**OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP DURING ADVENT**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Dec. 9 | 4:30pm | School Christmas Program |
| Dec. 12 | 5:30 pm7:00 pm | Meal by Board of EducationAdvent Service- |
| Dec. 19 | 7:00 pm | Advent Service-  |
| Dec. 24  | 7:00 pm | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service |
| Dec. 25  | 10:00 am | Christmas Day Worship |

**ELECTRONIC GIVING**

During the last meeting of the Board of Stewardship it was determined that they would like anyone who electronically give to take a card from the communion sign up counter to place in the offering plate.

**POINSETTIA**

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. Checks should be made out to Mary Martha.

**Stewardship Note –**

Luke 3:4 – **“As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: *Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight*.’ ”** God makes long-range plans: Isaiah lived more than 700 years before St. John the Baptist preached by the Jordan River. Obviously, God sees farther into the future than we do. That’s yet another reason to trust Him when it comes to how He tells us to live our lives. He knows what’s coming, and we don’t.



**Announcements – December 9, 2018**

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.**

**ADVENT**

Today is Advent Vespers second Sunday in Advent. Zion will have Services Dec. 12 & Dec. 19 at 7:00 pm each evening.

This Wednesday, December 12th the Board of Education will be serving a meal beginning at 5:30p.m.

![merry_christmas[1]]()**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS REHEARSAL**

The rehearsal dates for the Children’s Christmas Eve Service will be 12/15, and 12/22. The rehearsals will begin at 9:00 am.

**QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING-RESCHEDULED**

The snow storm last Sunday is causing Zion to hold the Quarterly Voters Meeting TODAY Sunday, December 9 at 10:15 am in the Fellowship Hall. Business will include election of officers and board members for 2019.

**WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY**

Today during a separate service Ella Hansen, daughter of Leif and Keri Hansen, will receive Holy Baptism in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We rejoice as she becomes God’s child.

**YEAR END REPORTS**

The Chairman of each Zion 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

**MARY MARTHA CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The Mary Martha Christmas party will be held on December 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Please bring a finger food to share. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join.

**THE MEN’S THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS**

The Men’s Thursday Night Bible Class is hosting a prime rib Christmas dinner, catered by The Alley Rose, on Thursday, December 16 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.

**Reed Sander…** former principal of our school, continues to struggle in his battle with cancer. If you have a memory or story about Reed's time in ministry or a word of encouragement that would brighten his day, please share it with him.

(6720 NW 3rd St, Lincoln, NE 68521) (reedsander@aol.com)

**MISSION PROJECT**

For the rest of this year we will be collecting mission gifts for our college and seminary students who are studying for full time church work.

Your Mission offering, which is above and beyond your regular offering, will be given to support Matthias Wollberg who is in his fourth year of study at Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne and Abigail DeLoach and Taylor Zehendner who are both in their first year of study at Concordia, Seward,to become Lutheran school teachers. There are special Mission Envelopes in the Narthex that may be used. All gifts should be clearly marked and placed in the offering plate. **The treasurer has asked that all gifts be given by December 23 so she can distribute to the students while they are home for Christmas.**

School News

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

Today Sunday, December 9, our Zion Lutheran School children will present “What Child is This” at 4:30 pm. All are welcome to join us and stay for refreshments following the service.

**ENROLLMENT FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR** is now open to our Zion families and returning families. We will open enrollment to the public on January 3rd. Enrollment forms are available at the office or on our website.

**HOLIDAY LIGHT FESTIVAL**

Our School will participate in the Kearney Holiday Light Festival.

Various Kearney organizations will decorate the walk at Yanney Park between Peterson Activity Center and the Gottschalk Tower.

 Activity nights are Dec. 8, 11, and 14 from 6:00-8:00 pm. There will be refreshments and fun activities in addition to looking at the lights.

Dec. 9, 10, 12, 13, and 15 are nights to enjoy the lights only.

Thank you to Rachel Strong for planning and organizing the decorations for the area assigned to Zion.

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