

They came from the East—modern day area of Iraq perhaps. We do not know how many of them there were. We do know they cause quite the commotion when they arrive. These Magi come with a purpose and want to know: “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him?” (Matthew 2:2).

The Jews were God’s chosen people. Out of all the peoples and nations and cultures God had chosen them who could trace their line back to Father Abraham. They received the promise. The one who would save from the curse of sin and the power of the devil would come from them. The king would be for them! They were special. They were set apart. They had the Lord’s special favor! Everyone else not Jewish were on the outside looking in. You know what that is like to be on the outside. To not quite fit in. To be different. To watch someone else receive the special favor.

But it was to these outsiders, these strangers from the East—Magi—that God had revealed that this specific star in the sky meant the King was born. By revealing this knowledge to them God was also showing them that this King was not only of the Jews he is their king too! In fact, this baby born in Bethlehem is the King over every nation, peoples, and culture. Which means, this King is for you, especially you.

You didn’t come to this knowledge on your own. No amount of our thinking or choosing could have brought us to this truth. No, just as it was for the Magi so God did with you: he revealed it to you. He doesn’t do it with stars in the sky, but as he led the Magi to know Bethlehem, so he does with you: he uses his Word. It’s by His word, the Bible that we know our King who came to save us from our sin. There we see our King who loved us so much that he gave up everything so that we might be his own. There we see our King who chose you before the creation of the world and then moved time, space, and eternity so that he would be born of a virgin mother, to live, to die, to rise again for you, especially you. He doesn’t want you on the outside. Through His word and in baptism he has brought you into his kingdom. You are his people. You are his own with all the benefits that come along with it—God’s love, forgiveness of sin, hope, life, every good gift!

Happy New Year!

Pastor Flitter

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **Winter Attire**

- Please be sure students are dressed appropriately for the colder weather. Send them with hats, gloves, and coats—we don't want them to be too cold at recess! If you have questions about dress code, it is on page 11 of the School Handbook.

### **Zion Parent Group**

- Our next meeting will take place at 6:30 pm on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. All parents of our preschool and grade school are invited to take part in this group. At our meeting we will be planning more with helping to host the Art Fair and Soup Contest as well as other upcoming events! See you there.

### **Hot Lunch**

- To sign-up to serve Hot Lunch in the second half of the year, please follow this link:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44ADA72CA7FCC70-friday1>
- If you are having issues with the sign-up but have a date in mind, let me know and I will register you. Miss Sarah Dewey has offered to help serve hot lunch. If a family would provide the food and recipe, she has offered to put it together for the students. Please speak with me and her if you are interested.

### **ART FAIR AND SOUP CONTEST**

- We invite you to join us for a night of enjoying the artistic talent of our students. Join us in the basement of Zion Lutheran Church for our Art Fair scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> starting at 6 pm. Some of the art that your student(s) have been working on throughout the school year will be on display. They are also able to bring one art or craft that they have worked on from home if they would like. Please speak to your student's teacher with any questions about this.
- As part of that evening, we will also have a Soup Cooking Contest. Find your favorite recipe and be ready to share it. We will give small samples and let the people decide whose is best! More details to follow.

### **Tutoring on Fridays**

- On Friday mornings Miss Sarah Dewey is available to help students—especially in Mr. Kupsky's classroom—should they need tutoring help. If you feel your student would benefit from some time with Ms. Dewey, please have them sign-up in Mr. Kupsky's classroom.

*If you have not been receiving emails from the above [zionvalentineschool@gmail.com](mailto:zionvalentineschool@gmail.com) address, please check your other email folders (Junk, Promotions, etc.). If you still do not see anything, please let me know as I might have entered the incorrect email address.*

## January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Tuition Payments Due	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Hot Lunch _____	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10 am—Church Service 11:15 am—Sunday School/Bible Study	<b>9</b> 6:30 pm—Zion Parent Group	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9 am—Chapel 2:30 pm—Book Mobile	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  <b>Noon Dismissal; No afternoon PreK</b>  <b>End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10 am—Church Service 11:15 am—Potluck	<b>16</b>  <b>No Preschool or School</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9 am—Chapel	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Hot Lunch _____	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10 am—Church Service 11:15 am—Sunday School/Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9 am—Chapel 2:30 pm—Book Mobile	<b>26</b> 6 pm—Art Fair	<b>27</b> Hot Lunch _____	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10 am—Church Service 11:15 am—Sunday School/Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

