**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.
* Thank you to all of those that participated in Give Where You Live. We couldn’t be the great school we are without your support!
* 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 Sunday, December 15th at 4:00 p.m. This is for students in Kindergarten-8th grade.
* Basketball practices for the girls and boys began this week. Since this is a club team, all Zion members in grades 5th-8th who attend public school are welcome to be on the team. Please contact Mr. Splittgerber for more information.
* 2020-2021 Enrollment is open for returning 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!

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**Announcements – December 8, 2019**

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

**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.

**Christmas Caroling-TODAY** - Please join us in singing Christmas carols to the shut-ins TODAY Sunday, December 8th at 2:00 p.m. They really appreciate and enjoy the beautiful music. No special music knowledge is needed, just the enjoyment of singing traditional Christmas carols. The time commitment is about 1 ½ - 2 hours max. Please meet at the church.

The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade class and the Sunday School classes will be caroling on different days to other care homes.

**Opportunities For Worship During Advent**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Dec. 11 | 5:30 pm7:00 pm | Meal by 7th & 8th GradersAdvent Service |
| 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 |

**Mary Martha** – Mary Martha circles will hold their Christmas party on Monday, December 9th at Zion in the fellowship hall. Please bring your favorite finger food to share.

**Children Christmas Rehearsal** – The remaining rehearsal dates for the Children’s Christmas Eve Service will be 12/14 and 12/21. The rehearsals will begin 9:00 am. After the rehearsal on Dec. 21 the children will go Christmas Caroling, return to Zion for pizza and then go ice skating. Bring a friend for caroling, pizza, and skating 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.

**Senior Citizens** – The senior citizens will meet 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.

**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

**Sunday School Teachers** – Zion is in need of 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!

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

**Book Nook** – The book nook has Zion Lutheran Church Christmas cards for sale. They are priced at $2.00 for a package of 12 cards and envelopes. The book nook 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 Allward:*Rainbows and Rattlesnakes"* and*"More Rainbows Than Rattlesnakes",* for sale @ $12 each. These sales also 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.  Discounts are available for purchasing a number of copies at the same time

**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.

**Thank You** – Zion Friends in Christ, Thank you so very much for the funds for our crisis. God has given us everything we need. As the manna. We have found great comfort from God and our loved ones. Jeff has had 2 transplants and is recovering at UNMC. It’s a long road. We are thankful for each day.

Thank you. In his service. Rachael Strong

**Matthew 3:1-2** – **“In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ”** John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. Then, when Jesus’ ministry was complete and He was raised from the dead, He sent out His disciples to preach “repentance and the forgiveness of sins.” We never outgrow the need for repentance – examining our lives, turning away from our sins, and turning toward Jesus in faith to receive His forgiveness and strength for a renewed life of godliness.

An Invitation to
Help A Family in Need

Greetings in Christ! Zion would like to extend a Christmas blessing to you and your family. Zion is very blessed to have this wonderful school and church family. During the Christmas season, we are often asked if there are students and/or families that could use a little extra help. This year there is a family in a tough situation that we would like to help…

This past fall, one of our preschool families suffered the sudden loss of the family father. He leaves behind a wife and six children. Dealing with this loss has not been an easy transition for the family. Zion would like to help them out for the holidays and show them our support and kindness. Our idea was to purchase gift cards to help the mom with gifts for the children, but if you have any other idea you are welcome to extend whatever kindness and generosity feels right to you. The office sells gift cards of all denominations and for many stores.

If you feel led to contribute to this family that has suffered a huge loss and make their Christmas a littler merrier, please contact the office or Mrs. Nancy Halva.

In Christ,

Mr. Splittgerber

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