



# 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

**Issue # 18**

**November 23, 2020**

## **Advent Devotional for Families**

Have you ever heard of a Jesse Tree? The Jesse Tree is a tradition passed down from Medieval times. The name comes from Isaiah 11:1, which says, *A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.* That Branch is Jesus, descending from the family tree of Jesse, the father of King David. On a Jesse Tree, ornaments with symbols are reminders of the story of Salvation from Creation to Christmas. Many Christians today use Jesse Trees like Advent calendars, counting down the days to Christmas by remembering Bible stories and truths every day from December 1 to Christmas Day.

On Tuesday we will be sending 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.

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.

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

## **Thanksgiving Holiday**

There will be **no school classes** for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday and Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy your break!

## **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 11<sup>th</sup>, and the service will be posted online on our website for viewing on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> and following. Please invite your family and friends to join us remotely in our celebration of our Savior's birth!

## **Chapel Service**

School families are invited to join us for our afternoon school chapel service this week Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.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:**

(for those who ordered in advance)

Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> – Stroganoff

(rescheduled from last Wednesday)

Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> – Chicken Nuggets and Fries

Those wishing to take hot lunch in December are asked to please return the December Hot Lunch order form (sent home last week) to school by Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Extra copies are available on the table by the school entrance.

## NWEA MAP Testing

We are not participating in M-Step testing for grades K-7 this year. Instead we are using a new testing program called MAP (Measure of Academic Progress). Over the next few weeks at different times students in grades K-7 will be participating in online testing. These are tests that are given several times during the school year to help track their progress and identify areas of need. They are not graded or count towards their report cards; they simply allow us to see how they are progressing and help us to inform our educational planning. We will be staggering testing times for different grades. The tests themselves only take time over the course of about one day for each student and will not adversely impact their regular curriculum.

## Zion Spirit Wear Orders are due TODAY

We are placing orders for Spirit Wear for those wishing to have items in time for Christmas. Please see the attached form. Orders need to be into the church/school office no later than TODAY, Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Checks should be made out to Rick's Sports. Please see Mrs. Vanisacker if you have any questions.

-----

## On the Calendar...

- **Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Hot Lunch – Stroganoff
- **Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Hot Lunch – Chicken Nuggets and Fries

## Thanksgiving Holiday Break

**Thursday and Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> –  
No School Classes**

- **Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> –**  
*Worship Services at Zion Lutheran  
8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.*
- 

## Thanksgiving Worship Services at Zion

Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> – 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 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