

Upcoming Event

NO SCHOOL



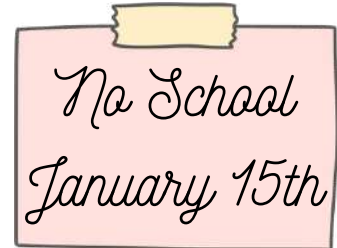
**January
1st & 2nd**

Upcoming Event

**PTL
MEETING**

**Wednesday,
January 10th
6:00 PM**

Upcoming Event



We are beyond blessed by the kindness of so many families! Thank you to those who supported our Giving Tree, fulfilled the Amazon wish lists, gifted our teachers and staff with thoughtful gifts at this meaningful time of year! The anonymous donations, your support and prayers, and your kind words and visits are so appreciated! The family of Zion is so thankful for all the FAMILIES OF ZION!

★ ★ ★ End of ★ ★ ★
Marking Period
January 12th
Please remember to
check FACTS!

*Merry Christmas
from Pastor Baerwolf*

Psalm 98 is the basis of the beautiful Christmas hymn, "Joy to the World". The psalm begins with these words, "Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!" We love hearing our Zion kids sing, making a joyful noise to the Lord. Something happens when we sing as the Holy Spirit uses the melody of His love to connect us with each other as that harmony of praise is lifted to the heavens. It is what makes worshiping together such a beautiful gift and such a treasure for your family. During this December, what are some of the marvelous things God has done for you?



TEACHER CORNER

THIS WEEK'S FEATURED TEACHER: MR. YOUNG



What a blessing it was to watch all the kids do such an amazing job on the Christmas program! Using that, and their studies of religions around the world, as an inspiration, the seventh and eighth graders are traveling around the world and learning about Christmas traditions that other countries and cultures enjoy celebrating :) While the older kids are traveling around the world, the fifth and sixth graders have been studying the history of the United States from Native American times and colonization of our country. During this Christmas time, we are learning about Colonial Christmas traditions as well as comparing and contrasting our traditions today with those from the olden times. Have a blessed Christmas season, and if you have a middle schooler, be sure to ask them about what they have been learning!

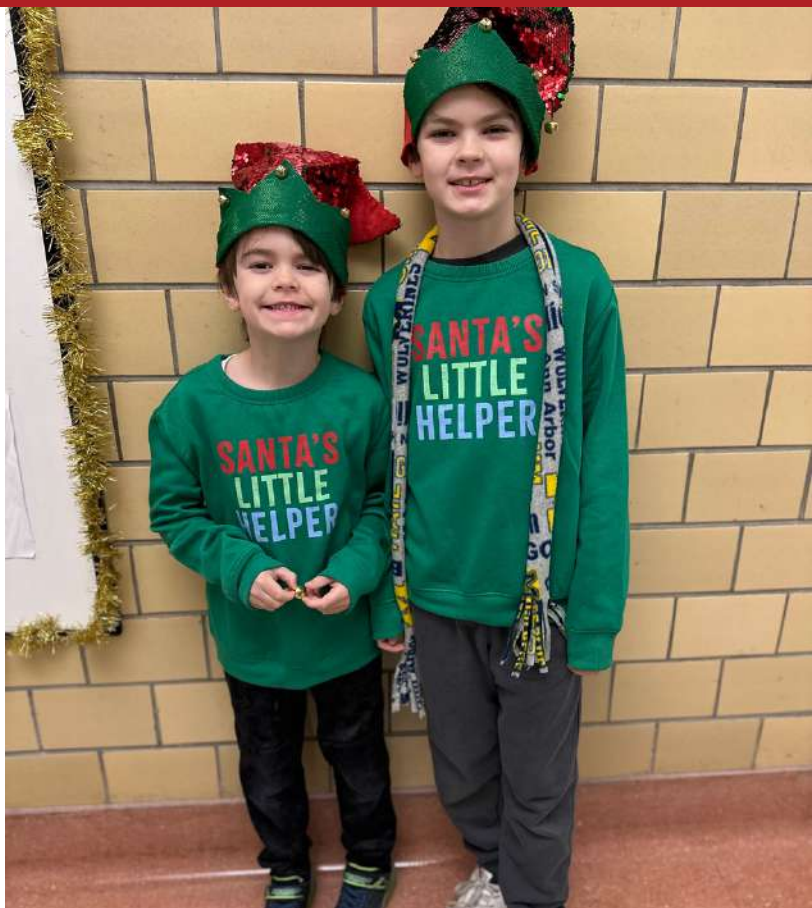
SPirit WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

