 The Sower *www.zionkearney.org*

**Zion Lutheran Church & School**

**2421 Avenue C**

**Kearney, NE 68847**

P

***308-234-3410***

***March 2016***

Dear Members of Zion Lutheran Church,

Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God the Father through Jesus Christ, His Son, our Lord.

As we continue Lenten season where we ponder Christ's sacrifice for us, Zion is excited to introduce a new and easy way to give our first fruits from the bounty that God has given to us! You can now give simply and easily using *Pushpay* for your tithes, offerings, and special gifts!

To start, text "zionkearney" to 77977 and you will receive a link to our custom giving page. Or you can text "pushpay" to "77977" and you will receive a link to download the app. Then click on Zion Lutheran Church - Kearney, NE, as the church you want to support. Your gift is deposited into our *General Fund* to support all of the Lord’s work at Zion. Or, you may choose to fund a specific focus or program from the drop down menu.

You can also go to our church website ([www.zionkearney.com](http://www.zionkearney.com/)), choose the *Giving* tab and click on the *Pushpay* Icon in order to give a one-time gift or to set up a recurring gift to Zion.

*Pushpay* currently accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover, as well as ACH (bank account) gifts!  So you know, the processing company receives 2.5 to 3% to process a credit/debit card payment and only 1% to process an ACH payment.  In other words Zion receives 1.5 to 2% more of your donation if you take a moment to choose *ACH* payment and provide *Pushpay* your bank account information.

For more info, watch the short clip here: <https://vimeo.com/143216881>

If you prefer giving cash or a check for your donation, please continue to do so. This is simply another easy and secure way of giving.  Use *Pushpay* at any time (24/7) and anywhere to make an offering to Zion.  In the coming weeks we will launch a mobile church app, where you can find the latest announcements, prayer requests, sermon podcasts, and information on upcoming events.

Our church treasurer is now in the process of changing the Automatic Giving of members who have requested that she do so to Pushpay.

If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Blattner or Shirley Oertwig at school@zionkearney.org or 308-234-3410. God’s blessings to you and yours.

Yours in Christ,

Pr. James DeLoach

**The Gifts Christ Freely Gives**

**Assistant Pastor Update**

What follows is an update of our progress toward funding, nominating, and calling a part-time Assistant Pastor to serve Zion.

1. As of today, our members have contributed close to $27,000 to pre-fund the Assistant Pastor position.  Our goal is to raise $40,000 before we issue a call.
2. On February 15, at its monthly meeting, our Church Council requested that Zion’s Board of Elders serve as Zion’s Nominating Committee.  The Council also requested that the Elders begin the preliminary work of identifying and gathering information for a potential candidate to serve Zion as part-time Assistant Pastor.
3. At this time any member of Zion may suggest the name of a pastor, who is eligible and open to part-time service, for consideration by Zion’s Nominating Committee.
4. After receiving approval from our Nebraska District President and examining the candidate(s) Personal Information Form and Self-Evaluation Tool, the Nominating Committee will commend the candidate(s) to Zion’s Voters to consider for a call.
5. Sunday, April 3, 2016, is the target date for a special Voters’ Meeting to consider a candidate for a call.
6. Until then, please pray for our Nominating Committee and continue to give generously to our Assistant Pastor fund so that we can raise the $40,000 necessary to pre-fund this position for 18 months in order to better serve the members of Zion and our community.  Anything raised above that amount will be used to help cover the moving expenses of whomever accepts the call to serve at Zion.

God’s blessings to you as we continue our Lenten journey through our Savior’s death and resurrection for us and our salvation.

**ZYG Easter Breakfast**

The youth will serve Easter breakfast at 8:00 am in the fellowship hall. Please plan to join us for delicious egg casseroles, sweet rolls and fruit. There will be a freewill offering.

