, your church, walking in a time of fear.

**P: Show us your path of peace.**

L: Here we are, longing to know your way.

**P: Guide us to follow you.**

L: Here we are, desiring your comfort.

**P: Help us to hear your voice.**

**All: Here we are, Lord. Lead us according to your will.**

**\*Hymn of Praise HWB 174**

*Bless'd be the God of Israel*

Children, please come forward during the last verse

**Time with Children**

Jerry & Linda Schrag

**Worship Music**

*Breath of Heaven*

Chancel Choir

*The Little Cradle Rocks*

Becky Clark, director; Robin Schrag, accompanist; Shirley Delk, soloist

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 1:57-79

**Message**

"Peace"

Pastor Derek

**Song of Response HWB 176**

*Comfort, comfort, O my people*

**Prayers of the People**

**Offering/ Offertory** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* with "Reverie" arr by Linda McKechnie

**\*Sending Song HWB 189**

*To us a child of hope is born*

**\*Benediction**

## Postlude

*Joy To the World* with "Psalm 19" arr by Linda McKecchnie

HWB – Hymnal a *Worship Book* (blue book); STS - *Sing the Story* (purple book);  
STJ - *Sing the Journey* (green book)  
\*Please stand if able.

All sermons and Scripture can be viewed at [www.edenmennonite.org](http://www.edenmennonite.org)



The peace lamp is lit as a reminder that we should be in prayer for an end to violence in the world. We trust in the power of prayer, as we know that through prayer, all things are possible.

**Welcome to worship!** As the longest night of the year approaches, we light all four candles on our Advent wreath. Indeed, Christ's light shines in our darkness, and the darkness cannot banish it (see John 1:5).

If you are a visitor, we encourage you to fill out a visitor card found next to the hymnals and drop it in the offering plate.



**A nursery is available for small children.** Please ask an usher to direct you. Thank you to Britney & DeWayne Stos for caring for children in the nursery this morning.

**The Eden Church Office email has changed.** Please change your email address for the office to [edenoffice@edenmennonite.org](mailto:edenoffice@edenmennonite.org).

**Results from the congregational meeting last Sunday.** The Stewardship Commission recommended that we accept the budget for 2016. Yes: 84; No: 1  
The ballot was presented by the Gifts Discernment Committee. Yes: 86; No: 0  
It was recommended that we adopt the structure that was in a trial period for 2 years. Yes: 86; No: 0.

**Christmas Eve practices** will be during the Sunday school hour this morning, and Wednesday, Dec. 23, (be at church by 6:40 to get into costume and ready to do a full dress rehearsal by 7:00 p.m. Please plan to arrive at church by 6:40 on the 24<sup>th</sup> so you are ready to begin the service at 7:00 p.m.

### **Eden This Week**

- Sunday** 9:30 a.m. Worship service  
10:30 a.m. Fellowship time  
10:40 a.m. Sunday school
- Wednesday** 6:40 p.m. Dress rehearsal for the Christmas Eve program  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir  
FEWZ Youth Group meets

### **Looking Ahead**

- Dec 23:** Noon deadline for all bulletin items
- Dec 24:** Church Office Closed  
6:40 All participants in program be at church  
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service
- Dec 25:** Christmas Day – Church Office Closed
- Jan 1:** Church Office Closed
- Jan 5:** Mary Martha all day meeting
- Jan 6:** 7:00 p.m. Ugandan Kids Choir at Eden
- Jan 13:** Meals and Bible study resume

### **Last Sunday, Dec 13, 2015**

Worship Attendance: 149; Sunday School: 144  
Offering: \$6,932.00

### **Next Sunday, December 27, 2015**

**Nursery:** Rashelle & Matt Schrag  
**Children's Story:** Derek & Becky King  
**Music:** Open

### Remember in Prayer

**Maggie Rath:** Via Christi St. Francis, Wichita

**WDC:** Give thanks for the gift of Christ's birth, and for WDC congregations embodying the presence of Christ in their local communities.

**Pastoral Search Process:** Jerry Schrag, Samantha Doane, Cindy Bartell, Larry Temple, Jenny Schrag, Future Eden Pastor

**Virgil Goering, (89) passed away** on Saturday, December 12 at Pine Village. Services were held at Eden on Wednesday, December 16. We extend our sympathy to his wife Verna, his brothers Marvin and wife Mary Beth, Ken and his wife Paula and all of their extended family.