MONDAY - RED & GREEN DAY



SPRIT WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

TUESDAY - SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER



SPirit Week Highlights

Wednesday - Favorite Character Day



SPRIT WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

THURSDAY - UGLY SWEATER DAY



SPIRIT WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY - PAJAMA DAY





January Breakfast Menu



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 CLOSED	2 Cereal Poptart Fruit Juice Milk	3 Cereal Scooby Crackers Fruit Juice Milk	4 Cereal Cereal Bar Fruit Juice Milk	5 Cereal Teddy Grahams Fruit Juice Milk	6
7	8 Cereal Nutri-Grain Bar Fruit Juice Milk	9 Cereal Poptart Fruit Juice Milk	10 Cereal Scooby Crackers Fruit Juice Milk	11 Cereal Cereal Bar Fruit Juice Milk	12 Cereal Teddy Grahams Fruit Juice Milk	13
14	15 Cereal Nutri-Grain Bar Fruit Juice Milk	16 Cereal Poptart Fruit Juice Milk	17 Cereal Scooby Crackers Fruit Juice Milk	18 Cereal Cereal Bar Fruit Juice Milk	19 Cereal Teddy Grahams Fruit Juice Milk	20
21	22 Cereal Nutri-Grain Bar Fruit Juice Milk	23 Cereal Poptart Fruit Juice Milk	24 Cereal Scooby Crackers Fruit Juice Milk	25 Cereal Cereal Bar Fruit Juice Milk	26 Cereal Teddy Grahams Fruit Juice Milk	27
28	29 Cereal Nutri-Grain Bar Fruit Juice Milk	30 Cereal Poptart Fruit Juice Milk	31 Cereal Scooby Crackers Fruit Juice Milk	1 Cereal Cereal Bar Fruit Juice Milk	2 Cereal Teddy Grahams Fruit Juice Milk	



January Lunch Menu



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ham & Cheese Sandwich is always served as the second choice.	1 CLOSED	2 Chicken Patty on Bun Fruit Carrots Milk	3 Pizza Fruit Baked Beans Cucumbers Milk	4 Pancakes & Sausage Fruit Hashbrowns Carrots Milk	5 Ravioli w/ Roll Fruit Broccoli Cauliflower Milk	6
7	8 Corn Dog Fruit Baked Beans Corn Milk	9 Cheeseburger on Bun Fruit Carrots Milk	10 Pizza Fruit Broccoli Carrots Milk	11 Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Milk	12 Waffles & Sausage Fruit Hashbrown Cucumbers Milk	13
14 January 15 Only Preschool & Childcare	15 Chicken Leg w/ Mac N Cheese Carrots Fruit Milk	16 Chicken Spaghetti Corn Cucumbers Fruit Milk	17 Pizza Baked Beans Broccoli Fruit Milk	18 Beef Taco on Tortilla Shell Carrots Fruit Milk	19 Hot Dog Potato Wedges Cauliflower Fruit Milk	20
21	22 Chicken Taco on Tortilla Shell Cucumbers Carrots Fruit Milk	23 Grilled Cheese Broccoli Corn Fruit Milk	24 Pizza Carrots Baked Beans Fruit Milk	25 Popcorn Chicken Salad Cucumbers Fruit Milk	26 Terriyaki Chicken on Rice Baked Beans Green Beans Fruit Milk	27
28	29 Bosco Sticks Broccoli Potato Wedges Fruit Milk	30 Ravioli w/ Roll Carrots Corn Fruit Milk	31 Pizza Carrots Green Beans Fruit Milk	1 Chicken Patty on Bun Sweet Potatoes Baked Beans	2 Chicken Tenders Potato Wedges Cauliflower Fruit Milk	

Cougar
Basketball
Schedule
Jan & Feb
2024

Su n.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sa t.
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 <u>B-Girls vs ASC 5:30</u> <u>B Boys vs ASC 6:15</u>	10	11	12 <u>B-Girls vs AAC 5:30</u> <u>Amelith vs AAC 6:15</u> <u>B-Boys vs Midland 7:00</u> <u>A-Girls vs Midland 7:45</u>	13
14	15	16 <u>B-Girls vs St Paul 5:30</u> <u>B-Boys vs St. Paul 6:15</u> <u>A-Boys vs St. Paul 7:00</u>	17	18	19 <u>B-Girls @ Beaver 5:30</u> <u>B-Boys @ Beaver 6:15</u> <u>A-Girls @ Beaver 7:00</u> <u>A-Boys @ Beaver 7:45</u>	20
21	22	23 <u>B-Girls @ Amelith 5:30</u> <u>B-Boys @ Midland 5:30</u> <u>A-Girls @ Midland 6:15</u>	24	25	26 <u>B-Girls @ St Paul 5:30</u> <u>B-Boys @ St. Paul 6:15</u> <u>A-Boys @ St. Paul 7:00</u>	27
28	29	30	31	1	2 <u>B-Girls vs Beaver 5:30</u> <u>B-Boys vs Beaver 6:15</u> <u>A-Girls vs Beaver 7:00</u> <u>A-Boys vs Beaver 7:45</u>	3
4	5	6 <u>B-Girls @ ASC - 5:30</u> <u>B-Boys @ ASC - 6:15</u>	7	8	9 <u>B-Girls vs Immanuel 5:30</u> <u>Midland vs Immanuel 6:15</u> <u>B-Boys vs Amelith 7:00</u>	10

* Home Games in GOLD!

