

**Eden Mennonite Church
Moundridge, Kansas**

Vol. 67

December 31, 2023

No. 51

How will we know....who knows?

Prelude

Jill Zerger

Welcome

Berni Kaufman

Call to Worship and Candle lighting

Wayne and Laurie Schrag family

Leader: Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

High voices: At that moment, Anna, a widow who worshiped at the temple with fasting
and prayer night and day,

Low voices: began to praise God and to speak about the child to everyone who was looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Leader: The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

Lighters: Our long wait is finally over!

(pause)

All: Together we rejoice.

Opening Song

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

#265

Time with Children

Laurie Schrag

Drama

Larry Temple, June Krehbiel and Berni Kaufman

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:22-40

Courtney Goering

Worship Music

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

#241

Message

"Holy Spirit Candles"

Pastor Bev Baumgartner

Song of Response

"With Mary Sing Magnificat"

#208

Sharing Joys and Concerns (During this week's response time, you are invited to share aloud or bring to the manger your written response to the prompt: "Who are your flame kindlers? Where have you seen Jesus this week?")

Prayers of the People

Announcements

Benediction

Leader: Together we rejoice!

People: Our waiting is over!

Leader: We've seen the One, the light to all peoples, who grew in strength and is filled with wisdom. The favor of God is upon him! Go! Rejoice! God is here!

Sending Song

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

#252

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.

[Sunday School begins ten minutes after the end of the worship service.]

Key

ELT: Eden Leadership Team

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

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

MMN: Mennonite Mission Network (mission agency of MC USA)

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

OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Remember In Prayer

Lenora Gehring recovering after pacemaker surgery.

Bob Schrag anticipating heart surgery this week.

Joe Lichti has returned home from Newton Medical Center.

Patsy Lankford continues to recover at Wesley Medical Center

WDC: Pray for the WDC Listening Process, as listening teams visit congregations in the new year for conversation about what is most vital to congregations and their hopes for the future.

MMN requests prayer for peace in the land where Jesus was born more than 2000 years ago. Pray, especially, for partners — Bethlehem Bible College, Nazareth Hospital and Nazareth Village — who faithfully work to peel away the layers of fear and hate that distort Jesus' message of peace, in a time of escalating violence in Israel-Palestine.

Nursery: Dec. 31: Cindy Bartell and Alan Thomas **Jan. 7:** Sami and Heath Doane

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.

The ELT thanks the following people for accepting the **appointment to committees:** Ryan Goering, SCRT and Teresa Graber, Endowment. A complete list of commission and committee members will be printed in the directory available in January.

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

If you paid for an ornament to honor a loved one and have not taken an angel from **The Memorial Tree**, please remember to make your selection. The remaining angel ornaments are available for purchase. Make your selection and leave \$3 in the box.

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.

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).

Mennonite Church USA is helping to fuel growth and diversity with its **2023 Thrive Church Planting Grants**. This year's repeat award recipients, Brooklyn (NY) Peace Church and Community of Hope Mennonite Church, Bellingham, WA, are building circles of community in creative, Jesus-centered ways. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/church-plants-thrive

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.](#)

Hesston College Melva Kauffman Lecture Series is pleased to host Mark Charles who will present on the topic of **Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery**. 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

Jan. 1: New Year's Day. Office will be closed.

Attendance Last Week: Worship: 163; Zoom: 10; SS: 0 Offering: \$12,355.00

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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