**Life Chain – October 4**

Please check the bulletin board wall for information about the Kearney area Life Chain planned for October 4 from 2:30 - 3:30. Life Chain is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life Americans standing for one hour praying for our nation and for an end to abortion.

**The Gifts Christ Freely Gives**

Dear Members of Zion:

Rejoice with us!  Less than a year ago our Board of Stewardship appealed to the saints at Zion to pay off our $300,000 Building and Operating Debt Loan as soon as possible in order to save on the financing costs and to free up our monthly payments to support God's work among us.  By God's grace and due to the generous outpouring from our members in the form of special gifts and regular offerings, we have paid the loan in full!  Make sure to check the display in the hallway to see the gifts of Christ revealed.

Please make plans to join us for our Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 18, when we will celebrate this historic occasion under the theme of “The Gifts Christ Freely Gives.”

Thank you and thanks be to God!

The Church Council

**Stewardship Note**

**Mark 9:32** “But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.” The disciples really do hold up a mirror to our faces and force us to see ourselves: misunderstanding, afraid, confused. But the Word of God is clear, if only we will listen with open ears. What was blocking the disciples’ ears? The Gospels tell us time and again that they did not expect a suffering Christ, and so when Jesus spoke of suffering, they plugged their ears and didn’t listen, and so were confused and scared. What about us? What’s in the Word of God that we find hard to hear and contrary to our desires and expectations? That might just be exactly what we need to hear!

**Announcements – September 27, 2015**

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.

**Our Weekly Memory Work**

The 9th and 10th Commandments and their meanings.

**Zion Golf Tournament – Today**

The Zion golf tournament begins at 1:00 this afternoon. If you have not signed your team up yet, please speak with Lisa Splittgerber this morning.

**Ainsworth Symposium**

Pastor and Mr. Splittgerber plan to attend the Ainsworth Symposium beginning later today, and continuing through Tuesday. Sunday night to Tuesday evening Pastor Dustin Lappe will be covering pastoral emergencies.  Call 308-627-0055.

**LWML Sunday**

Next Sunday we will celebrate LWML Sunday. If you have been collecting mites for LWML mission projects, there will be a box in the narthex where you may give them.

**Concordia**

Our Concordia ladies will meet this Thursday, Oct. 1st at 2:00 pm. Pastor DeLoach lead the bible study. Members are reminded that we will collect mites this month.

**Oktoberfest**

Please mark your calendar for Oct. 18 at 11:30, when the Stewardship board will host our Oktoberfest Meal. The Stewardship Board will provide the main dish and potatoes. Members are invited to bring a salad or dessert to share.

**Church/School Email**

Please note that the new email address for the Church office is school@zionkearney.org

**Board of Ed**

The Board of Education will meet this Thursday, Oct. 1. This is one week earlier than their normal meeting date.

**Hy-Vee Receipts**

We are now collecting HyVee receipts dated Sept. 1, 2015 – March 1, 2016. We can use receipts from the store, gas station, restaurant and pharmacy. We will receive $1.00 for each $200 spent. Please drop off receipts in the collection containers at the school entry doors, or the office.

**School News**

* Reminder to our school families that school pictures are Monday and Tuesday of this week.
* Our final volleyball match is this Tuesday, Sept.29. We have a home game with North Platte beginning at5:30.

**Prayer for the Lutheran Church of Australia**

Bishop John Henderson of the Lutheran Church of Australia has asked the congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to remember his Church as it gathers in convention later this month:

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, remember in mercy the representatives of the Lutheran Church of Australia as they assemble in convention this month. Grant them a share in the wisdom of Your Spirit, preserve them in faithfulness to the faith once delivered to the saints, and fill them with zeal for sharing Your Son’s saving Gospel with all people. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.