Pastor….…..….…......................................Rev. Jerry Gilbreath

Worship Leaders…................................................Praise Team Lector………………….………………….…….…..Mary Lenners

Acolytes......................................Kiera Busboom, Kyla Davison

Greeters.…….... Paul & Jenny Busboom, Caroline Gronewold

Children’s Church……..……………………….…… Joni Folkerts

Breakfast Club………….………………………Marcia Busboom

Past**or Jer’s** phone number – 402-404-0494

Janice Parde’s number – 402-520-2322

**Last Week’s Vital Statistics**

Attendance and Offerings

Church 201 $3,753.00 Sunday School 62 $56.36

Candlelight 170 $1,327.00

**This Week**

Sunday School, 8:45 am (Gift Exchange)

Breakfast Club, 9 am

Adult Class, 9-9:15 am

Worship/Holy Communion, 10 am

Holiday Home Tour 1-4:30 pm

Nativity scenes & Karen & friends Christmas goodies in the parish hall from 2-5:30 pm

**Wednesday**

Christmas Practice – Gr 7 & 8, 6:30-8 pm & Grades 2 thru 6, 7-8 pm

**Thursday**

Ladies Aide

**Next Sunday**

Program Practice for Sunday School, 8:45 am

Breakfast Club, 9 am

Adult Class, 9-9:15 am

Worship, 10 am

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome to worship! Warm Welcome to all our visitors. We would love to have you visit again! We ask that you please sign a visitor card located in the pews and place the information section of the card in the offering plate. We are so glad you are here!**

**HEAVENLY GROUNDS……**COFFEE’S BREWING BEFORE CHURCH TOO! If you get here early, (9:15) come on in and have a cup of coffee and enjoy fellowship before church! And, if you see visitors, welcome them in so we can spend time in fellowship with them as well.

**HANDICAP PARKING**-IN THE NEED FOR MORE HANDICAP PARKING FOR OUR WORSHIP SERVICES, WE WILL BEGIN TO USE ALL SPACES FROM PARSONAGE TO NORTH DOORS OF CHURCH FOR THOSE THAT HAVE DIFFICULTY WALKING OR USE WALKERS. PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF THOSE THAT TRULY NEED THE CLOSER PARKING.  THANK YOU!!    *~The Church Council*

**Church council makes CDs and DVDs of each service**.  If you would like a copy of a service (present or past), please let a council member know.

**My Apologies** Zion’s web page hasn’t been updated lately. The internet is not working properly at church and I am not able to get on to the site. We hope to have this issue resolved soon. Janice

**The family of LaVern Parde** are hosting an Open House and Card Shower in celebration of LaVern’s 90th Birthday. Open House will be on Dec. 29th from 2-4pm @ The American Legion in Beatrice. Cards may be sent to 628 N 33rd St. Beatrice.

**Poinsettia Plant Lists** can be found in the hallways of the church if you would like to bring a plant in memory of a loved one.

**No Men’s Choir Monday** night but they will sing next Sunday, Dec. 22nd.

**WELCA Year Books** are printed and in the entry ways of the church.

**HOLIDAY HOME TOUR 2019**

**Sunday, December 15th**

**1:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

***Join us for a JOYous Event as members of the Zion Congregation***

***are opening their homes to guests to enjoy their Christmas décor***

***and interior design. The tour also includes a renovated barn.***

**WITH YOUR $30 DONATION YOU WILL RECEIVE A TOUR PASS WITH MAP.**

**YOUR DONATION WILL BE ACCEPTED AT ALL LOCATIONS.**

***We will also be accepting donations of nonperishable food items, and/or***

***paper products to benefit the Community Food Pantry.***

***Tour Homes and Addresses***

**John & Marcia Busboom · 1144 W Pickrell Rd ·Pickrell**

**Trauernicht Family Barn·14387 s 12th Rd ·Pickrell**

***Hosted by Doug & Rhonda Trauernicht Dorn***

**Gerald & Denise Ideus ·8994 E Juniper Rd·Filley**

**Paul & Cindy Jurgens·9122 East Hickory Rd · Filley**

**Les & Cindy Lieneman·7909 East Hickory Rd·Filley**

**Gary & Annette Wiese·23341 S 66th Rd·Beatrice**

***YOU ARE ALSO INVITED TO MAKE A STOP AT THE ZION PARISH HALL AND SEE THE PROGRESS OF THE RENOVATION, ENJOY CHRISTMAS TREATS PROVIDED BY KAREN GILBREATH & FRIENDS, AND NATIVITY SCENES DISPLAYS OF OUR ZION MEMBERS.* You may leave your Nativity Scenes in the Parish Hall basement on the 15th between 10 am – noon, and are to be picked up as soon as possible after the event.**

***The ZION PARISH HALL DOES NOT REQUIRE A TOUR PASS***

***BUT WILL ACCEPT FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS.***

**HOLIDAY HOME TOUR PASSES ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL HOMES BUT YOU CAN ALSO GET THEM THIS MORNING FROM  MARY LENNERS, SHE  WILL BE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL FOLLOWING TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE. WITH YOUR $30 DONATION YOU WILL HAVE ENTRANCE TO ALL HOMES AND THE TRAUERNICHT BARN.  NO PASS/DONATION IS NECESSARY FOR THE PARISH HALL CHRISTMAS  FELLOWSHIP AND NATIVITY WALK.**

**FREE ORNAMENTS**

Looking for a keepsake on your tree?  Zion 2009 commemorative ornaments are available and are located by the advent calendar at the Unity Room entrances.

