**New Year’s Eve Service Discontinued** –.It has been voted upon to discontinue the New Year’s Eve service. Please make this change to your church calendar.

**School News**

* Save your Apple Market receipts dated September 1, 2019 –

March 2, 2020 and turn them into the office for the school to earn FREE rewards.

* The school is saving Family Fresh receipts. If you shop at Family Fresh save your receipts and turn them into the office.
* Boxtop rewards have changed. There is an app on your smartphone to upload your receipt. If you need help with this bring your receipts to the office.
* Mark your calendars. The Zion School Christmas program will be Today Sunday, December 15th at 4:00 p.m. This is for students in Kindergarten-8th grade.
* 2020-2021 Enrollment is open for returning school families and for Zion members only. Enrollment will be open to the public on January 6, 2020.
* **Do you like science?**  Zion Lutheran School is adopting a new science text and program to replace the current text which is about 18 years old.  The purchase of the classroom kits is costly, nearly $2,000 per class.  If you would like to help the school with a donation to offset this cost, please make out a check to Zion Lutheran and note SCIENCE on the memo line.  If you would like more information, please see Mr. Splittgerber.  Thank you!

**Isaiah 35:4** – **“Say to those who have an anxious heart, ‘Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.’ ”** The return of our Lord at the Last Day is a cause of joy and anticipation for us believers. We know our Lord and His love, and we look forward to His Second Advent. Indeed, how we live our lives here and now flows from our certain hope of resurrection and eternal life.

**Announcements – December 15, 2019**



**Thou shalt silence your cell phone during worship**.

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**Our sanctuary has a HEARING LOOP**. Please switch hearing aids to T-coil mode. We have 2 headsets and receivers for use by those without hearing aids. Ask an usher for assistance.

Forgot your offering? Don’t have your checkbook or cash? Today or any day you can 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.

**Thank You –** Thank you to the Zion Adult Choir for providing the beautiful music with us this morning during the offering.

**Opportunities For Worship During Advent**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Dec. 15 | 4:00 pm | School Christmas Program |
| Dec. 18 | 7:00 pm | Advent Service (no meal) |
| Dec. 24  | 7:00 pm | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service |
| Dec. 25  | 10:00 am | Christmas Day Worship |

**Senior Citizens** – The senior citizens will meet tomorrow Monday, December 16th at noon for their monthly potluck dinner. All are welcome to join them for an afternoon of good food and fellowship.

**Men’s Monthly Bible Study** - The Men’s Thursday Night Bible Class is hosting a prime rib Christmas dinner on Thursday, December 19th at 6:00pm at Zion in the fellowship hall. All Zion post high school men are welcome. If you’ve never come to the class, that is okay, please come to this event and join in fellowship. Please note that the meal starts at 6:00 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet on the office window.

**ADVENT** - Our final Advent midweek service will be on December 18 at 7:00 pm. Please note there is no meal being served beforehand.

**Adult Handbells** – The adult handbell practice schedule has changed. The last scheduled practice date for 2019 will be December 18th.

**Children Christmas Rehearsal** – The remaining rehearsal date for the Children’s Christmas Eve Service will be 12/21. The rehearsal will begin 9:00 am. After the rehearsal the children will go Christmas Caroling, return to Zion for pizza and then go to Funtastic. Bring a friend for caroling, pizza, and fun. The cost is $10. Please note that our Sunday School children who are not participating in the Christmas Eve service are welcome to join us. Please meet us at the church at 10:30 am.

**Church Office Will Be Closed** - Monday, December 23rd to Friday, January 3rd. For Pastoral emergencies please call Pastor DeLoach (308-627-5260) or Pastor Gaunt (308-455-0552).

If you wish to purchase scrip over the break, please go to the book nook on Sunday mornings.

**POINSETTIAS**

Thank you to the following families who provided poinsettias for use in our sanctuary this Christmas season: Tom & DyAnn Altwine, Dave & Kay Banner, Bruce & Joni Brooks, Paul & Rachael Burger, Waunita DeLaet, Pastor & Carol DeLoach, Wes & Mary Fiddelke, Vi Fox, Pastor & Carol Gaunt, Bob & Wanda Glanzer, Lonna Gronewoller, Jerry & Marge Hansen, Don & Shirley Helmbrecht, Adam & Jamie Helmbrecht, Don & Marion Richmond, Jane Schmid, Hazel Stickney, Becky Thornton, Carlene Waldron in memory of Carl & Irene Jacobson & Lana Schroder, Cinda Ward, Carolyn Wilkens, Todd & Darcy Willers.

**Year-End Reports** - The Chairman of each board and organization is asked to turn in a Year End Report to the Church office. The most convenient way to receive these is by email. school@zionkearney.org

**Help Wanted** – We need Sunday School teachers and substitute Sunday School teachers. If you are interested or would like more information please contact the church office.

**Radio Broadcast and Flowers** – Zion is in need of radio broadcast sponsors. Please consider sponsoring a radio broadcast, several families can sponsor together, or providing altar flowers to beautify the sanctuary. The sign up sheet is on the board across from the mailboxes. There are several open dates. Sign up today!

**BIBLE READING CARDS**

A new set of Bible reading cards for the new year can be picked up in the Chruch entryway. Each card is a tool to keep track of your Bible reading progress as you mark each chapter you have read in 2020. God works through His word.

**Book Nook** – The book nook has Zion Lutheran Church Christmas cards for sale. $2.00 for a package of 12 cards and envelopes. We also offers an assortment of all occasion greeting cards. A box is $4.50 and individual cards are $0.50. Stop by today for all of your card needs. Scrip is also available for purchase in the book nook on Sunday mornings or at the office during office hours. Scrip cards work great for gifts or for yourself. Support Zion and purchase a scrip gift card today!

**A CHRISTMAS GIFT TO LAST ALL YEAR - -**The Book Nook has copies of the daily devotional books written by Pastor Allwardt:*Rainbows and Rattlesnakes"* and*"More Rainbows Than Rattlesnakes",* for sale @ $12 each. These sales support local missions as well as the Ysleta Hispanic Mission in El Paso, TX.  His third book,*Messages from the Coast",* has a longer meditation for each week of the year - also costs $12.

**Zion’s Mission Projects** - The 4th Quarter missions are being collected for church work student support. Current church work students are Abigail DeLoach and Taylor Zehendner both at CUNE. Please use a special mission envelope located in the narthax and clearly mark your envelope number and place in the offering plate. Thank you for your supporting this project.

**2019 Contributions** - Just a reminder that the 2019 contributions must be dated December 31, 2019 and put in the plate by December 31, 2019 to be counted as 2019 contributions.

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