

Eden Mennonite Church
Moundridge, Kansas

Vol. 67

December 24, 2023

No. 50

How Will We Know?
Why me? / Why not me? We wait with LOVE.

Prelude Karen Kaufman

Welcome Pastor Bev Baumgartner

Call to Worship

Leader: God sent the angel Gabriel to a young woman in Nazareth named Mary.
He said to her, "Greetings, favored one! God is with you."

High voices: But Mary was perplexed by Gabriel's words,

Low voices: and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Leader: The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with
God."

People: Like Mary, we're also ordinary. Will God really work through us?
(pause)

All: Together we ponder.

Opening Song "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" #216

Time with Children Shayna Smith

Drama Larry Temple and Jay Goering

Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-38 Ella Schrag

Message "How Can This Be...Let It Be" Pastor Derek King

Song of Response "Don't Be Afraid" #596

Sharing Joys and Concerns (During this week's response time, you are invited to share aloud or bring a written response to the prompt: "A way you have shown or been shown love in an extraordinary way.")

Prayers of the People

Announcements

Sending Song "Oh, How Joyfully" #254

Postlude



If you would like to share financial offerings, you may leave your donation in the vessel on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you.

There will be no Sunday School today.

Key

ELT: Eden Leadership Team

MCC: Mennonite Central Committee (relief, development, and peace mission)

MC USA: Mennonite Church USA (Eden's national denomination)

WDC: Western District Conference (Eden's regional conference of MC USA)

OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Remember In Prayer

Joe Lichti at Newton Medical Center.

Patsy Lankford at Mercy Hospital recovering from heart surgery.

WDC: 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.

Nursery: Dec. 24: Marla and Bret Gillmore **Dec. 31:** Cindy Bartell and Alan Thomas

The peace lamp is lit as a reminder to pray 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.

There will be **no Sunday School** today. Come back tonight at 7:00 for the **Christmas Eve program** presented by our children.

The ELT thanks you for contributing to our discernment with your votes and comments Sunday. 109 ballots were turned in. **All new Commission members were approved** with each receiving at least 99% affirmation. The **2024 Budget was approved** with an 85% affirmative vote, along with comments that ELT will utilize in future discernment.

The ELT is grateful that **Bev Baumgartner has agreed** to continue at Eden for another six months or until a new pastor is called.

Items for the **Garden newsletter** are due to the office Jan. 10.

The visuals group is **missing an advent candle vase**. If you have any idea where it could be please let us know. If you have borrowed it please return as soon as possible. Again, these are used for advent so we really do need them now.

The Memorial Tree is decorated in the Fellowship Hall to honor the memory of our loved ones who have passed away. You may purchase an angel for each of your loved ones for \$3 each. You are invited to take the angel(s) with you when you place the envelope with the completed form and payment in the box by the tree. A list of those being remembered and those remembering them will be printed Dec. 31.

The **2024 directory** is being updated. Copies of the 2023 directory pages are on a table in the Fellowship Hall. Make corrections on these pages by Dec. 27.

Commissions and committees: this is a reminder to submit your narrative and budget reports for the Annual Report book by Jan. 15.

The **Reflecting on Death Sunday School** discussion cancelled due to snow, has been rescheduled for Jan. 7. Marla Gillmore will share on the topic of hospice.

Are you tired of Pastor Derek talking about the importance of **small groups**? Are you ready to try it out for yourself? Are you feeling a nudge towards deepening your faith in that way? Are you content with where you are, but willing to support others in their faith journeys? Whatever the reason, please talk with Derek about the possibility and next steps.

The **Moundridge Community Blood Drive** is scheduled for Dec. 29 at 12:00 noon until 6:00 p.m. 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 bczerg@mtelco.net.

Actors are still needed for **2024 SMCHA 150th celebration musical drama**. In particular, young men (teens or slightly older) but have openings for others as well. Contact Jenny Schrag by text or phone (620)747-9158.

OUR OUTREACH

MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton critically low on inventory: You can help by filling the following needs: **new** infant onesies and sleepers (6 month-12 month); **new** bath towels (dark colored, light to medium weight); **new** hand towels (dark colored), men's shirts (sizes XL, 2XL, 3XL—any color) and men's underwear (sizes 2XL, 3XL—any color). Buy online and ship it to MCC or bring items to MCC (121 E. 30th St, North Newton, KS 67117).

Hope, Peace, Joy, and love are not just seasonal aspirations. Sandra Montes-Martinez, WDC Associate Conference Minister (TX-based) shares a reflection on the experiences of asylum seekers and displaced individuals. “For those forced to flee their homes, the symbolism embedded in Advent and Christmas takes on profound significance, offering a glare of light in the shadows of displacement.” [Read more.](#)

Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery. This year the Hesston College Melva Kauffman Lecture Series is pleased to host Mark Charles who will present on the topic of Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery. Charles is the son of an American woman (of Dutch heritage) and a Navajo man. He teaches with insight into the complexities of American history regarding race, culture and faith in order to help forge a path of healing and conciliation for the nation. The public is invited to hear his presentation at Hesston Mennonite Church 7 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024.

Register now for the MCC South Texas Learning Tour, Feb.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. Please contact Abraham Diaz Alonso with questions, abrahamdiazalonso@mcc.org.

Looking Ahead

Dec. 25: Christmas Day. Office will be closed.

Attendance Last Week: Worship: 195; Zoom: 9; SS: 117 Offering: \$14,972.02

Eden Church Office

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Hours: 8:00 a.m. to Noon Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

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Check out our website at www.edenmennonite.org

Like us on Facebook

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