**Palm Sunday Dinner**

The Mary Martha Guild invites everyone to their Palm Sunday Luncheon Sunday, March 20 beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the gym. All of the food will be provided by the Mary Martha Guild. Please join us for some delicious salads, casseroles and desserts in the school gym. There will be a freewill offering

**Pancake Feed**

There will be a pancake feed Saturday, March 5 at the Zion School Gym. Pancakes and sausages will be available for a freewill donation from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm. The donations will go the Zion Lutheran School Foundation. The Foundation’s main goals are to make grants that improve the quality of Lutheran education at or to provide scholarships to aid in a student’s ability to attend Zion Lutheran School.

**Joan Schmidt – Card Shower**

The Children of Joan Schmidt have requested a card shower celebrating Joan’s 85th birthday on March 3. Cards can be mailed to: Joan Schmidt, 1705 1st Ave., Kearney, NE 68847

**Easter Lilies**

![C:\Users\school\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\ZKZM05DT\MC900304935[1].wmf]()It is time once again to order flowers to grace our chancel for Easter services on Sunday, March 27. Lilies may be purchased for $15 each. Orders need to be turned in by Monday, March 14. To simplify bookkeeping, please turn your order in to the church office. An envelope and signup sheet will also be available during the Bible Class Hour. You are welcome to take your plants home on Easter Sunday following the 9:00 a.m. service.

**March Saturday Services**

Througout the month of March the Divine Service will be offered on Saturdays at 5:00pm, with the exception of no service on Holy Saturday, March 26.

**LWML**

Concordia

Concordia will meet Thursday, March 3 at 2:00.

Mary Martha Guild

Mary Martha will meet Monday, March 14 at 7:00 pm. in the fellowship hall.

**The PEACE and LOVE Circles** from Mary Martha are collecting items for the Orphan Grain Train.  A shipment is planned for early March, to be headed to Latvia.  Please help us fill the container!  A blue box is located in the hallway near the church mailboxes, and **items will be collected through March 6.**  Any of the items listed below can be donated.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

-wash cloths, hand towels, bars of soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, Band-Aids, small tissue packets, stick deodorant (NO items from hotels, please)

-notebooks, paper, pencils, crayons, ballpoint pens, chalk, watercolors and brushes, coloring books

-new underwear (mens, womens, boys, and girls)

-crutches, canes, walkers, stool risers, shower chairs, and stool commodes

**Senior Citizens**

The senior citizens will meet Monday, March 21 at 12:00 noon for our monthly potluck dinner. All are welcome to join us for an afternoon of good food and fellowship.

**ZYG**

Thank you to all who helped with, brought food or attended the 2nd annual Youth Chili Cook-off. There were many delicious chilies to sample. This year’s winners were Jill Bates in the mild category, Shirley Oertwig for her spicy chili and Ellen Koopman (Mary Martha Love Circle) for her non –traditional chili.

**Lutheran Schools Week Schedule February 29-March 6**

**Monday**: Wacky Tacky Day-children may wear mix matched clothing and crazy hair.

**Tuesday** Book Character Day- Children may dress like a character in a favorite book, Muffins with Mom before school

**Wednesday**: Hat Day

**Thursday**: “60”s Day, children may dress as we did in the 1960’s, Donuts with Dad before school

**Friday**: Dress Up Day, Grandparents Day, Chapel at 12:30,

 2:15 Dismissal

**Saturday**: Pancake Feed 7:30-12:30

**Sunday**: We will end Lutheran School week with our K-8th grade choir singing at our 9:00am service.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be set up in the library all week and there will be an art display in the gymnasium.

The congregation is invited to attend.

**GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE**

We want to extend a **HUGE** THANK YOU, to those who donated and/or spread the word during the Give Where You Live Campaign. Zion was able to raise about $900.00. This is great for our first year participating. Thank you so much for supporting our school!

**Thrivent Choice**

Reminder to those who have 2015 Thrivent Choice dollars to designate, the deadline for choosing where these monies will go is March 31. Some of you may have received a postcard in the mail recently letting you know that you have dollars to designate. There is a convenient mail back portion that you can use to make your choice. Both Zion Lutheran Church and Zion Lutheran School are eligible to receive these gifts.

