**Church Christmas Decorating**

Come one come all to join in the festivities of decorating the Church for Christmas. Have fun and fellowship while decorating on December 3beginning at 10:30 am. Stay for as long as you can, bring the entire family and start a new tradition. We would appreciate some men to help with the tree assembly. Hope to see you on December 3rd.

**Christmas Poinsettias**

![C:\Users\school\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\5XUAILOU\MC900030653[1].wmf]()We will be using poinsettias decorate our Church this Christmas season.  If you wish to provide a poinsettia, the cost will be $12.  To avoid confusion, please place your money in an envelope and turn in to the church office.

**Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal**

Sunday School children will rehearse hymns and speaking parts for our Christmas Eve Service on Saturday mornings from 9-10:30. The first practice is December 5.

**Food Collection**

Zion will collect food items during the month of November to help supply Kearney agencies who assist the needy. There are grocery carts in the narthex and school area to gather these items. Non-perishable items only please.

**Stewardship**

Matthew 21:3 “If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once."” Just a colt and her foal. How significant could they be? Could they really be used by the Lord for some great, heavenly purpose? This is one facet of stewardship we often forget: the blessing it is *to us* to be of service in the Lord's kingdom. What honor the Lord bestows upon us by using our gifts for His goals!

**Announcements – November 20, 2016**

Please remember...to silence your cell phone upon entering the sanctuary.

Zion’s sanctuary is equipped with a **HEARING LOOP**. Please switch hearing aids to T-coil mode.We have 2 headsets and receivers that persons without hearing aids can use. Ask an usher for assistance.



**Forgot your offering? Don’t have your checkbook or cash? Today or any day you can give in a new way! Visit our website at zionkearney.com and click on the “giving” tab. Or, text “zionkearney” (one word) to 77977. You’ll receive a text back with instructions to start giving.**

**Wednesday Advent Service**

We extend a very special invitation to you and your family to come and worship with us on Wednesdays during advent at 7:00 p.m. There is a meal preceding the service at 5:30 p.m.

**ZYG**

All youth grades 6-12 are invited to an open gym today from 4-6 pm. There will be a devotion, time to play in the gym and a light supper served by the youth board. Youth are welcome to bring friends.

**Holiday Pies**

Thank you to all who purchased holiday pies from our school children. The children sold 1477 pies this year. Since we have to buy the pies in full cases, we always have a few of each available for purchase after the sale. Please stop by the office, or speak with Lisa or
Shirley today, if you wish to purchase any of these. Pies available are pumpkin, caramel apple nut, fruits of the forest, apple, cherry, peach and strawberry rhubarb.

**Altar Flowers**

For those of you who choose to use one of our silk arrangements instead of purchasing fresh flowers when sponsoring Altar Flowers, we have another option for your donation. The Church Council /Elders would like to replace our purple set of paraments and eventually also the red set. If you wish to contribute toward this project please take one of the envelopes beside the altar flower chart, fill out and place in the offering plate.

**Six Bell Choirs! Four Kearney Churches!**

**Dec. 4 Community Christmas Bell Celebration**

Mark your calendars! The annual Community Christmas Bell Celebration will be held at the Merryman Performing Arts Center, located at 225 W. 22nd Street in Kearney. Bell choirs from four Kearney churches will participate: First United Methodist, First Presbyterian, First Lutheran, and Holy Cross Lutheran. The program includes selections rung by the mass bell choir, by individual church adult and youth bell choirs, and various small ensembles and solos. Following the concert, please join us for refreshments and fellowship. What an awesome way to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior! Please join us on **Dec. 4 – 7pm!**

**School News**

* The date for the school Christmas Program has been set for Sunday, December 11 at 4:30 pm.
* We will open enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year to our church families and our returning school families the beginning of December. Please stop by or call the office for registration forms. Our early childhood classes fill quickly.
* I would like to update you on the status of our music program.  As many of you know, Mrs. Lorraine Heiden, our music teacher for the past 20+ years, accepted full-time employment at Kenwood Elementary.  This summer we hired Mrs. Trudi Lappe to be our new music teacher.  In an unexpected turn of events, Mrs. Lappe’s husband, Pr. Lappe, accepted a call to be pastor at Messiah Lutheran in Lincoln, Nebraska.  This is often the nature of the ministry and we wish God’s blessings on the Lappe’s.  However, this does leave Zion in the position of finding a new music teacher mid-year.   We have been actively pursuing several leads for a good fit, but none have panned out.  We continue to search for someone with experience teaching music and for 8-12 hours a week.  This is indeed a niche position which is proving hard to fill.  If you know of a music teacher seeking part-time work, please let me know.   In the meantime, please pray that God will help us to find the right person for this special teaching assignment.  I appreciate your patience and understanding through this process.

In Christ, Tony Splittgerber, Principal