

# ZION YOUTH NEWS



## HS Youth Group Meetings- February

Our February meetings will be February 5th. With Bible Study on the 12th and 26th.

See the full schedule on the website [shawanozion.org/youth](http://shawanozion.org/youth)

## Game Nights Go Monthly!

Get ready for some fun—our Game Nights are now happening on the 3rd Sunday of every month! The next Game Night is February 16th from 4-6 pm.

Join us for board games, card games, snacks, and laughter! Bring your neighbors, friends, and family to challenge them to games like Sheephead, Spoons, Battleship, or Twister. We'll have something for all ages—even Hungry, Hungry Hippos for the little ones! Don't miss out on the fun—see you there!

## Spreading the Love: ZION Youth's Spaghetti Dinner"

Join Us for a Spaghetti Dinner Hosted by Zion Lutheran Youth!

Get ready for a delicious evening of food and fellowship as the youth of Zion Lutheran

Church host a Spaghetti Dinner on Wednesday, February 19, starting at 5:30 PM to raise funds for their ministry and activities. The dinner will feature a mouthwatering menu, including pasta with your choice of meat or meatless sauce, garlic bread, beverages, and an array of delectable desserts.



**Spaghetti Dinner**

Tickets go on sale February 3 and are priced at just \$8 per person, while children 5 and under eat for free. This event is open to the entire congregation, so bring your family and friends to enjoy a wonderful meal while supporting our youth. All youth will be serving the meal and will eat together for free once everyone has been served, demonstrating their dedication and hospitality.

This is more than just a dinner; it's an opportunity to connect with others, support our youth ministry, and strengthen our community. Your participation helps provide meaningful opportunities for our youth to grow in faith, service, and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Youth Enjoy a Night of Ice Skating Fun

On Friday, January 31, the youth of Zion Lutheran Church laced up their skates and hit the ice for an evening of fun at the Crawford Center. The event was filled with laughter, friendship, and the joy of gliding under the colorful lights and lively music provided by the DJ.

The event was a great way to take a break from the winter routine and celebrate the joy of fellowship. A huge thank-you to everyone who made this evening possible. Stay tuned for more exciting youth events, and thank you for supporting Zion Lutheran's youth ministry as we continue to grow in faith and community!



**"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."**

*1 Timothy 4:12*

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## February at a Glance

**Jan 5- HS Youth Group & Confirmation Class**

**Jan 12- HS Bible Study & Confirmation Class**

**Jan 16- Game Night**

**Jan 19- Spaghetti Dinner**

**Jan 26- HS Bible Study & Confirmation Class**

# LOVE

## Help Spread the Word- Exciting New Program: God's Little Wonders Parent-Tot Hour

Zion Lutheran Church is thrilled to introduce God's Little Wonders: Parent-Tot Hour, a delightful program designed to nurture faith and connection for parents and their little ones. Starting February 6, this engaging event will take place on the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM at Zion Lutheran Church, located at 1254 S. Union St., Shawano, WI. Each session of God's Little Wonders is packed with meaningful activities, including:

- ✨ Hands-on crafts and activities that spark creativity and joy.
- 🎵 Joyful songs and stories to inspire and entertain young hearts.
- 🙏 Simple faith practices to help parents nurture spirituality in everyday life.
- 🤝 Connection time for parents to build relationships, share experiences, and offer support in a welcoming community.

This program is a wonderful opportunity for parents and children to explore faith together, strengthen family bonds, and connect with other families in a supportive and uplifting environment.

## Confirmation Mentors Needed Soon

Just a reminder as we come into Lent that Middle School Confirmation Students will need mentors. The mentor will meet with them either before or after the Lenten service and sit with their student (and Family) during the service. There will be a question/discussion sheets to follow each worship service throughout the Lenten Season. These sheets will focus on getting the mentors and confirmand to know each other better and a certain aspect of faith and life issues. An orientation session for mentors and youth will be held prior to Ash Wednesday.

### What Characteristics Should a Mentor Have?

Faith mentors will play an important role in the growth of a young person's faith. Therefore they should be chosen with great care. Characteristics important for faith mentors to have are:

- Love God and enjoy being with young people
- Able to accept youth where they are and let them progress at their own speed
- Accessible, open and willing to take the time to listen
- Mature and trustworthy
- Faithful in their own Christian life



For more info or questions, reach out to Kristin or Pastor Scott

## Carwash Cards

We will continue to sell Kwik Trip carwash cards to raise funds for our programming. They are always available in the main office and will be available between services several times a month.