**Christmas Eve Worship Service:** Please join us for our Christmas Eve Worship Service, Thursday night, December 24, beginning at 7pm. We will be led in worship by children and adults through scripture and singing. Popcorn and hot drinks will be provided after worship. You are invited to bring cookies to share for the fellowship time as well.

**Christmas Decorations:** Thank you to Jean Regier, Britney Stos, and Kathy Waltner for creating the Advent Candle and Nativity arrangements. Thank you to Kyle/Sarah Neufeld, Brandon/Morgan Kaufman, Steve/Linda Graber, and Cory/Amanda Harrison for providing the additional visual Christmas decorations. We appreciate the joyful atmosphere in the sanctuary as we worship and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior!

**Fellowship Hall Christmas Trees:** Thank you to those who shared their festive Christmas trees and lights for both for the Christmas Tea and for our enjoyment throughout the Christmas season.

**Thanks to all who prepared and served Wednesday night meals** during the fall. Meals and Bible study activities will resume Jan. 13. If you would like to serve a meal, please contact June Krehbiel.

**Opportunities for Service:** Please contact Jill Zerger ([316-217-2678](tel:316-217-2678) –text or call) if you would be willing to serve in one or more of the following ways for 2016: Sunday morning greeter, potluck committee, or children's story teller.

**A volunteer is needed to serve on the Et Cetera Shop board.** The board meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Please contact the church office 345-8320, or [edenoffice@edenmennonite.org](mailto:edenoffice@edenmennonite.org) if you are willing to serve in this role.

**The Peace/Witness “Bucket Challenge” for Syrian refugees** will begin January 3 and continue until February 7. Help us collect the following items to fill MCC buckets and send to Middle East refugee camps: 1 plastic bottle shampoo (13-24 oz; place in resealable plastic bag); 4 large bars laundry soap (some stores carry Fels Naptha, Sunlight, or Zote brands); 4 new bath towels (medium weight, dark or bright colors); 2 wide-tooth combs (6-8 ins.); 1 fingernail clipper (good quality); and 1 package sanitary pads (18-24 count thin maxi). Include these items in your Christmas shopping and we will start the New Year with the gift of giving!

**The Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship will share their annual living nativity, Night in the Barn**, on December 20 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The llama that gives kisses, the big cow with her little calf, the sheep wearing bells, and the donkeys that share their love of people—these are a few of the critters who will assemble in the barn of Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen between Goessel and Hillsboro. The come-and-go event will feature a program in the barn, Christmas carols around a bonfire, hot drinks and snacks. Admission is free and donations to the youth group will be accepted. Directions: From Goessel: 3 miles north on Hwy 15, 4 miles east on 150th,  $\frac{3}{4}$  north on Falcon. From Hillsboro, 4 miles south on Indigo, 3 west on 150th,  $\frac{3}{4}$  north on Falcon. From McPherson, Hwy 56 to Hwy 15 south, 5 miles on Hwy 15 to 150th, 4 miles east on 150th and  $\frac{3}{4}$  north on Falcon. (Follow these directions and not GPS) For more information, call 620-386-0709.

**Just a short bath house break**--We're taking this opportunity to let you know that work on the bath houses at Camp Mennoscah continues. This warm weather has been great for keeping the work going. The plan/hope/expectation is that the bath houses will be finished before the next camping season. Thank you to all the many people who have supported this project with prayers, gifts, and hard work!

**World Fellowship Sunday (January 24, 2016)** is a reminder that “we belong to each other as sisters and brothers in God’s household. We support each other, uphold those who are suffering and being persecuted, and learn from one another. Walking with God finds its total meaning in fellowship – in the breaking of bread, serving, and meeting the needs of others,” says César García, General Secretary of Mennonite World Conference. “It does not mean the absence of challenges, but recognizing we are assured of victory with and through God.” Information about World Fellowship Sunday, as well as worship resources for Jan 24, 2016, can be found at: <https://www.mwc-cmm.org/wfs>

**Registration is open for Mennonite Healthcare** Fellowship's Annual Gathering, June 17-19, 2016 in Estes Park, CO. Plan now for this weekend of workshops, worship, networking, and sharing together with other healthcare professionals. Visit [www.mennohealth.org/annual-gathering-2016](http://www.mennohealth.org/annual-gathering-2016)

**The Camp Mennoscah Board of directors** has accepted the resignation of John Stoesz, executive director. John will be available to continue assisting Camp with marketing and advancement initiatives until the next executive director is hired. If you are interested in the Executive Director position at Camp Mennoscah, please contact David Weaver, recruiting consultant at Career 1 Source at [620-327-0371](tel:620-327-0371) or [DavidWeaver@career1source.com](mailto:DavidWeaver@career1source.com). Please keep Camp in your prayers as we search for a new Executive Director to focus on advancement and marketing.

