

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – noon

Phone: 345-8320; **Email:** edenoffice@edenmennonite.org

Check out our website at 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

Day off: Friday

Associate Pastor, Derek King

Cell Phone: 717-201-1147; dking@edenmennonite.org

Day off: Tuesday

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

A “Come and See” Israel/Palestine Trip, co-sponsored by MCUSA, Western District and South Central Mennonite Conferences, is planned for April 2-13, 2016. Travel will follow roughly the path of Jesus’ life, visiting people and sites in Bethlehem, Galilee and Jerusalem including significant time in both the occupied West Bank and Israel and an overnight home stay with a Palestinian Christian family. MCC Jerusalem staff will accompany and guide the group. \$1000 scholarships will be given to each participant from a “Come and See” fund. **A \$600 deposit is needed by December 15 to reserve a spot.** Airfare is the responsibility of each participant and the only remaining expense. More information can be found on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall or you may contact Bill Zuercher (316-772-1224 or billz@sccmenno.org).

Greetings, favored one!



**The Lord is with you.
Luke 1:28**

Eden Mennonite Church
Moundridge, Kansas
Website: www.edenmennonite.org

Lee Suderman, Interim Lead Pastor

Derek King, Associate Pastor

Vol. 62

December 6, 2015

No. 49

Advent 2
Theme: Love

Prelude		Robin Schrag
Welcome		Pastor Lee
Opportunities for Discipleship		
Call to Worship STJ 121		
*Song of Expectation STJ 31		<i>He came down</i>
Lighting of Advent Candles:	Bret and Marla Gillmore	
Worship Music	<i>Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring</i> Becky Clark, director; Bonita Howard, accompanist	Men's Chorus
Time with Children		Laurie Schrag and Alyssa Goering
Worship Music	<i>Jesus, Jesus rest your head</i>	Men's Chorus
*Hymn of Preparation HWB 172 vs. 1,2 & 3		<i>O come, O come Immanuel</i>
Scripture		Luke 1:26-38
Message	"Love made flesh"	Pastor Derek
Hymn of Response HWB 208		<i>Love came down at Christmas</i>
Prayers of the People		
Offering & Offertory		
*Sending Song STS 16		<i>Peace before us</i>
*Benediction		
Postlude		

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



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! Let us “together...with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 15:6)

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 Jerri & Warren Kaufman for caring for children in the nursery this morning.

December is Eden’s month to deliver Senior Center Meals. Currently there are very few to deliver. It would take 30 minutes of your time. If you can help this holiday season, please sign your name on the sheet on the table in the fellowship hall.

The Eden Church Office email has changed. Please change your email address for the office to edenoffice@edenmennonite.org.

Eden Mentors and Mentees and their families are invited to a caroling party on Sunday evening, December 13, at Pine Village. We'll meet at the Krehbiel Apartment Commons at 6:30. Please bring a Christmas snack to share after we carol.

Eden Leadership Team (ELT) will be calling a Congregational Meeting in the sanctuary for December 13th at 11:45 a.m. following the Sunday school hour. The agenda for this meeting will be 1) To approve the 2016 Church budget; 2) elect new ELT and Commission members; and 3) adopt the current (trial) church structure. Copies of the ballot and proposed budget can be found on the literature table in the fellowship hall and information regarding the leadership structure is posted on the bulletin board along the east wall of the fellowship hall. At the meeting, the following recommendation will be brought for Congregational action: The ELT recommends to the Eden Congregation that we adopt the current leadership structure. Required constitution changes will be completed and brought to the congregation next year.

Eden This Week

Sunday	9:30 a.m. Worship service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship time 10:40 a.m. Sunday school
Wednesday	6:00 p.m. FEWZ meets
Thursday	5:30 p.m. Deacon Commission mtg.

Looking Ahead

Dec 13:	7:00 p.m. Mentor/Mentees caroling
Dec 14:	7:00 p.m. Education/Discipleship Commission mtg 7:00 p.m. Worship Commission mtg
Dec. 15:	6:00 p.m. Stewardship Commission mtg
Dec 16:	7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir FEWZ Youth Group meets
Dec 17:	7:00 p.m. Eden Leadership Team meets at Eden
Dec 24:	7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service
Jan 6:	7:00 p.m. Ugandan Boys Choir at Eden
Jan 13:	Meals and Bible study resume

Last Sunday, Nov 29, 2015

Worship Attendance: no services at church; Sunday School: No SS

Budget (December 2, 2015)

Revenue: \$350,317.53
Expenses: \$393,603.14
Difference: (\$43,285.61)
Budget: \$407,743.80

Next Sunday, December 13, 2015

Nursery: Jolene Kaufman & Tim Regehr
Children's Story: Ruth Kaufman

Remember in Prayer

Lorene Goering: Moved to Pine Village Health Care

Maggie Rath: beginning chemotherapy at St. Francis

WDC: Pray for the WDC Ministerial Leadership Commission as they offer support and accountability for pastors in WDC.

