



Zion Lutheran School Connection

This year's theme: "Light the World!"

"...you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light" – Ephesians 5:8

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"For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." – Colossians 1:9-14

Feeling Full?

Have you had the occasion to "feel full" yet? During the weeks from Thanksgiving to New Years, "tis' the season to be feasting." Family dinners, Christmas parties, cookies, candy, treats brought by friends and neighbors, etc. can leave us feeling rather, "full". Then there are the activities: shopping, decorating, traveling, and others that wind us up or wear us down, making us feel tired and overwhelmed. You may already feel like saying, "Enough! I'm full."

But are we filling up of the right things? Paul's hope for the Colossians is God's hope for us as well. When we "fill up" on the knowledge of God's will provided in His Word, gaining understanding of God's desire for our lives and strengthening our faith, we can never have too much! Rather than feeling bloated and overwhelmed, we are energized and empowered to bear the fruit of good works done out of thankfulness, endure the challenges of life, and wait patiently for God's will, giving thanks in all circumstances. Talk about energy food!

Some say that a chemical known as tryptophan is present in cooked turkey, which can cause sleepiness in eaters. I'm not sure how effective it actually is, but it's been the excuse of many a holiday nap (including my own). May God help us to beware of the "spiritual tryptophan" of unnecessary or over-emphasized holiday activities that wear us out or make us feel too full, leading us to make excuses rather than spend time "filling up" on God's Word. May the decorations, events and activities only be the appetizers for the main course, the joyful celebration and worship of our King. God bless your Christmas and Advent preparations, and your week!

Principal Schneck ☺

You Are Invited!

Last week we sent home for each family a devotional booklet called *Jesus' Family Tree*, along with a cardboard Jesse Tree with ornaments. We encourage you to make use of this resource as you count down the days to the celebration of Christ's Birth. Or if you wish, you can use the symbols to come up with a Jesse Tree design of your own.

We have a few extra copies if you would like to pick one up for friends or family. Please see Mr. Schneck.

For older kids and adults, another Jesse Tree resource is the devotional booklet *The Jesse Tree* available free for download from our WELS school of ministry, Martin Luther College at this link:

<https://mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions/>

This site also has downloadable templates of the daily symbols to print out to make your own Jesse Tree.

We also invite you to Advent Worship opportunities at Zion. Advent Worship services are Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on December 2nd, 9th, and 16th.

May God bless your family as you count down together to the celebration of our Savior's birth!

Chapel Service

School families are invited to join us for our morning school chapel service this week Wednesday, December 2nd at 8:05 a.m. Parents, family and friends are welcome! Parents attending chapel are asked to park in the circle drive (Cole Road entrance) and enter through door "D".

Hot Lunch this week:

Wednesday, December 2nd – Taco Bell

Friday, December 4th – Personal Pizza

Children's Christmas Service

Due to the continuing Covid restrictions, our students in grades K-8 will be presenting their Christmas service as an online service this year. They will be recording the service on December 11th, and the service will be posted online on our website for viewing on Sunday, December 20th and following. Please invite your family and friends to join us remotely in our celebration of our Savior's birth!

On the Calendar...

- **Wednesday, December 2nd**
Hot Lunch – Taco Bell
Advent Worship at Zion 7:00 p.m.
- **Friday, December 4th**
Hot Lunch - Pizza
- **Sunday, December 6th –**
Worship Services at Zion Lutheran
8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

The following is from students in our school working on a community service project :

Friends of Companion Animals



We are Camden and Levi Fager, an eighth and a sixth grader in Mr. Schneck's classroom. We are doing a community service project for our first degree black belts, and we will collect donations for Friends of Companion Animals. Friends of Companion Animals is a shelter and rescue for cats that is 100 percent run by volunteers. They care for the cats until they are adopted.

We are going to set out a donation box in the school hallway starting November 16 through December 11. If you would like to donate items for the cats at Friends of Companion Animals, you can put them in the donation box, and we will take the items to Friends of Companion Animals in December. The most needed items are: Tidy Cat Clumping Litter, Purina Naturals Original, Purina Gentle Food, Purina Kitten Chow, Friskies Canned Cat Food, Monroe Feed gift cards, Gasoline gift cards, Kroger, Meijer, or Walmart gift cards, PetSmart gift cards, hand sanitizer, regular bleach (not the splashless kind), antibacterial dish soap, and paper towels.

Thank you for your consideration and any help with our project!

Camden and Levi Fager