

SEPTEMBER 2024

# ZION YOUTH NEWS

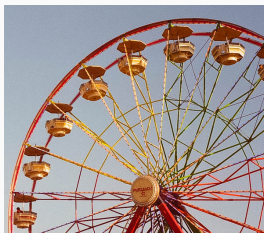


## HS Youth Group Meetings- September

Our September meetings will be Sept 11th and 25th. See the full schedule attached to the newsletter or on the website

## County Fair Meet Up

Meet at the 4-H Foodstand at 2pm on Monday, Sept 2 for a slushy or a shake (Kristin's buying!). Let's support the Zion Youth that are showing animals and projects at the Shawano County Fair.



## Fall Kickoff Weekend- Sept 7-8

During all services on Sept 7-8th the HS youth will be filling all positions of the service. Service trainings will again take place on Sept 4th at 5:30. If you aren't able to attend a training but want to be a part of services email or call Kristin to set up a training time.

NYG attendees will be presenting on their trip and sharing Gumbo on Sunday. Youth will have carwash cards available for purchase.

Please join us to celebrate this kickoff to fall!

## Confirmation Meeting- Sept 18

Students in grades 6-9 and parents- there will be a Confirmation meeting Sept 18th at 6pm. Information about this year's classes, schedule and expectations will be shared. Contact Kristin if you are unable to attend.

## Saints and Servants- Sept 22nd

9th grade Confirmation students will meet Sunday Sept 22 at 5pm for the beginning of Saints and Servants. Students are to bring their Confirmation Mentors. These meetings will be Sunday, Sept 22, Sept 29th, Oct 6 and Oct 13.

## Youth Lounge - Wish List

There are a few things we would like to make our Youth Lounge truly a space for the teens. If you have any of these items you'd like to donate- please contact Kristin or bring them to the church office.

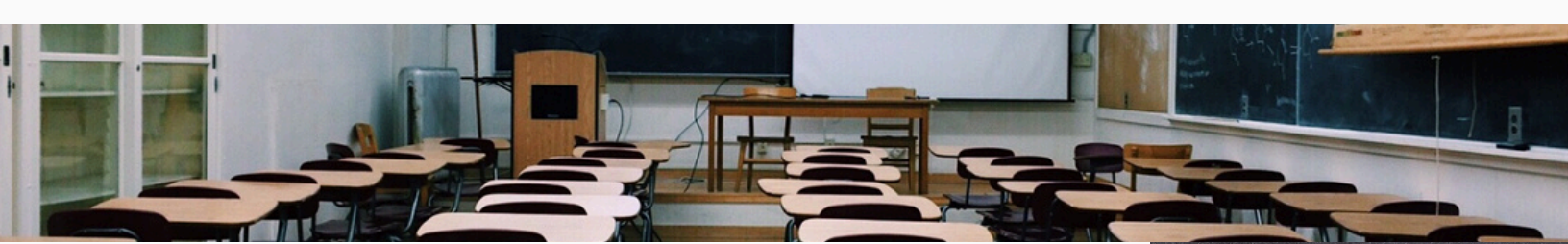
- Mini/ Dorm size fridge
- Bean Bag chairs
- Small loveseats or chairs (cushioned/ padded)

**"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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## Seeking Mentors and other Volunteers

As we get our Youth and Family programming up and running we will need help from the congregation. If you are interested or know someone that would be a perfect fit for our programs, please reach out to Kristin. See the website ([shawanozion.org/volunteer-opportunities](http://shawanozion.org/volunteer-opportunities)) for more information. Positions available:

- High School Mentors
- Sunday School Substitute Teachers
- Special Event Chaperones and Coordinators
- Fundraiser Coordinators
- Tot/Parent Hour Hosts and planners

## Matthew West Concert

A great group of people- young and young at heart- attended the Matthew West Concert on August 25th in Wausau! Thank you to Ellen Swedberg for sponsoring the bus! Even though it was hot, a great time was had by all.



## “Support Our Youth” Calendar

We want to put together a calendar of all the events, sports, plays, etc. that our Youth are involved in so church members can support our youth outside of church! Email Kristin with the sports, programs, events, plays, etc. that you’re a part of and we’ll build a calendar.

## Adopt a Youth

High school youth will be continuing the Adopt a Youth service & fundraising project this fall. 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 for work opportunities.

