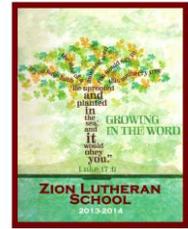




# Zion Lutheran School

*Ablaze to Share God's Love*

December 4 – 9, 2013



<u>Tues., Dec. 3</u>	<u>Wed., Dec. 4</u>	<u>Thurs., Dec. 5</u>	<u>Friday, Dec. 6</u>	<u>Sat., Dec. 7</u>	<u>Sun., Dec. 8</u>	<u>Mon., Dec. 9</u>
Practice for Children's Christmas Service, 1pm	Chapel, 8:15am <u>2:45 Dismissal</u> Advent Dinner, 5:30 Advent Service, 7pm	Practice for Children's Christmas Service, 1pm	Pizza		Sunday School, 9:15am Church, 10:30am	K-2 sing for Lion's Club Low Vision Support Group, 2pm

**December Memory Verse: "[John the Baptist says] I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."  
Matthew 3:11**

## From the Principal

December is here. We have a lot going on in the next fifteen school days. That's right, only fifteen school days until Christmas Break. This also means that there is only fifteen days left in the second quarter. The second quarter ends on December 20. The days are going to go very quickly. Please check with your children and the school calendar for activities in December.

## The Season of Advent – A Time of Hope and Anticipation

The word **Advent** means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2,000 year old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ where all of creation might be saved. Scripture readings for the Advent season reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, and the hope of eternal life.

Advent is can be observed in the home as well as at church. In its association with Christmas, Advent is a natural time to involve children in activities at home that directly connect with worship at church. In the home an Advent wreath is often placed on the dining table and the candles lighted at meals, with Scripture readings preceding the lighting of the candles. A new candle is lighted each Sunday during the four weeks, and

then the same candles are lighted each meal during the week. This provides the opportunity for family devotion and prayer together.

It is common in many homes to try to mark the beginning of Advent in other ways as well, for the same purpose of instruction in the faith. Some families decorate the house for the beginning of Advent, or bake special cookies or treats, or simply begin to use table coverings for meals. An Advent Calendar is a way to keep children involved in the entire season. There are a wide variety of Advent calendars, but usually they are simply a card or poster with windows that can be opened, one each day of Advent, to reveal some symbol or picture associated with a Bible story leading up to the birth of Jesus. All of these provide opportunities to teach children the significance of this sacred time, and to remind ourselves of it as well.

The beginning of Advent is a time for the [hanging of the green](#), decoration of the church with evergreen wreaths, boughs, or trees that help to symbolize the everlasting  
(continued)

life brought through Jesus the Christ. Zion Lutheran has a Wednesday evening service beginning at 7:00 p.m. Also, there is a dinner before the service beginning at 5:30 p.m. We invite you to join us as we celebrate Advent.

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### Zion Lutheran Youth

Our next youth night will be Wednesday, December 4. Students in grades 5-8 are invited to attend Zion's Jr. High Youth. Youth will begin at 6:00 p.m. We will meet in the gym, have an activity, go to the church for the Advent meal, and attend the Advent service at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing everyone on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Have a wonderful week in the Lord.



## **Giving Tree Donations The Giving Tree**

The holiday season is upon us, and all are busy making special preparations to celebrate. We don't want to get lost in the rush and hustle of the season and forget the true meaning of Christmas.

God gave us the greatest gift of all—His only Son. We want to show our thankfulness by giving to others.

The Zion Lutheran Church Board of Evangelism has set up a giving tree. Individuals, families, or classes may adopt an angel from the tree to provide clothes, shoes, or a toy for a child that may not otherwise receive a Christmas gift.

In place of having classroom gift exchanges, each of our classes has chosen to purchase gifts for at least one child. If your child would like to make a donation, please return it to school in the by Wed., December 11.

Thank you for your help with this worthwhile project.

Zion Lutheran School Faculty

**Come join us for food and fellowship  
Before our Advent Services  
We will serve dinner from  
5:30-6:45.**

**Free will offering  
to support  
the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade class of Zion  
Lutheran School Dec. 4 & 11**



**Wed., Dec. 4** Sloppy Joes, green beans, and dessert  
**Wed., Dec. 11** Frito Chili Pie and dessert  
**Wed., Dec. 18** menu to be announced; meal by Women of Zion

**Each Advent Service begins at 7:00 pm.**

## **Upcoming School Events**

Dec. 3 practice for Children's Christmas Service, 1pm  
Dec. 4 Advent Dinner, 5:30pm  
Advent Service, 7:00pm  
Dec. 5 practice for Children's Christmas Service, 1pm  
Dec. 9 K-2<sup>nd</sup> sing for Low Vision Support Group, 2pm  
Dec. 10 practice for Children's Christmas Service, 8:15am  
Dec. 11 Advent Dinner, 5:30pm  
Advent Service, 7:00pm  
Dec. 13 practice for Children's Christmas Service, 8:15am  
Dec. 15 Dress Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Service, 9:00-10:00am  
**Dec. 17 Children's Christmas Service, 7:00 pm**  
Dec. 18 ***Birthday Lunch***  
Advent Dinner, 5:30pm  
Advent Service, 7:00pm  
Dec. 20 End of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter  
Dec. 24 Candlelight Service, 7:00pm  
Dec. 25 Christmas Day Service, 10:00am  
Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Service, 7:00pm  
**Dec. 23 – Jan. 3, Christmas Break, school resumes**  
**Monday, January 6**