* Additional games may be added to this schedule.

* Please arrive 30 minutes prior to game time.

*All Saints (ASC) - St. Jude's (St. John's) Gym – 619 Main St, Essexville

*St. John Amelith – 1664 Amelith Rd, Bay City

*St. John Midland – 505 E. Carpenter St.

*St. Paul – 6094 Westside Saginaw Rd, Bay City

*Zion Beaver – 1557 Seidlers Rd, Auburn



While I'm Away...

Preschool & Childcare

Preschool and childcare families,

As I am nearing my maternity leave, I wanted to put out an update for when I am gone. I have been working to make sure everything will continue to run smoothly in my absence. There are many people within the school that will be available to assist when needed and provide guidance. If you have any questions, I have contacts posted below. Please continue to submit your childcare schedules as normal, our scheduling will continue as is. Tax statements for 2023 will be out no later than Friday, January 19th. We will try to have these out sooner if possible.

CONTACTS:

Mrs. Splattstoesser will be my sub while I am off. Mrs. S. is currently our 2nd grade teacher and was previously our 3-Year-Old Preschool teacher. She has been spending time in the classrooms getting to know the students. Mrs. S. can be reached at ksplatt@zionbaycity.org if you have any issues or questions. She will be available before and after school.

If you have an issue with FACTS, please reach out to Mrs. Kussro at bkussro@zionbaycity.org. Mrs. Kussro, one of our interim administrators, has experience with FACTS and will be able to assist you with any FACTS related issues.

Our other interim administrator, Mrs. Reese, will also be available and can be reached at jreese@zionbaycity.org.

As always, you can also contact me. I will check my email periodically and will get back to you as soon as I am able to.

REMINDERS:

Childcare will return from Christmas break on Tuesday, January 2nd.

Preschool will return from Christmas break on Wednesday, January 3rd.

If the school closes for a snow day, preschool and childcare will also close. You can look for a notification from FACTS as well as checking WNEM.

Make sure your child has snow gear to go outside in!

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year's! I look forward to starting the new year with your families!

Blessings,

Logan Worthing
Preschool & Childcare Director



CHURCH 510 W. Ivy St. Bay City, MI 48706 (889) 804-2611

SCHOOL 1707 S. Kessel St. Bay City, MI 48706 (889) 803-5793

Updated December 14, 2023

Parents and Families,

As every year changes slightly, we would like to put out an updated list of the dates that we will be closed in 2024. Zion Lutheran Childcare will be closed for the following dates in 2024.

- ❖ January 1 – New Year's (Return on January 2nd)
- ❖ Good Friday – March 29th
- ❖ Monday Following Easter – April 1st
- ❖ Memorial Day – Friday, May 24th & Monday, May 27th
- ❖ Independence Day & Yearly Cleaning and Re-Waxing – July 1st – 5th
- ❖ Professional Development Day ECE Conference – Wednesday, August 7th
- ❖ Professional Development Day – Friday, August 16th
- ❖ Labor Day – Friday, August 30th and Monday, September 2nd
- ❖ Thanksgiving – November 28th & 29th
- ❖ Christmas – December 23rd – January 1st (Return on January 2nd)

Dates are subject to change throughout the year. As always, we will give as much notice as possible when adjusting the calendar of closed dates.

Weather Closure

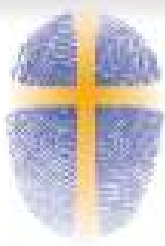
If Zion Lutheran School closes due to inclement weather, Zion Lutheran Childcare will also close. This is to keep all children and employees safe. In the event that the school and childcare close, a message will be sent out via FACTS and it will be posted on WNEM's site.

Additionally, schedules are due every Wednesday by 5:30 p.m. After this time, care will not be guaranteed. When paying, you are responsible for paying for the days you schedule your child(ren). Each child gets 6 sick days per year as well as two weeks of vacation that can be used. After this has been used, you are responsible for paying for the days you schedule.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Logan at childcare@zionbaycity.org

We hope you have a blessed year,

Zion Lutheran Preschool & Childcare



The Light has Arrived!

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwell in a land of deep
darkness, on them has light shone.*
Isaiah 9:2

We are those people!

