ZION CRUSADER

October 28, 2026

UPCOMING DATES AND ACTIVITIES	
Wednesday, October 28	Holy Cross Trunk or Treat - 6 pm
Thursday, October 29	K-8 Helgoth's Pumpkin Patch (Make-up Day)
Saturday, October 31	School Carnival – 1-4 pm
Wednesday, November 4	Pie Orders and Payment Due
Wednesday, November 11	K-8 Veterans' Day Program – 2 pm
Wednesday, November 18	Pie Pick Up – Gym – 3:30-5:30 pm
Tuesday, November 24	PreK Thank You God Parties (10 am & 2 pm)
Wednesday-Friday, November 25-27	Thanksgiving Break
Friday, December 11 (1pm) Sunday, December 13 (4pm)	K-8 Christmas Program

HELGOTH'S PUMPKIN PATCH

The K-8 students will be going to Helgoth's Pumpkin Patch on October 29th. It is $5 per student (will be billed through FACTS). **Students must bring a sack lunch!** Background checks are required for drivers and chaperones. Please see Holly in the office for information. *Pre-K students staying for lunch will also need a sack lunch on this day.

SCHOOL CARNIVAL

Our School Carnival will be Saturday, October 31st from 1-4 pm. Costumes are allowed, but please help your children make good choices about appropriate costumes to wear. Games (cake walk, bean bag toss, ring toss, etc.) will be set up throughout the school and in the gym. Tickets are sold for $0.25 each and participants earn stamps in order to purchase prizes.



This fun event only works with lots of help! We still need volunteers to do the following:

- Make cotton candy!
- Donate cakes!
- Work game booths!
- Help at the food stand!
- Help at the prize table!

Please sign up to help with one or more of the above items at this link: https://tinyurl.com/3eakt4z2

PIE SALES

One week remains to sell holiday pies! Please turn orders and payment in to Holly or use the QR Code to order online by 3:30 pm on November 4th! On Wednesday, November 18th, the pies will be ready for families to pick up in the gym from 3:30 pm until 5:30 pm. Your family will then deliver the pies to your customers that night or shortly thereafter. Pie Sale proceeds help fund student activities, special events, supplies, and more – providing opportunities beyond the regular school budget.

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

Zion's Veterans Day Program will be Wednesday, November 11th at 2 pm. **Make sure your K-8 student is wearing their Zion polos and khakis for the program.** Parents and the community are welcome to attend!

WELCOME TO ZION – BOHDAN & SHEPHERD!



Zion is pleased to welcome two very special baby boys born to staff members this fall. First, please welcome **Bohdan Herrera**, born on Sept. 29th – to Mrs. Chelsea Herrera, our pre-k aide, and her husband and Zion board member Adam.

Next, we thank God for the gift of **Shepherd DeLoach**, born on October 20 to Mr. Zachariah & Kayli DeLoach. Mr. DeLoach is our 6th grade teacher. Shepherd is also the first grandchild of Zion's Pastor DeLoach and first grade aide, Mrs. Carol DeLoach.





PREK THANK YOU GOD PARTIES

Mrs. Hinrichs and Mrs. Halva will be hosting Thank You God parties for their students and families. Mrs. Hinrich's party will be at 10:30 am and Mrs. Halva's will be at 2 pm. Both will be in the Fellowship Hall.

NEW EDUCATION TAX CREDITS

Beginning in January and for the 2027-28 School Year, you have a unique opportunity to support student scholarships in a way that may cost little to nothing out of pocket. Please take a moment to review this important program and consider participating.

Starting Jan. 1, 2027, eligible taxpayers can redirect up to **$1,700 ($3,400 for joint filers)** of their federal tax liability through Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska (OSN) to support Zion Lutheran scholarships.

You receive a dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit, meaning this is not a traditional donation. For many families, it costs little to nothing out of pocket. You are simply redirecting a portion of your federal tax liability to tuition assistance at Zion rather than sending it to Washington D.C..

Designate Zion Lutheran Kearney as the beneficiary and your redirected tax dollars will help provide tuition assistance for Zion students rather than going to the federal government.

Many families can both contribute and benefit. Families meeting OSN income guidelines (300% of median household income) may still apply for scholarships, even if they participate in the program.

Stay informed. Complete the information form on the OSN website. There is no obligation to participate, but it ensures you'll receive updates and details as the program launches. The application window to receive opportunity scholarships will open in the spring. We will provide this information when it becomes available.

I cannot overstate the positive impact that this can have on our school and our families. Together, we can increase access to Lutheran education and strengthen Zion Lutheran for future generations using tax dollars you already owe. Please visit the OSN website for more information. There is a helpful explainer video on the site below. Check it out!

https://nebraskaopportunity.org

ZION MISSION STATEMENT

Our Purpose: At Zion Lutheran School we strive to provide an excellent, classical education in a safe environment, while connecting students to Christ for life in the Church, world, and eternity.

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to our girls' volleyball team for a successful season! The girls had a great 3rd place win at their last tournament! Well done! We are all proud of you! Special thanks to Coach Manny Portillo!



SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The K-8 Christmas Program is Sunday, December 13th at 4 pm. There will also be a program on Friday, December 11th at 1:00 pm open to families that want to avoid large crowds. Please come listen to the students celebrate the birth of Christ!

Students are asked to wear dress clothes on the Sunday program (school uniforms are not required). On Friday, students are to wear their Zion polos and khakis.

We also host a traditional post-program cookies & bar social time in the gymnasium. We ask that each family bring 1-2 dozen cookies. Please drop these off either on the Friday the 11th or before the program on the 13th. Thank you!

GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE



This year Zion will be participating in the Give Where You Live Campaign on December 3rd (Giving Day), but donations will be accepted starting November 5th. If you would rather give in person, feel free to stop by the office. Please share this with family and friends. To contribute online go to: https://www.givewhereyoulive.net/organization/ZionLutheranSchool.

BOYS B-BALL ASSISTANT COACH NEEDED!

An assistant coach for boys basketball is needed! We are also looking for assistant track & field coaches. Please contact Mrs. Jamie Marquardt if you have any interest.

REGISTRATION 2027-2028 SCHOOL YEAR

Registration for the 2027-2028 school year for current school families and Zion church members will open on December 3rd. Registration will open to the public on Tuesday, January 5th. Registration papers for early childhood families will be attached to the November edition of this newsletter.