**Amazon.com Purchases**

If you use Amazon support Zion by shopping at **smile.amazon.com.** Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to those who have enrolled. Call the office with questions.

**Help Fund an-Assistant Pastor**

The next phase for the Gifts Christ Freely Gives is to fund an Assistant Pastor position. There is a candle posted on the wall that will be filled in for every $2,000 received until the goal of $40,000 is reached. Please consider contributing to this much needed position.

**Radio Broadcast & Flower Charts**

The congregation is invited to sign up to sponsor altar flowers or radio broadcasts on the 2016 charts hanging on the bulletin board. Cost to sponsor a radio broadcast is $150 per Sunday. Families are welcome to share the cost of the broadcast if they wish.

**Holiday Pies**

There are several pies remaining from the pie sales. The flavors are pumpkin, pecan, fruits of the forest, caramel apple nut, and peach.

**School News**

* The students are on Christmas break from December 18th-January 1st. Classes resume on Monday, January 4th.
* Enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year is open to our church families and our returning school families. Please stop by or call the office for registration forms. Our early childhood classes fill quickly.

**Stewardship**

Thought for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

“And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” (Luke 1:45 ESV) The Lord always fulfills what He promises. We can be certain of that, and He has proven it over and over again. This faith in the Lord's own faithfulness is what gives us the courage to follow the Lord's commands in the face of the world's anger and resistance: just as it gave Mary the courage to carry on in her seemingly embarrassed circumstances.

**Announcements – December 20, 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**

Christmas Break

**Ushering Out**

For the sake of good order and efficiency the Board of Elders has voted to reinstitute ushering people out of their pews at the end of the service. If you need to leave immediately following the service for work or personal needs, then please feel free to do so.

**Children Bulletins**

Children bulletins, “Growing in Worship”, are available in the narthex.

**Special Christmas Services**

\*Children’s /Candlelight Christmas Eve service will be this Thursday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

\*Christmas Day service will be this Friday, December 25th at 10:00 a.m.

**New Year’s Eve Service**

On December 31st we will have a service at 7:00 p.m.

**Church Office Closed**

The church office will be closed until January 4th. For Pastoral emergencies please call Pastor’s cell phone (308) 627-5260.

**Saturday Evening Services**

There will be no Saturday evening services for the next few weeks. They will resume on January 10, 2016.

**Christmas gifts for Men at the Crossroads Center**

Thank you to all who donated Christmas gifts for the men at Crossroads Shelter. They were very appreciative of all the gifts that were delivered. We will be making one more delivery, so gifts can still be put in the box near the mailboxes today.

**Offering Envelopes**

Offering envelopes for 2016 are labeled and in the Narthex. Please pick your envelopes up. Thank you.

**Year End Reports**

The Chairman of all boards and organizations is asked to submit a report summarizing 2015. These are needed by January 4, 2016 to be included in the Year End Report. The most convenient way for the staff to receive these is by email school@zionkearney.org

**The Benevolence Committee**

The Benevolence Committee would like to thank all who have provided food and helped with serving funeral lunches. It is the policy of the Benevolence Committee of Zion Lutheran Church to serve lunch/dinner to family members and friends at the time of a funeral. The Benevolence Committee follows the church membership list asking each member for a donation of either food or money to help purchase items not otherwise donated by members. All of you will be contacted to assist the Committee as the needs arise. Your help is greatly appreciated. –

The Benevolence Committee.

**Poinsettias**

Thank you to the following families who provided poinsettias for use in our sanctuary this Christmas season: Ron & Waunita DeLaet, Jerry & Nancy Dulitz, Becky Thornton, Don & Marion Richmond, Joan Schmidt, Mary & Wes Fiddelke, Seth & Christina Long, Carol & Pastor DeLoach, Todd & Darcy Willers, Lillian Johnson, Sharon Kreutzer, Bruce & Joni Brooks, Lew & Carolyn Westman, Jane Schmid, Don & Shirley Helmbrecht, Lonna Gronewoller, Matthew & Amy Hodgson, Paul & Rachael Burger, Cinda Ward, Wayne & Dorothy Sikes, Hazel Stickney.



This year the federal government may pass the charitable giving provision called the IRA Rollover. This provision allows individuals age 70 1/2 to “roll over” their annual required minimum distribution (RMD) from their IRA directly from the account administrator to their favorite LCMS ministry. Individuals benefit by satisfying their RMD and do not incur the income tax associated with it. The provision allows up to a $100,000 transfer from an IRA. Additional withdrawals for more than the RMD are permissible as long as total tax benefit does not exceed $100,000.

 Individuals interested in making a gift and reducing their taxes by rolling over their RMD to ministry should contact their account administrator immediately. Often there are forms or other paperwork that is required to authorize the transfer.

Individuals who wish to distribute their rollover gift to multiple ministries may do so by transferring the funds to the Foundation with a distribution letter.

Please contact Allen Helms, Sr. VP Gift Planning, if you have any questions about the IRA Rollover provision at 800-325-7912 or Allen.Helms@lfnd.org.

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