In Advent, our focus returns to the son of God, Jesus, born into this world as a babe. And in Him, in His face, we see the brightness of the dawn of God's forgiveness rising in the horizon of our hearts. As we come closer to the light of His presence, His mother, Mary, tells us His name is Jesus because He has saved us from our sins.

He has come to meet us. He came to die for us. He has come to save us. The angels are singing! The shepherds are rejoicing! The everlasting light fills us with His light, His love, and His life!

So how do we help others come to see this? We proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord.

Advent light shines in our hearts to give "the light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ." The light proclaimed in John 12:46 begins with the staggering Advent mystery of a babe, helpless, held in His mother's arms, breaking the hold that sin and unbelief had on us.

A fierce Light pierced the darkness that night. The babe in the manger scene? It is the Advent reality, an incarnation of God, who came to scatter the darkness of a sin-weary world. May that light, the light of faith in Jesus Christ, shine with radiance in our hearts today and always. Amen.

- Paul Eschmann



MERRY CHRISTMAS



& BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR

Advent and Christmas provide special opportunities for VL students to "be the light" in and around our community. (counter clockwise from the top left) Students created a "toilet-TREE" with a variety of personal hygiene items that will be donated; Sophi helps load up an armful of the 260 boxes for Operation Christmas Child; Golden Voice performs at the annual Christmas concert.

"Officially" Dedicated as Executive Director!

A special chapel service provided the setting for Rev. David Davis (President, MI District LCMS) to formally dedicate Mr. Al Kaul in his new role as Executive Director of VLHS.



Nearly two months to the day from his "first day of school" - and just a week after Thanksgiving - VLHS held a service of celebration and dedication for Mr. Al Kaul (VL '87), in his new role as Executive Director. In attendance were the student body, faculty, staff, members of the Kaul family, Board members, Foundation Board members, Pastors and Principals from several Association Congregations, and other members from the "Valley Family." The service provided the opportunity for Mr. Kaul to affirm his faith and publicly declare his intent to serve at VLHS and to support of the mission of our school: *Preparing students for life with Christ as our foundation!* "I am honored and humbled to be able to serve at this school - a place that has had a profound impact on me and my family. I am excited to join the incredibly important work of this institution," reflected Mr. Kaul.

Welcome Mr. Kaul - we give thanks to God for you and for this school!

Come take a
PEEK AT VALLEY

A one-hour guided tour for students and families that peeks into the VL experience and what sets us apart

Wednesday, January 24
Arrivals begin at 6:00 p.m.

Sign-up at
www.vlhs.com/takeapeek



or



Grade School Night at Charger Basketball



Friday, February 9, 2024
5:30 p.m. - Varsity Women
7:00 p.m. - Varsity Men

Game tickets: \$5
(or bring a VL Exempt Pass)

Receive a coupon for a free popcorn and a popwater

And stop by the

Chat with VL

A casual conversation about the VL experience



Beginning at 6:15
Room 108

Many Valley Lutheran fall athletes were recently recognized for



accomplishments at the Conference, District, Regional, and State level.

Check out the list at www.vlhs.com/fall23awards or scan:



Well done Chargers! We are proud of your accomplishments on and off the field!

Golden Voice Choir Contributes to Hymnal Project

When Valley's Golden Voice Choir Director Mr. Paul Eschmann was contacted about participating in the Hymnal Project the answer was an excited, "yes!"

The Hymnal Project, started in 2017, is a resource of the Michigan District of the LCMS tasked with creating new arrangements of traditional hymns in a variety of musical styles.

Peter Prochnow, Director of Worship Arts and Community Engagement for the Michigan District and leader of the Hymnal Project, was looking for a group to record choral arrangements. So he turned to Dr. Boonenberg of Concordia University, Ann Arbor and Mr. Eschmann.

"Both conductors got to conduct during the recording session, and they worked well together," said Prochnow, "and the kids did a great job!"

"We were thrilled to be a part of this project", Mr. Eschmann said. "To do what we do with excellence so that Christ is clearly seen in every aspect is our philosophy of music. To have this platform to share Christ in a new and powerful way, reaching far beyond the walls of our school, was an amazing opportunity."



The recordings made by the Hymnal Project are used in all kinds of ways by churches; they've also been used on radio shows, and a video taken during a recording session was shown at the end of the recent Church Worker Conference.

While originally created to be a resource for the churches of the Michigan District, the website has been accessed by 30 different countries.

To learn more about the Hymnal Project go to www.hymnalproject.com.

To hear the recordings made by the joint CUA and Valley Lutheran choirs go to <https://www.thehymnalproject.com/hymns-sung-by-a-choir> or scan:



Valley Lutheran High School's

21st Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction

WWW.VLHSAUCTION.COM



MONOPOLY

TICKETS ON SALE
JAN. 15T

Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024

5:30p - 10:00p

@ Hills DoubleTree, Bay City