## Parent's Corner

Every month, I'll share insights on issues that many parents of teenagers face. I hope you find the information helpful and thought-provoking. If there's a specific topic you'd like me to cover, please let me know!

## Navigating Temptations: A Guide for Parents

As Christian parents, we want to equip our teens to stand firm in their faith while navigating the challenges of middle and high school. Temptations abound in today's world, and our teens face pressures that are more intense than ever before. As we seek to guide them, we can turn to God's Word for wisdom and strength while also understanding the current cultural landscape they are navigating.

### Understanding Temptation

Temptation is not new. Even Jesus faced temptation in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). Scripture reminds us in 1 Corinthians 10:13, "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

While the challenges of this generation may look different from those in the past, the nature of temptation remains the same. It is the allure of something that promises satisfaction but ultimately leads us away from God's best for us. (continued on pg. 3...)

# Parent's Corner

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## Common Temptations Teens Face Today

### 1. Social Media and Online Influences

One of the most significant temptations teens face today is the pressure of social media. According to a 2023 Pew Research Center study, 95% of teens use YouTube, and 67% use TikTok daily. Social media fosters comparison, unrealistic expectations, cyberbullying, and exposure to inappropriate content. The Bible warns about the dangers of comparison in Galatians 6:4-5: "Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else."

As parents, we can help our teens by setting healthy boundaries on screen time, encouraging digital detoxes, and reinforcing their identity in Christ rather than in likes and follows.

### 2. Peer Pressure and Identity Struggles

High school is a time when teens are discovering who they are, and peer influence is at an all-time high. A 2022 study by the Barna Group found that 65% of Christian teens struggle with their faith due to peer pressure. Whether it's pressure to drink, experiment with drugs, or engage in unhealthy relationships, teens often wrestle with the fear of not fitting in.

Romans 12:2 reminds us, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Encourage your teen to surround themselves with godly friends and remind them that their identity is found in Christ, not in the approval of others.

### 3. Academic and Performance Pressures

With the rise of college admissions competition, many teens face overwhelming academic stress. A 2023 American Psychological Association survey found that 81% of teens report experiencing significant stress related to school performance. The pressure to achieve can lead to anxiety, cheating, and even burnout.

Remind your teen that their worth is not based on their GPA but on their identity as a beloved child of God. Help them set realistic goals and encourage them to trust in God's plan for their future.

### 4. Substance Use and Risky Behaviors

Many teens are tempted to use substances to cope with stress or to fit in with their peers. The Bible warns about the dangers of intoxication in Proverbs 20:1: "Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise."

Talking openly about the consequences of substance use, modeling healthy coping mechanisms, and fostering open communication can help your teen resist these temptations.

### 5. Sexual Temptation and Purity

In an age of hypersexualized media, maintaining sexual purity is a significant challenge for teens. Studies show that more than half of high school students have been exposed to explicit content online by

age 13, often shaping their perceptions of relationships and intimacy. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 reminds us, "It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable."

Encourage open and honest conversations about God's design for love, relationships, and purity. Emphasize grace and redemption while reinforcing biblical values.

## How Parents Can Support Their Teens

### 1. Model a Godly Example

Teens learn more from what we do than what we say. Demonstrating a life centered on Christ, making wise choices, and seeking God in times of temptation can have a profound impact on them.

### 2. Foster Open Communication

Create a safe space where your teen feels comfortable discussing their struggles without fear of harsh judgment. James 1:19 reminds us, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." Listening without immediately reacting allows your teen to trust you as a source of guidance.

### 3. Encourage Strong Faith Foundations

Regular church attendance, youth group involvement, and family devotionals can strengthen your teen's relationship with Christ. Proverbs 22:6 advises, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Providing spiritual resources and fostering an environment where faith discussions happen naturally can help teens rely on God in moments of temptation.

### 4. Equip Them with Scripture

God's Word is the best defense against temptation. Encourage your teen to memorize verses like Philippians 4:13 ("I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me") and 2 Timothy 1:7 ("For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind"). These truths can serve as anchors in times of trial.

### 5. Pray for and With Your Teen

Prayer is powerful. Regularly praying for your teen's protection, wisdom, and strength can make a difference. Invite them to pray with you, teaching them to seek God's guidance daily.

## Conclusion: Hope in Christ

Temptation is a reality, but we are not left without hope. Jesus reminds us in John 16:33, "In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

As parents, our role is to guide, support, and point our teens to Christ as their ultimate source of strength. By staying informed, fostering strong relationships, and relying on Scripture, we can help our teens navigate the trials of high school with faith and resilience. May we trust in God's faithfulness as we walk alongside our teens in this journey.

"But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one." – 2 Thessalonians 3:3