



HS Youth Group Meetings- January

Our January meetings will be January 15th and 29th. With Bible Study on the 8th and 22nd. See the full schedule on the website shawanozion.org/youth

Youth Group Shops for Adopted Child

During our Dec 4th Youth Group meeting, members met at Walmart to shop for our child. We had a 1yr old and was able to pick out some cute clothes and pajamas. The students also found some great toys after trying out every toy in the baby aisle! This was a great opportunity for them to help give someone in our community a better Christmas.



ZION Float in Holiday Parade

A sincere thank you to everyone who made our holiday parade float a reality! Special thanks to Al Wichmann, John Phalen, Kay Kristof, Tom and Steve Laude for their creativity and hard work in designing and building the banners and holiday parade float. We're also grateful to Joyce Phalen, Ann and Rayn Johnson, Pastor Scott Ludford, Olivia Phalen, and Clint, Brooklyn, and Bailey WhiteHorse for walking with us in the parade. Thank you to everyone who donated candy, helping us bring joy to children with treats and toys. Your efforts allowed us to spread holiday cheer and share info about our events with the community. Together, we made a lasting impact!



Cookie Fundraiser a Sweet Success!

On December 11, middle and high school students came together to decorate 600 cookies for the Youth Christmas Cookie Fundraiser. The evening was filled with Christmas music, sprinkles, and lots of laughter! The toughest challenge? Resisting the temptation to lick frosting off their fingers! By 9:30 Sunday morning, all 50 dozen cookies were sold out! Next year, we'll take it to the next level and make even more. A huge thank-you to the parents who joined in the fun and helped make this event such a big success!



"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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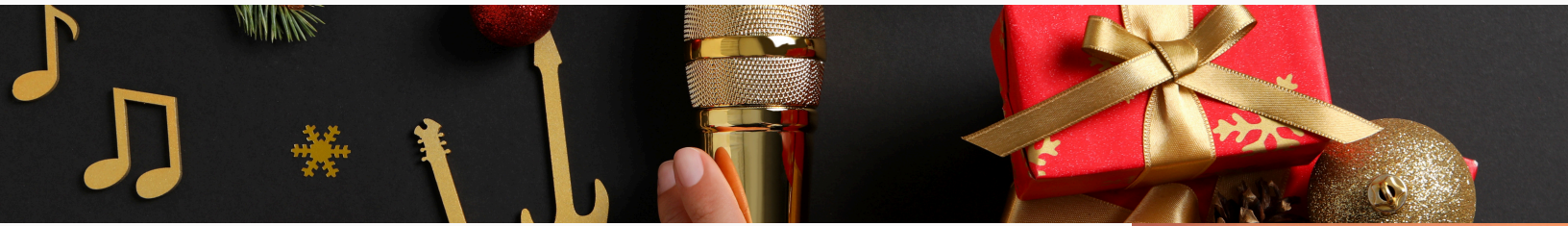
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Game Nights Go Monthly!

Get ready for some fun—our Game Nights are now happening on the 3rd Sunday of every month! The next Game Night is January 19th 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 Sheepshead, 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!

Save the Date - Synod Youth Retreat

February 21-23, 2025

Location: Imago Dei Village, Clintonville, WI

We will be looking to take a group to this Retreat. Save the Date if you're interested. Get ready for an unforgettable weekend at the Journey with Jesus 2025 Youth Retreat, hosted by the East Central Synod of Wisconsin! This retreat is designed for junior high and high school youth to come together, grow in their faith, and build deeper connections with their peers and God. Adult Chaperones will also be needed.

What to Expect:

- Inspiring Guest Speakers
- Engaging Bible Studies
- Hands-On Workshops
- Uplifting Music & Meaningful Worship
- Camp Fun & Fellowship
- Hot Cocoa & Snacks
- This retreat is a wonderful opportunity to step away from the busyness of everyday life and focus on your spiritual journey while having fun, making memories, and building lasting friendships.

Youth Volunteer Training

Anyone working with youth in the church—whether as a teacher, chaperone, driver, or in any other role—is required to complete Youth Volunteer Training every two years. The next training session will be offered in January. Stay tuned for more details on the date and time.