**March Radio Broadcast & Flowers**

**Date Radio Flowers**

6 Schmidt

13 Abels

20 Koopman Wilkens

27

**March Birthdays and Anniversaries**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Jacob Halvorsen, Noah Randolph, Lindsay Wilkens |
| 2 | Ruby Hatfield, Matt Hodgson, Levi Splittgerber |
| 3 | Joan Schmidt |
| 4 | Lee Wells |
| 5 | Pat Brost |
| 6 | Jean Porter |
| 7 | Emily Hartman, Kim Wilkens |
| *8* | Donna Bosard, Mary Fiddelke*Ann. Boyd & Michelle Millsap* |
| 9 | Norman Abels |
| 11 | Wes Fiddelke, Graydn Fisher, Sylvia Schmidt |
| 12 | Connie DeLaet, Treyton Kirchner, Harry Strong |
| 13 | Carolyn Westman |
| 15 | KaTayla Thomas |
| 17 | Chuck Zehendner |
| 19 | Gretchen Trampe |
| 20 | Ron DeLaet, Carol DeLoach, Dale Johnson, Lauren Starkey, Brenda Wommer |
| 21 | *Ann. William & Brenda Wommer* |
| 22 | Harper Florang, Boyd Millsap |
| 23 | Cinda Ward |
| 24 | Reese Florang |
| 25 | Kiana Clark, Charles Marienau |
| 26 | Kay Banner, Tiffany Hartman, Jessica Zehendner |
| 28 | Sheryl Fox |
| 29 | Carter Splittgerber |
| 31 | Carol Florang |

**Radio Broadcast**

We have received word that the cost of sponsoring a radio broadcast will increase to $161.25 per Sunday on March 1. There are quite a few Sundays that do not have a sponsor yet. There is a chart across from the mailbox where you can sign up to sponsor a broadcast. Families are welcome to share the cost of sponsoring a broadcast.

**Additional Opportunities to Worship during Lent**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **Service****TIME** | **LENTEN MEALS AT 5:30 -SERVED BY** |
| March 2 | 7:00pm | Teachers |
| March 9 | 7:00pm | Board of Ed. |
| March 16 | 7:00pm | Board of Stewardship |
| March 20 Palm Sunday | 9:00am | Meal at 11:30 served by Mary Martha |
| March 24Maundy Thursday | 7:30pm |  |
| March 25 | 2:00pm | Coffee, donuts & fellowship  |
| March 25Tenebre Service | 7:00pm |  |
| March 27Easter Sunrise | 7:00am | Easter breakfast at 8:00, served by youth |
| March 27Easter Festival Service | 9:00am |  |

**HANDBELLS!  Give it a try!**

**Have you always wanted to ring a handbell or two?  Maybe you rang bells in the past, and would like to ring again?  Here’s a short-term opportunity for you! The Adult Bell Choir at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kearney will be offering a Spring Bell Concert in April, and we’d like to invite friends from our Kearney Circuit LC-MS churches to join us in playing 1-2 simple songs!  Basic music reading ability would be helpful, but no handbell experience is necessary, since our ringers will enjoy assisting our new friends in learning to play.  Here are the details:**

* **Rehearsals:  Tuesdays, March 8, 15, and 29 from 6:00-6:30pm (Music Room)**

**(Please plan to attend at least two rehearsals,**

 **so we can do a good job!)**

* **Concert:  Sunday, April 3 at 3:00pm (Sanctuary)**

**Holy Cross is located just south of Horizon Middle School in Kearney.  (3315 – 11th Avenue)  Questions?  Please contact Music Director Robin Boell at** **308.237.2944** **or** **rboell@hclk.org****.  Please join us on March 8!  The more, the merrier!  To God alone be the glory!**

**P.E.A.C.E. Auction & Dinner**

Greetings in Christ! Zion Lutheran School’s 85th year is well underway. Our current enrollment of 175 students is more than double our enrollment of ten years ago! To God be the glory! To accommodate our growing numbers and to maintain a quality facility, we split the first and second grades, and we converted our computer lab into a mobile lab to free up a classroom. We also now have four gorgeous, newly renovated school bathrooms thanks to last year’s fundraising efforts.

