

ZION YOUTH NEWS



HS Youth Group Meetings- March

Our March meetings will be March 5th. With Bible Study on the 12th and 26th. See the full schedule on the website 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 March 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!



Spaghetti Dinner Brings Community Together

The Zion Lutheran Youth Spaghetti Dinner on February 19 was a wonderful evening filled with great food, fellowship, and generosity. Our congregation and community came together to enjoy a delicious meal while supporting our youth ministry.

Guests were treated to plates of pasta with their choice of meat or meatless sauce, warm garlic bread, refreshing beverages, and a variety of homemade desserts. The Fellowship hall buzzed with conversation and laughter as people of all ages gathered in support of our youth.

The youth did an excellent job serving with enthusiasm and hospitality, making sure everyone felt welcomed. After all the guests were served, they shared a meal together, demonstrating their commitment to service and community.

Through the generosity of our church family and friends, we raised funds to support youth ministry programs, helping provide faith-building experiences, service opportunities, and fellowship events.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, donated, and volunteered. Your kindness and support make a lasting impact on the lives of our youth. We look forward to hosting more events that strengthen our church family and bring us together in faith.



"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

This Issue:

Youth Group Meetings

PAGE 01

Game Nights Go Monthly

PAGE 01

Spaghetti Dinner Brings Community Together

PAGE 01

March Madness: Bible Edition

PAGE 2

God's Little Wonders: Parent Tot Hour

PAGE 2

Confirmation Mentors Needed Soon

PAGE 2

Carwash Cards

PAGE 02

Parent's Corner

PAGE 03

March at a Glance

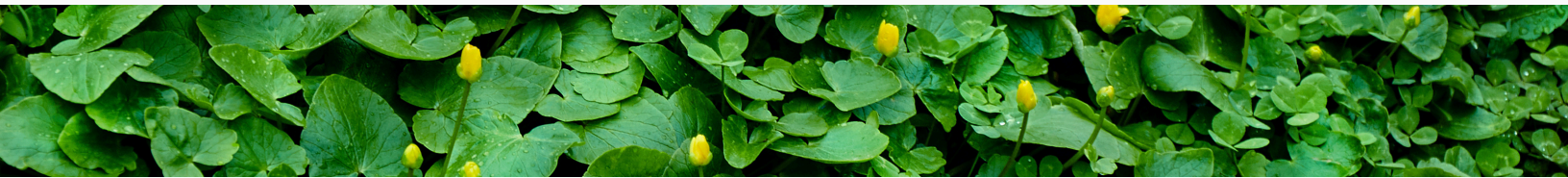
Mar 5- HS Youth Group & Confirmation Class

Mar 12- HS Bible Study & Confirmation Class

Mar 16- Game Night

Mar 19- HS Youth Group & Confirmation Class

Mar 26- HS Bible Study & Confirmation Class



March Madness: Bible Story Bracket Challenge!

Get ready for some fun with March Madness—Bible Story Edition! Each week, participants will vote on their favorite Bible stories, with winners advancing to the next round. Prizes will be awarded to the most accurate brackets!

All middle and high school students and their families are invited to join in the excitement. To participate, pick up a bracket from the Youth Room, the Info Bulletin Board (by the elevator), or download it from the website.

Brackets must be submitted to Kristin WhiteHorse by March 4. Submit a picture (SportsYou or email) or drop off a copy. Don't miss out—join the fun and see which Bible story comes out on top!

Help Spread the Word- 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. This engaging event will take place on the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 11 AM to 12 PM at Zion Lutheran Church. March dates are March 6 and March 20th.

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

Just a reminder as we come into Lent that Middle School Confirmation Students will need mentors. The mentor will meet with them 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

Parent's Corner

Parenting with Grace in an Entitled World by Jessica Van Roekel

Parenting is an ongoing journey, filled with profound insights from our children. They made me realize there's both a positive and negative side to entitlement. One obstructs grace; the other recognizes that grace grants us special privileges as God's children.

Entitlement is the right to a guaranteed benefit. Grace is the unmerited love and favor of God. It is through grace that we receive Christ's righteousness, reconciliation with God, and spiritual growth.

Our children can easily associate their inheritance in Christ with entitlement. However, when entitlement becomes an excuse to avoid accountability, it turns negative. As parents, we must teach our children to handle sin, failure, and their identity in Christ. Here's how.

1. Allow Failure

Our role as parents is to provide safeguards, widening them as our children mature. Though it's hard to watch them fail, failure builds resilience. Romans 5:3-5 teaches that suffering produces perseverance, character, and hope—qualities essential to standing firm in faith.

Failure teaches dependence on God. It reminds children that their gifts and talents come from Him and that they must turn to Him for strength. Shielding them from failure leads them to believe that success equals God's blessing and failure equals His abandonment—both misconceptions. Instead, failure deepens their reliance on grace.

2. Allow Appropriate Consequences

Consequences should match the offense. But sometimes, those pleading eyes tempt us to waver. Yet, parenting with grace means teaching our children that actions have consequences. Galatians 6:7 reminds us that we reap what we sow. Short-term discomfort now prevents greater struggles later.

Grace doesn't excuse wrongdoing; it provides a way forward. If children never face consequences, they will struggle to grasp unmerited favor. They need to experience both justice and grace to understand their need for Jesus.

3. Parent the Heart of Your Child

Sin separates us from God, but grace transforms our hearts. If we only correct outward behavior, children may believe they just need to "act" right instead of being "made" right.

Parenting with grace means addressing their heart motivations, not just actions.

Practical ways to do this include:

- Heart check-ins: Ask, "How's your heart today?" or "Do you feel tender or hard toward God?"
- Praising attitudes: Instead of just saying, "Good job," highlight the heart behind their actions. "I love how you saw your sibling's need and helped."

Grace transforms from the inside out. By parenting their hearts, we show how God's grace works in those who follow Him.

4. Model What You Want to See

Children learn by example. Just as musicians practice their notes, kids must practice kindness, thoughtfulness, and consideration. They need guidance, correction, and grace.

Grace removes guilt and empowers holy living. When we model patience, forgiveness, and humility, they see grace in action. The New Testament instructs believers on relationships—our homes should reflect this as we help our children live out grace.

5. Forgive Often

Forgiveness and grace are intertwined. In Luke 7:44-47, Jesus teaches that those who recognize their need for forgiveness love much. If I want my children to love Jesus fully, I must teach them both to receive and extend forgiveness.

We practice this by ensuring:

- The offender admits wrongdoing and seeks forgiveness.
- The offended offers forgiveness and lets go of resentment.

It always comes back to the heart. Every word and action flows from it.

The Power of Grace

Parenting with grace is a balance of covering mistakes and teaching consequences. Negative entitlement leads children away from God's grace. But a heart rooted in Christ rejoices in the inheritance He has promised.

By allowing failure, enforcing consequences, addressing the heart, modeling grace, and teaching forgiveness, we raise children who understand why grace matters. Grace transforms lives—and when we parent through it, we point our children to the One who gives it freely.

<https://www.crosswalk.com/family/parenting/how-to-parent-with-grace-but-avoid-entitlement.html>