**February Saturday Services**

Througout the month of February the Divine Service will not be offered on Saturdays.

**Thank You**

Thank you to all who came to my 90th birthday open house, and helped to make it a very special day. Thank you also for all of the beautiful cards, phone greetings and your prayers.

God’s Blessings, Merna Oertwig

**Annual Report**

There are copies of the Zion Lutheran Church & School Annual Report for 2015 available in the office for those who were not able to attend the voters meeting last Sunday.

**Note from the Board of Stewardship**

If you do not want offering envelopes for the year 2017, please advise the church office. We will order 2017 envelopes in March. Thank You.

**Thrivent Choice**

Thrivent Choice® participants have thousands of options … but they chose you. **Based on their recommendations, Zion Lutheran School received $6,832 in 2015. Zion Lutheran Church received $814 in 2015.** The Thrivent Choice program helps Thrivent members make a positive impact in their communities.

All Thrivent Choice dollars given to our school were used for tuition assistance.

**Stewardship**

Luke 9:36 “And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.” Moses and Elijah point to Jesus, speak about Jesus and His sacrifice and then they are happy to fade into the background. They know that what we need is Jesus. With our eyes focused on Him and Him alone the rest of our lives come into focus. He is primary, all else secondary. When that order is right in our lives, things truly fall into place. Or as Jesus Himself said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you.”

**Announcements – February 7, 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.**

**Our Weekly Memory Work**

**Ash Wednesday Break**

**Ash Wednesday – Feb 10**

****Please plan to join us Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 for our Ash Wednesday Divine Service. Preceding the service, Mary Martha will serve a meal in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30-6:30. The menu is beef stew, salad and desserts. There will be a freewill offering with proceeds going to mission projects.

**Mary Martha Guild**

Love Circle (Carol DeLoach’s) will meet Monday, February 8 at 7:00 at Ellen Koopman’s Home, 2616 Ave. D

Peace Circle (Carolyn Westman’s) will meet Monday, February 8 at 7:00 at Sarah Hoehner’s home, 1812 W. 50th St.

**VBS Leader**

We need a volunteer to organize Vacation Bible School this year. If you are willing or have questions about what is involved, please speak with Mr. Splittgerber or Pastor DeLoach.

**Snow related schedule changes**

The February meeting for the Board of Education is rescheduled for Feb 11.

The February meeting for the Board of Stewardship is canceled.

**Chili Cookoff**

Mark your calender for the February 21 Chili cook-off hosted by the Zion Youth Group. Indviduals as well as boards and organizations are invited to get out your best chili recipies to compete for first place. More details will be available in the coming weeks.

**2016 Midweek Lenten Series – *CrossWords***

We invite you to join us on the Wednesdays of Lent for supper at 5:30 p.m. and for Lenten Vespers at 7:00 p.m. The seven weeks of Lent are devoted to reflection upon the suffering and death of Christ. But Lent is also a time to hear afresh the words of the Lord. As Jesus attested: “The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (John 6:63). It is appropriate during this season, therefore, to give attention to the words of life that Jesus spoke while in the very midst of death. These words from the cross are his “crosswords.” Your blessed Savior speaks. His Words focus you on His suffering and death for the forgiveness of your sins.

Meditation on the seven sayings of Jesus spoken from the cross is a tradition that has frequently been reserved for Good Friday. This is done in the context of the Tre Ore service (*Tre Ore* is Italian for “three hours,” referring to the three hours that darkness settled upon the land during Christ’s crucifixion). This service, conducted from noon to three o’clock in the afternoon on that holy day, involves readings and homilies that reflect upon the seven last sayings of Christ from the cross. However, the intent of this series is to extend the meditation upon the words from the cross throughout Lent. Accordingly, one of the seven sayings is assigned to each of the seven weeks of Lent as follows:

2/10 - Ash Wednesday – “Father, Forgive Them”

*From 6:40-7:00 p.m. before the Ash Wednesday service we will offer the Imposition of Ashes to those who desire it.*

2/17 - Lent 1 – “You will be with Me in Paradise”

2/24 - Lent 2 – “Behold Your Son; Behold Your Mother”

3/02 - Lent 3 – “My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?”

3/09 - Lent 4 – “I Thirst”

3/16 - Lent 5 – “It is Finished!”

3/25 - Good Friday – “Father, Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit”

**School News**

* Enrolment for the 2016-2017 continues. There are openings in our early childhood classes.
* Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for February 18. There will be no school February 18 or 19.
* We are now making preparations for Lutheran Schools Week which will be held February 29-March 5. Grandparent’s day is Friday, March 4.

**Family Arts Festival**

Check out the flyer on the bulletin board about the Family Arts Festival to be held Saturday, February 20. It will be an exciting day mixed with art, music, theater, dance and fun for all.

**Additional Opportunities to Worship during Lent**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **Service**  **TIME** | **LENTEN MEALS AT 5:30 -SERVED BY** |
| February 10  Ash Wednesday Service | 7:00pm | Mary Martha |
| February 17 | 7:00pm | 7th & 8th grade |
| February 24 | 7:00pm | Elders |
| March 2 | 7:00 | Teachers |
| March 9 | 7:00pm | Board of Ed. |
| March 16 | 7:00pm | Board of Stewardship |