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

Jill Zerger's Sunday school elective will meet today since church was cancelled last week.

Today begins a new quarter for adult Sunday school. SEEDS Class is beginning a discussion on the book of Revelation. Other classes are using the Adult Bible Study Guide. If you need a guide and can't find one on the resource display near the library, contact Pat Stucky or June Krehbiel.

Sisters in Spirit (SIS) has decorated a Christmas tree in the fellowship hall to honor the memory of our loved ones who have died. You may purchase an angel for each of your loved ones for \$3.00 each. They will hang on the tree throughout the Christmas season. The forms and envelopes are available near the tree. Please place the completed form and payment in the basket.

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.

John McCabe-Juhnke, communications professor at Bethel College, will speak Dec. 13 during the Sunday school hour. He spent last year teaching at a university in Lutsk, Ukraine, and his presentation will focus on this. CHB SS class invited him to speak to their class, and all adults are invited to attend. The group will meet in the sanctuary.

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.

Sun., Dec. 6 – 30th annual Lighting of the Green at Bethel College, 8 p.m., the Green in the center of campus; refreshments to follow in the cafeteria

If you, or someone you know are in need of Christmas gifts for children we are here to help. If you're interested we need your information by Wednesday Dec. 16th. This is for families in the Moundridge School District. If you would like to help one of these families there will be Angel Tree's located at Cradle to Crayons. We would like the Angel's all out by December 18th. Please have your wrapped gift with the Angel you chose attached to the gift returned to Cradle to Crayons by December 21st at 5 p.m. If you have any questions or would like more information please contact Christina Graber at 345-2390 or by email at cradletocrayons@mtelco.net

The Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship will share their annual living nativity, Night in the Barn, on December 19 and 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.

A letter from Heidi Regier Kreider, WDC Conference Minister and Richard Gehring, Conference Moderator, explaining how the votes went at WDC Annual Assembly have been placed on the literature table in the fellowship hall. This information is also posted online at: <http://mennowdc.org/annual-assembly/>.

You're invited to the MCC Christmas Open House – bring your friends, family and neighbors to our open house on Tuesday, December 15 from 4-6 p.m. The come-and-go event will feature live music, lots of delicious Christmas goodies and snacks and at 5 p.m. hear MCC alumni reflect on Christmas traditions in Bosnia Herzegovina, Bolivia and Cambodia. Please plan to drop by to enjoy some Christmas cheer! Questions? Call 316-283-2720.

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/backers will be needed. MCC's preferred size is 60" x 80". The backing should be 4" larger all the way around.

11-30-15 Advent I Summary **Preparing For His Coming Pastor Lee Suderman**

How one approaches the Christmas season really depends on how we understand the birth of Christ as the true “reason for the season.” For followers of Christ this approaching celebration of joyful music, emerging lights and giving of gifts speaks of new hope for a world broken by sin. The gift of salvation announced by the angels’ message of joy and peace to all who would seek God’s favor upon their lives.

Luke’s gospel account, chap. 1, introduces Zechariah the priest and his wife, Elizabeth, who represented a faithful remnant of Jews who continued to wait for the promised Messiah. As the aged priest fulfilled his yearly duties in the Temple, the angel, Gabriel, appeared to announce that Zechariah and Elizabeth would now have a son who would prepare the way for the long awaited Savior of the world. As Zechariah asked for a sign to confirm this unlikely event, he was struck dumb until this child would be born.

God had not spoken directly to Israel for 400 years since the last words of Malachi in the Old Testament. They, like we today, may well have forgotten or given up hope for change for their troubled world. They, like we, were doubtful of their part in these new developments and fearful of what this new beginning might represent for them. And as a result, they, like we, were challenged to wait in silence and ponder what this new message could mean to them, and to us when this season of dormancy was finally over.

Yet in a day when skepticism and pessimism is fashionable, there are still many reasons for hope in our lives today. Hope still springs eternal when a cycle of unbelief, dysfunction or despair are finally broken by answered prayer or the sheer undeserved mercy of God. Or when time has given us a better perspective of unexpected events in our lives. The key is to keep “hoping against hope” in the confidence of an almighty God as Abraham did, and to stay close to the One who is “the reason for our hope,” 1 Pet. 3:15.

As the seed dies to send forth roots, stem and a leaf even through the dormancy of winter; and as these are awakened by the warming sun and nourishing rains of spring and stimulating winds of summer, it is then that the ear and ripened grain will produce more fruit; 20, 50, or 100-fold “in its season.” So let us remain expectant and ready for the unexpected work of God in our midst. Waiting, reflecting and preparing for what God has in store for us as, we again celebrate the “Word becoming flesh among us.”