Rent a Youth

High school youth will be continuing the Rent a Youth service & fundraising project. We will be advertising that youth are available to help with projects for a donation to the youth fund. Please take advantage of this opportunity to earn service hours and support the youth program. Watch for information from Curt Preston, watch the SportsYou App, check the Youth Bulletin Board or the Volunteer Board in the Youth Lounge for work opportunities.

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!

January at a Glance

Jan 8- HS Bible Study & Confirmation Class

Jan 15- HS Youth Group & Confirmation Class

Jan 19- Game Night

Jan 22- HS Bible Study & Confirmation Class

Jan 29- HS Youth Group & Confirmation Class



Parent's Corner

New Year, Unchanging God-Amy Bond | January 4, 2019

New Year, Unchanging God

A new beginning is on the horizon! A fresh start. The old year is gone and we have rung in the new. In the past, I have dabbled in making New Year's resolutions. Here are just a few:

- Losing weight (let us just leave that little bit there)
- Spending five hours a day in the Word (by interrupting sleep to get up at a ridiculous time in the morning)
- A whole lot more uninterrupted prayer times (with a toddler running around the house)
- Spending less money (with no actual plan of how to do that)

Resolutions I can confidently say were successful? Zero. Although the intentions behind them were good, my approach to goal setting is obviously flawed. I am not alone as the average success rate with New Year's resolutions is less than ten percent.

So why is making resolutions a thing? After much asking and a little googling, I concluded it pretty much comes down to one basic concept – a new year, a new start, a blank slate to make promises so that we can somehow guarantee this will be our best year yet. Making a change on January 1 provides a nice timeline to start something new as we examine the past and look towards the future.

However, when considering resolutions there is a cautionary tidbit. Holding tightly to self-driven resolutions can easily and quickly take us down the road of legalism. This is not saying resolutions are inappropriate or wrong – setting goals can be constructive for progress and maturity. However, we must guard against the making of resolutions as a substitute for our reliance on the Lord.

As believers, we do not need to create a resolution and hold tight to a January 1 start for a new Bible study or praying with our children. Each day we are given by God is an opportunity to proclaim our reliance on Him in spite of the cultural mindset to rely on oneself. If we are followers of Christ, we can love each other well and seek God's grace for reconciliation every day even when we failed to do so the day before.

Our hope rests in the unchanging God who says January 1 comes every day.

Lamentations 3:21 – 23 says; "But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

2 Corinthians 5:17 says; "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." Psalm 37:23-24 says; "The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand."

Our hope and salvation will never come in the form of New Year's resolutions. Even keeping resolutions will not truly be satisfying because we are limited in our capability to change our sinful selves. If we place our faith in self-driven resolutions for behavioral change, we revert back to living in a place of bondage instead of living out our freedom through Christ.

Jesus did what we cannot do. He lived a life of perfection in order to die by the punishment we deserve for our sin (Romans 6:23). He then defeated death through His resurrection whereby in Him we are able to claim His righteousness, no longer separated from God (Romans 6:8-10). God's grace does not merely soothe the wounds of our bondage to sin. He destroys the chains of bondage while healing and restoring what once was – not our old self, but instead the creation formed in His likeness before sin wrecked mankind. Seeking to better ourselves is a good and mature resolution only when we seek the One who has the true ability to change the core of our soul.

2 Corinthians 3:16 says; "But whenever a person turns [in repentance and faith] to the Lord, the veil is taken away." The veil mentioned in this passage is the inability to understand truth. Even with the veil removed, we may not fully understand the depravity of our hearts and all the necessary changes needed to make us look more like Christ. God does. When we depend on works to change our hearts, we rely on our own limited humanity over the God who has no limitations.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 says; "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

Did you catch that? Our freedom is found in the transformation that comes from the Lord! Whether or not we make it to December 31st with an accomplished resolution, the Lord is not bound by the constraints of our resolutions. Friends, the Lord continues to conform us to the likeness of Christ because it is Him who is active within us.

Ultimately, because of who God is, we are loved and accepted. We are being sanctified by the transforming glory of the One who saves us. No New Year's resolution success or failure will forfeit that truth.

Romans 8: 1-2 says, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death." When we place ourselves at the foot of the cross, we find freedom and grace to be the person God wants us to become- not by our attempts to better ourselves through self-driven resolutions, but by the power and love of Christ.

<https://rootedministry.com/in-christ-every-day-is-new-years-day/>