**Rural Ministry Discussion Group: PRICE REDUCED** - The registration cost for AMBS-Kansas Center's Rural Ministry Discussion Group (both in-person and online) has been reduced to the low price of \$75 if you register before January 3. Registration is limited, so please register as soon as possible to ensure participation. The in-person discussion group begins January 12, 2016 and is facilitated by Dorothy Nickel Friesen. The online discussion group begins January 14, 2016 and is facilitated by S. Roy Kaufman. For registration and more information, please see: <https://www.ambs.edu/academics/rural-ministry-discussion-group.cfm>

**Mennonite Women USA has been providing Sister Care** weekends the last few years. We are excited to announce that the program is now going onto College campuses, one being held on Bethel College Campus on Feb. 6, 2016. We feel this is an important venture to help young adult women manage their own concerns, while also developing skills and ideas that they can use in supporting each other. This is also an investment to the future leadership of Mennonite Women locally and beyond. Marlene Bogard, Exec. Director of MWUSA, will be the main presenter, along with some local women. Obviously college students do not have extra funds available for an opportunity like this, so we are asking whether your Women's Group, Church or individual can give towards a student's registration. Please make your check payable to Mennonite Women USA and send to Berni Kaufman, 718 N. Main Street, Newton, KS 67114. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Denise Nickel, Board Member at this email or [oreo@mtelco.net](mailto:oreo@mtelco.net).

**Save the Date:** The next Comforter Blitz will be March 7, 8 and 9, 2016 at Journey Mennonite in Yoder. Since it has been extended to 3 days, more comforter tops/backings will be needed. MCC's preferred size is 60" x 80". The backing should be 4" larger all the way around.





This week we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. In this time of anxiety in our world, let us reflect the hope of our salvation and embrace the opportunity of sharing the message of peace and eternal life.

May the joy of this season go with us into the New Year that lies ahead. Emmanuel-God is with us!

The Eden Church Staff



### **A CALL**

**to generosity, hospitality, peace and love**

*By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us...to guide our feet into the way of peace. --Luke 1:78-79*

During this season of Advent, we wait expectantly for the coming of Christ. We long for God's justice, peace and mercy to be fully revealed on earth. In the midst of the world's brokenness, we mourn with all who suffer, in Syria, Beirut, Paris, San Bernardino and across the globe.

In these difficult times, we reaffirm our commitment to the way of Jesus.

*In the face of fear, we proclaim our commitment to hospitality.* Just as Jesus offered table fellowship to all, we call on church members to welcome immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers into our communities and homes. Over the years many Anabaptists have come to the United States seeking refuge. We can do no less for those who are currently in need. We call on the U.S. government to [keep the doors open](#) to refugees

and asylum seekers and to work toward more just and humane immigration policies.

*In the face of scarcity, we proclaim our commitment to generosity.*

Thanks to the generosity of church members, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is [providing assistance](#) to Syrians affected by the war, including food, shelter, blankets and fuel. We call on church members to continue to give generously to all those in need. We urge the international community, including the U.S. government, to provide much more generous humanitarian assistance to people impacted by the crisis in Syria and Iraq.

*In the face of violence, we proclaim our commitment to peace.* As followers of the Prince of Peace, we believe that our weapons and use of military might are making our communities and our nation less secure. We call on church members to work for peace in their own communities. We support common-sense gun laws to prevent gun deaths and injuries in the United States. We oppose continued U.S. military involvement in Syria and Iraq and urge the U.S. government to devote its resources instead to a negotiated, political solution.

*In the face of hatred, we proclaim our commitment to love.* Taking seriously Jesus' call to love our neighbors, we stand alongside our Muslim neighbors and friends in this country and around the world. Rather than giving in to stereotypes and prejudices, we call on church members to build bridges with our Muslim neighbors and work together for peace. We condemn the use of hateful and divisive rhetoric from political and religious leaders and urge them to support religious freedom for people of all faiths.

As we celebrate Advent this year, we remember that the long-awaited Savior came as a vulnerable child who became a refugee, and as the Prince of Peace who disavowed the use of military might. Rather than giving in to fear, scarcity, violence and hate, may our lives show the incarnate reality of the Christ child among us.



—J Ron Byler,  
Executive Director, Mennonite Central Committee U.S.  
[mcc.org](http://mcc.org)