



“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10

April 1, 2020

Dear Zion Parents and Students,

According to the latest Directive Health Measure from the State of Nebraska for the Coronavirus pandemic, the closed through minimum date for schools in Adams County has been pushed back to May 12th. We will continue to offer online/packet learning. Our Easter break has been extended and will now be from April 6th – 13th. Zion Lutheran School will have two more materials and homework pick-up days for this academic year:

- Tuesday, April 14th from 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. (learning packets for April 14th – 27th)
- Tuesday, April 28th from 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. (learning packets for April 28th – May 14th)

We will follow the same system as we have been using. Preschool through 2nd grade should pick up outside gym doors. Third through 8th grade should pick up outside church doors. Pull up to the curb, and your student’s disinfected materials will be brought out to you. Families with multiple children should pull up to the door for their oldest student’s grade to pick up materials for your entire family.

All evening and after-school activities/meetings/events for the remainder of our school year have been cancelled or postponed. The last day of school will now be **Thursday, May 14th**. A few of our events will take place online/virtually, including our Enrollment Night, Spring Concert, Awards Night, and Graduation Ceremonies. Stay tuned for further details on those.

Although this situation is not ideal for anyone and we dearly miss seeing our students in person, our teachers will continue to go the extra mile to provide all of the learning supports and accommodations possible for you and your children while at home. All assignments will continue to be graded. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your teachers if you are struggling or need extra help. They have made themselves more than available to help out however they can. Open communication is key during this challenging time! Here are some tips for learning at home from our teachers:

- Get fresh air and sunshine by playing outside every day if possible. Just maintain that social distance.
- Set a daily schedule and stick to it. Children thrive on routine.
- Change out of your pajamas! How you look and feel has a direct effect on your ability to learn.
- Set aside a quiet space at a table or desk.
- Keep a regular bedtime.
- Encourage your students to read lots (or read lots of books to them if they are younger).

- Invite your child(ren) to cook with you. Teach them measurements and incorporate simple math lessons as you go.
- Eat meals together and relish this unique time to bond as a family. Ask your children to teach you some of the fun before-meal prayers they have learned at school.
- Don't fight! If the teaching/learning gets stressful, just take a break.
- Visit <https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/health-ministry/pandemic> for many helpful resources, including family prayers, devotions, and news articles.

We pray that everyone stays healthy and safe during this uncertain time. Please follow all safety guidelines and recommendations from our government officials. What a blessing it is for our school to be able to share the Word of God to comfort you during this time of panic and uncertainty:

"I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." -John 16:33

God's Blessings,



Sara Nielsen
Principal