On March 19, 2016, Zion Lutheran School will hold its 7th P.E.A.C.E. Auction and Dinner at the Holiday Inn Convention Center at 5:30 pm. The auction and dinner is the school’s largest fundraiser, and money raised from the annual event directly benefits our preschool through 8th grade students. The P.E.A.C.E. 2016 profits will be applied to building updates and provide scholarship money for families in need.  Funds will also help send our teachers to the 2016 National Lutheran Education Association Convocation in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

We request your support to help make this year’s P.E.A.C.E. Auction and Dinner a success. We are asking you to help us with this event in the following ways:

***1) donate an item for the live and/or silent auction***

***2) provide a monetary gift***

***3) be a P.E.A.C.E. table sponsor***

***4) make reservations*** ***and join us at the auction and dinner***

Remember that Zion Lutheran School of Kearney is a non-profit organization; therefore, your donation may be tax deductible. (Federal Tax Id: 47-0390419). To recognize your generosity, your donation will be listed in our auction program and posted on our school’s website. A receipt will be mailed to you after the auction.

Reservations and monetary donations may be made [online](https://zionlutheran.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/PEACE2016/tabid/744455/Default.aspx) or you can mail in the [2016 Contribution Form](http://www.zionkearney.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2016-Contribution-Form.pdf) to 2421 Ave. C, Kearney, NE 68847. Call us at 308-234-3410 or email zionkearney@hotmail.com with questions.

Thank you for partnering with us to ensure that Zion Lutheran School of Kearney continues its tradition of being an outstanding place of learning for our students and our community.