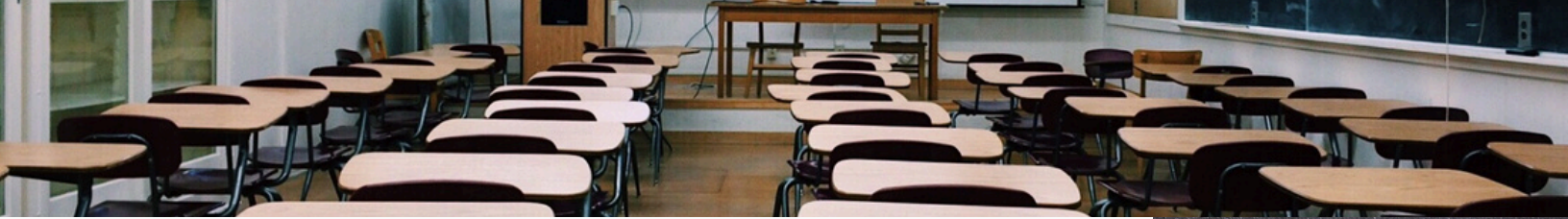
## Carwash Cards

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.

## September at a Glance

- Sept 2- County Fair Meet Up 2pm
- Sept 7-8 Fall Kickoff Weekend
- Sept 11- HS Youth Group Meeting 6:30pm  
Confirmation Parent Meeting 6pm
- Sept 15- Sunday School Starts
- Sept 18- HS Bible Study 6:30  
Confirmation Parent Meeting 6pm
- Sept 22- Saints & Servants 5pm
- Sept 25- HS Youth Group Meeting 6:30pm  
Confirmation 6pm





## MS and HS Sunday Study Groups Start in September

We invite Middle School Confirmation Students to join **Truth Seekers**- Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15am. In this weekly gathering, we'll explore today's most pressing issues through a Christian lens, gaining a deeper understanding of your faith and how it relates to the world around you.

What to Expect:

- **Relevant Discussions:** Tackle topics that matter to you and your peers.
- **Biblical Insights:** Learn how the teachings of Jesus and the Bible provide guidance and wisdom for navigating life's challenges.
- **Interactive Activities:** Participate in thought-provoking activities and group discussions that make learning about faith fun and engaging.
- **Supportive Community:** Build strong connections with fellow students who are on the same journey, and find encouragement from caring leaders.

Welcome to **Pathfinders**, an inspiring and interactive group designed for high school students seeking to explore how the Bible can guide them through the complexities of today's world. Each week, spend an hour diving deep into scripture and uncovering how its timeless truths apply to your everyday life. This group will meet every other Wednesday from 6:30-8pm in the Youth Lounge. (see attached schedule)

What to Expect:

- **Practical Guidance:** Discover how biblical principles can help you navigate challenges like school pressures, relationships, and future goals.
- **Meaningful Discussions:** Engage in honest and open conversations about faith, life, and the issues that matter most to you.
- **Personal Growth:** Strengthen your understanding of God's word and how it influences your identity, choices, and purpose.
- **Fun and Fellowship:** Connect with peers who share your journey and enjoy a supportive and welcoming community.

For more information or to register, please see [shawanozion.org/youth](http://shawanozion.org/youth)

## 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!

### Contact Me:

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[shawanozion.org/youth-family](http://shawanozion.org/youth-family)

## September at a Glance

Sept 2- County Fair Meet Up  
2pm

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Confirmation Parent Meeting 6pm

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6:30pm  
Confirmation 6pm



# Parent's Corner

## Let's Fight About It: Discipling Teens in the Art of Disagreeing Well - [Katie Polski](#) | July 16, 2024

Katie Polski | July 16, 2024

I can't remember what I was angry about, and neither can my husband, but boy, was I angry.

My husband and I were on a date, and something during the evening rubbed me the wrong way, so we began to argue. By the time we returned home, I was boiling over with frustration. As my husband stomped up the stairs, I stood in the quiet kitchen staring at the pizza box with the leftover pepperoni pizza the kids ate for dinner. I looked over at my husband's coat ... and then back at the pizza box. In what can only be explained as one of the most immature moments of my adult life, I grabbed his coat, stuffed it in the pizza box, opened and closed the lid several times to ensure that the fibers of the coat effectively soaked up the sauce, and then closed the pizza box entirely. With the coat inside. And here I am writing on the art of teaching our teens to disagree well.

### The Imperfect Instructors

Our kids are growing up in a world that literally does not know how to disagree and still remain friendly. 68% of teens say they regularly experience online drama (no matter how significant or insignificant the issue). One teen explains: "Things blow up a lot more on social media because a lot of things people say, they wouldn't say to, like, your face in person..."

In his graciousness, the Lord doesn't ask parents to have all the answers, but he has given us his perfect Word to gain wisdom in navigating disagreement. In spite of our shortcomings and the poor examples in our culture, parents can point their children to God's truth to help them understand what it looks like to disagree with love and grace.