**PARISH HALL RENOVATION UPDATE**... thanks for all contributions!   Current total needed is now around $9000.

**THRIVENT ACTION GRANTS OF $250 each**have been written recently for the following events/activities...

     Doreen Remmers ....Community Outreach to ***share the Gospe***l during the Holiday Parade

     Doreen Remmers.... ***Warmer Day's***sponsored by Breakfast Club along with their potato bar before candlelight service

     Stan Lenners...***Community Food Pantry***in conjunction with the Holiday Tour of Homes

***WALMART*** also supported the Zion's parade entry with a $25 gift card to replace lights/batteries & supply candy

**If your group is in need of a Thrivent Action Grant** -please see one of us & we will be glad to assist.  Your Zion Team is Denise Ideus,  Doreen Remmers & Connie Thornburg.

**Christmas Eve Offering – to Freeman & Beatrice Backpack Programs**

**Sunday School News:**

Christmas is upon us and Zion’s Sunday School is gearing up for a busy and blessed season.  The following are dates and times of importance.

**Program Practice**

**December 18**6:30-8:00 Grades 7 and 8

7:00-8:00 Grades 2 through 6

**Sunday School**

**December 15**-Teacher Gift Exchange

**December 22**- Program Practice

**December 29**-No Sunday School

**January 5**-Sunday School resumes at 8:45

**Church Dates/Times**

**December 24**6:00 Christmas Eve Program

\*Grades 2-8 report to church at 5:30

\*Nursery through 1st grade report to the Fellowship hall at 5:45

**Tree of Warmth**

The Sunday School will once again be collecting new winter weather items to be distributed to area agencies.  Please place mittens, gloves, scarves, and stocking hats on the tree located in the Fellowship Hall.

**Advent Calendar -** ELCA has provided us with a World Hunger Advent Calendar we can use during the upcoming advent season. They can be found at the entry ways of the Unity Room. Please take a calendar home with you today as we prepare our hearts to see the heart of Jesus!

**IMPORTANT UPDATE...**

In the past we have asked members to make a financial commitment to Zion using a "pledge card".  However in recent years a low percentage (1%) of people actually complete and turn in.  Therefore it has been approved by council to no longer use this system.  Two options that allow us to assist you in tracking your giving are by offering envelopes or direct deposit. Please let council know if you would like to use either of these options and currently do not do so.

Time & Talent Sheets will be found in your January newsletter/bulletins to be updated for our 2020 church year.

**We don't want to think about church cancellations** but council would like to let you know the different ways we will reach out if we have to cancel.

Church cancellation will be communicated through our **church facebook page, text (if in the text group), KWBE 1450 AM and Channel 10/11.**

Be sure to "like" our Zion Lutheran Church-Pickrell facebook page if you haven't already and if you're not already in the text group, let council know your cellular phone number and the phone company so we can get you added.

**COLLEGE STUDENTS**

The Willie and Anna Meints scholarship applications are located in the North & South church hallways.  Students entering college can apply for the scholarship for up to 4 years.  **Applications must be received by January 15, 2020 following the start of the students first college year.**Applications received after the January 15, 2020 deadline will not be considered.  **NOTE:**Please make sure to read through the qualifications listed on the application, as the student must be an active communing member of Zion Lutheran Church & a printout of the student’s grades are needed upon completion of their 2019 Fall semester.

 Committee Members:  Doreen Wallman, Steve Oltman & DeAnn Oltman

**Membership Directory Update** – If you have had a change of address or phone number. Please contact Karen Gilbreath or the church office so we can get them corrected. A new directory will be available the coming new year.

St. **John Lutheran Church** – presents “Another Contemporary Christmas” with the St. John Sanctuary Band and Friends (***Jeff Gronewold will be singing***) On Friday, December 20 at 7:30 pm. Admission if free. A free-will offering will be accepted to benefit the community Food Pantry & Emergency Services.

**Christmas Tea –** Friday, Dec. 20th @ 10 am in the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre, 307 S 7th St. Wymore. Featuring carols sung in English, Welsh, German & Czech. We have invited the Czechs @ Wilber to join us in song with our local German speakers. Serving Welsh tea and Christmas Treats. Special Guest – Gail Price Baker, a native of wales, will be our Emcee and has created a special program for all to enjoy!

**Blood Drive** – Friday, Dec. 27th from 7 am to 6 pm @ Holiday Inn Express.

**The 5th Sunday offerings will be designated as follows:**

**December-** Park Board

**Helping out in worship next Sunday:**

Lector - Todd Bohlmeyer

Acolytes – Kolby Mahler, Carson Robinson

Greeters – Darvin & LaDonna DeBuhr, Duane & Janice Parde

Special Music – Amigos

Children’s Church – Sammie Garton

Breakfast Club – Jennifer Mahler

**December Altar Guild:** Sandy Meints, Marcella Rademacher, Susan Newman, Lorene Wallman

**December Table Troop Volunteers: Duane Zulauf (Leader),** Mark Buhr, Alex Buhr, Jeff Busboom, Steve Gronewold

**Snow Brigade week of Dec 16 Tracy Lidolph, Council, AJ Wiese Captain**, Dave Holland, Greg Dorn, Alan Folkerts, Mike Busboom, Dean Zimmerman, Russ Wallman, Craig Ideus, Alex Buhr, Alan Wiese

**Shut-Ins**

**Gold Crest** – *Emma Meints, Marie Schoen*

**Homestead House** – *Thees Busboom*, *Elsie Zimmerman,*

**Clark Jeary** – *Leona Trauernicht*

**Whispering Winds Cottage** – *LaVern Parde*

**PEO Home –** *Angeline Johnson*

**Our Homes Assisted Living** – *Randy Oltman*

**Service**

*Everett Bloom*

*P.O. Box 348*

*Newport, News, VA 23607*