Blessings to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

**Anthony B. Splittgerber**

Principal

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| **Time of Service** | **Acolyte** | **Elder** | **Usher** | **Engineer** | **Announcer** | **Alter Guild** | **Book Nook** |
| **Wednesday, March 2** | Blake Wilbur | Bruce Brooks | Dan Oertwig | Shawn Starkey |  | Shirley Helmbrecht |  |
| 7:00 Lenten Service |  |  |  |  |  | Denae Kuhl |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sunday, March 6** | Tyson Wilbur | Craig Nuttelman | Fred Flessner | Peter Kreutzer | Lonna Gronewoller | Mary Fiddelke | Janna Flessner |
| 9:00 a.m. Divine Service |  |  | Keith Nuttelman |  |  | Lyn Hoffman |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Wednesday, March 9** | Crystal Hartman | Craig Nuttelman | Fred Flessner | Peter Kreutzer |  | Shirley Helmbrecht |  |
| 7:00 Lenten Service |  |  | Keith Nuttelman |  |  | Denae Kuhl |  |
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| **Sunday, March 13** | Alexis Wommer | Jeff Halvorsen | Marc Hoffman | Rich Kreutzer | Carol Kreutzer | Mary Fiddelke | Lavonne Peterson |
| 9:00 a.m. Divine Service |  |  | Steve Junge |  |  | Lyn Hoffman |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Wednesday, March 16** | Bailey Bates | Jeff Halvorsen | Marc Hoffman | Rich Kreutzer |  | Shirley Helmbrecht |  |
| 7:00 Lenten Midweek |  |  | Steve Junge |  |  | Denae Kuhl |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sunday, March 20** | Abigail DeLoach | Rich Kreutzer | Roger Riekenberg | Jared Nuttelman | Lavonne Peterson | Mary Fiddelke | Pauline Jacobson |
| 9:00 a.m. Divine Service |  |  | Robert Glanzer |  |  | Lyn Hoffman |  |
| Palm Sunday |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  **Thursday, March 24** | Madisen Eckhoff | Rich Kreutzer | Marc Hoffman | Jared Nuttelman |  | Shirley Helmbrecht |  |
| 7:00 Divine Service |  |  | Steve Junge |  |  | Denae Kuhl |  |
| Maundy Thursday |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Friday, March 25** | Hope Smith | Rich Kreutzer | Roger Riekenberg | Jared Nuttelman |  | Shirley Helmbrecht |  |
| 2:00 Divine Service |  |  | Robert Glanzer |  |  | Denae Kuhl |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Friday March 25** | Cody Willers | Rich Kreutzer | Fred Flessner | Jared Nuttelman |  | Shirley Helmbrecht |  |
| 7:00 Tenebre Service |  |  | Keith Nuttelman |  |  | Denae Kuhl |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sunday March 27** | Masie Dulitz | Ken Hockemeier | Dan Oertwig | Shawn Starkey |  | Mary Fiddelke |  |
| 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise  |  |  |  |  |  | Lyn Hoffman |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sunday, March 27** | Anthony Wilbur | Ken Hockemeier | Dan Oertwig | Shawn Starkey | Brooke Fisher | Mary Fiddelke | Carolyn Wilkens |
| 9:00 a.m. Divine Service |  |  |  |  |  | Lyn Hoffman |  |
| Easter |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **March 2016** |
| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
|   |   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  |   |  | **5:00 Handchimes** |   | **Grandparents Day** | **7:30 Pancake Feed** |
|  |   |  | **5:30 Lenten Meal** | **2:00 Concordia** | **12:25 Chapel** |   |
|  |   | **7:00 Bd. of Stewardship** | **5:45 Midweek** |   |   |   |
|  |  |  | **6:00 Handbells** |   |  | **5:00 Divine Service** |
|   |  |  | **7:00 Lenten Service** |  |  |  |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| **9:00am Divine Service** |   |  | **5:00 Handchimes** |   |   |   |
| **10:15am Adult Bible Study** |   | **6:00 School Foundation** | **5:30 Lenten Meal** |   |   |   |
| **10:15am Sunday School** |  | **7:00 Board of Elders** | **5:45 Midweek** |   |   | **5:00 Divine Service** |
|  |  | **7:00 Board of Trustees** | **6:00 Handbells** |  |  |   |
| . |  |  | **7:00 Lenten Service** | **7:00 Board of Ed** |  |   |
|   |  |  | **8:00 Choir** |  |  |   |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| **9:00am Divine Service** |   |  | **5:00 Handchimes** |   |   |   |
| **10:15am Adult Bible Study** |  |  | **5:30 Lenten Meal** |   |   |   |
| **10:15am Sunday School** |  | **7:00 Church Council** | **5:45 Midweek** |   |   | **5:00 Divine Service** |
|   | **7:00 Mary Martha** |  | **6:00 Handbells** |   |   | **5:30 PEACE Dinner/ Auction** |
|   |   |  | **7:00 Lenten Service** |  |  |   |
|   |  |  | **8:00 Choir** |  |  |   |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| **9:00am Divine Service** | **12:00 Senior Citizens**  |   |  |   | **2:00 Good Friday Service** |   |
| **10:15am Adult Bible Study** |  |   | **6:00 Handbells** |   | **3:00 Fellowship Hour** | **Holy Saturday** |
| **10:15am Sunday School****11:30am Palm Sunday Meal** |   |  | **8:00 Choir** | **7:00 Maundy Thursday**  | **7:00 Tenebre Service** | **No services** |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |   |   |
| **7:00am Sunrise Service** | **No School** | **7:00 L.L.L.** | **8:25 Chapel** |   |   |   |
| **8:00 Easter Breakfast** | **Easter Monday** | **7:00 Sunday School Teacher** | **5:00 Handchimes** |   |   |   |
| **9:00am Easter Festival Service** | **Office Closed** |  | **5:45 Midweek** |   |   |   |
| **10:15am Adult Bible Study** |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| **10:15am Sunday School** |  |  |  |   |   |   |