In the midst of conflicts, it's easy to forget just how profound God's love and grace are. In the same way that we fall short in our relationship with others, we also fall short in our relationship with God because of our sin (Rom. 3:23). This started back with Adam and Eve who disagreed with God over his instruction, and humanity has been disagreeing with him ever since. But God in his matchless love and mercy provided a way for us to be reconciled to him through the death and resurrection of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:3-4).

Because of his sacrifice, when we fall short in our own disagreements, Jesus offers his grace and forgiveness. As parents, we have the privilege of teaching our children not only how to navigate conflicts in this world but also how to live out the love of Christ in response to the love he has shown us, even when we don't deserve it.

### The Perfect Principles

As we seek the Lord's help in modeling grace and humility in our relationships, we must also be pointing them to God's Word when it comes to handling conflicts. Here are just a few of the verses to read and apply with your teen.

Proverbs 13:16: "Every prudent man acts with knowledge, but a fool flaunts his folly."

Not long ago, one of my teens was headed into a meeting over a disagreement in the way a certain situation was handled. The one bit of advice my husband gave her was to ask questions first. Don't assume you have a complete understanding of the situation. Most of the time our information comes from second-hand knowledge, so asking for clarification not only dispels natural defensiveness, it gives us clarity which helps us avoid responding foolishly.

We can be rightfully informed by asking questions rather than starting with critique. Encourage your teen to ask questions such as, "Do I understand you to be saying..." Or "Help me understand how you came to this conclusion." This approach can go a long way towards dissipating tension.

Proverbs 14:29: "Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly."

I love how the Message translates the second half of this verse: "A quick-tempered person stockpiles stupidity." This is a hard area for all of us – kids and parents alike. But being slow to anger makes for deeper and clearer understanding of the issue at hand. Too often conflict arises because we are busy talking past each other and not to each other.

As parents, we can apply this by encouraging our teens to wait before they immediately text, post, or speak back to someone with whom they are angry. Encourage your teen to do three things before responding to someone they are frustrated with: Pause. Think. Pray. Consider carefully what was said and why it was said, and then prayerfully respond. Remind your teen that lashing out angrily will solve nothing. Is this hard? Yes. Can the Lord help us with our tempers? Absolutely.

Proverbs 18:13: "If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame."

The Bible says it explicitly here: answering someone without really listening is just plain rude and foolish. We do this when we think about our own comeback while the other person is still talking, and when we don't listen to them carefully. Listening well is a lost art in our society, so we would do well to exemplify it for our kids. When they express doubts or try to explain their hurt, listen carefully without immediately interjecting your thoughts or opinions.

Encourage your teen to ask a trusted leader or parent their opinion on a disagreement, and then urge them to listen carefully to their answer. We tune out advice that doesn't align with our viewpoint too easily. Listening well shows humility and respect, which in turn makes both parties more gracious and receptive to differences of opinion.

Proverbs 26:4-5: "Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes."

If you are disagreeing with someone who is acting foolishly (like, say, putting a coat into a pizza box), their language and actions speak for themselves. You don't need to contend with foolish behavior, or you may look as foolish as they do. Jesus did not always answer his adversaries (Matt 26:62; Jn. 19:9), nor did he shoot back belittling comments at their foolishness.

It is very tempting to engage with foolish behavior when you're disagreeing online. Encourage your teen, when at all possible, to have a face-to-face conversation and avoid joining in to unnecessary foolishness.

God has gifted us with so much wisdom through his Word. Point your teen to his wisdom when they come to you wondering how to handle a disagreement with someone. Remind your teenager that Jesus, in his patience and his strength, promises to help, no matter how frustrated he or she may be.

<https://rootedministry.com/the-truth-that-changes-everything/>

# HS Youth Group 24-25 Schedule

## September

11 Youth Group  
18 Bible Study  
25 Youth Group

## October

2 Youth Group  
9 Bible Study  
16 Youth Group  
23 Bible Study  
30 EVENT TBD

## November

6 Youth Group  
13 Bible Study  
20 Youth Group  
27 Happy Thanksgiving

## December

4 Youth Group  
11 Bible Study  
18 Youth Group  
25 Merry Christmas

## January

1 No Class  
8 Bible Study  
15 Youth Group  
22 Bible Study  
29 Event TBD

## February

5 Youth Group  
12 Bible Study  
19 Youth Group  
26 Bible Study

## March

5 Ash Wednesday/ Youth Group  
12 Lent Service/ Bible Study  
19 Lent Service/ Youth Group  
26 Lent Service / No Class  
(Spring break)

## April

2 Lent Service/ Youth Group  
9 Lent Service/ Bible Study  
16 Lent Service/ Youth Group  
23 Bible Study  
30 EVENT TBD

## May

7 Youth Group  
14 Last Class/ Bible Study

## Summer 2025

TBD Service/Mission Trip  
TBD Celebration Fellowship Trip