



Rally Synday

Join us as we kick off a new year of faith fellowship, and fun!

- Commissioning of Sunday School Teachers -Celebrate and pray over our teachers as they begin a new year of guiding our children in faith.
- Meet Your Sunday School Teachers Get to know the people who will help your kids grow in faith this year.
- Backpack Blessing Students of all ages, bring your backpacks for a special blessing during worship.
- All-Church Ministry Fair Discover opportunities to connect, serve, and grow in our church family.
- Service Project Lend a hand and make a difference
- Church Scavenger Hunt with Prizes Explore the church, learn about ministries, and win prizes!

miss this special day of worship, learning,

outh@shawanozion.org for more info

FOCUS Deptember 8

WELCOMING ALL, GROWING & SHARING GOD'S LOVE

WEE CARE RED BARN FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who worked or came and supported Wee Care at Charlie's Red Barn! Together, we raised \$4,139.17 for the Weekend Food Bag Program serving local school children. Volunteers grilled 160 lbs. of beef, 512 brats, 224 cheddar wursts, and 128 hot dogs.





STEPHEN MINISTRY



A reminder that ZION has trained Stephen Ministers available to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian

care. Members are encouraged to connect friends, neighbors,

or relatives in need of spiritual and emotional support. If you know someone who could benefit from confidential, one-toone Christian care, please contact one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Kristin WhiteHorse, Judy Laude, or Nancy Schultz.

SPECIAL MUSIC AT SUMMER WORSHIP

We give thanks for the many who shared their musical gifts with us in August. Our ZION and Shawano County Park services, we were blessed by the beautiful harmonies of the Wolf River Harmony Chorus, the talents of Mike and Wyatt Kurkiewicz and also Chris Hanson. We were lifted by the voice of Ava **Retzlaff.** At Jerusalem in Lunds, we were inspired by duets from Beverly Heling and Jill Sousek. Each of you enriched our worship and added joy to our summer gatherings. Thank you for sharing your gifts with the Congregation.







AUGUST ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

Attendance | In-Person-895 | YouTube-698 Offerings | \$30,658

2025 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The **Endowment Committee** recently awarded scholarships totaling \$51,000 to this year's recipients, continuing their to support students in their post-high school education. Letters were sent to students informing them that scholarship checks were mailed directly to their schools. This year's award recipients are: Jackson Boucher, Bailey DeFere, Brady Glysch, Lily Glysch, Jack Grieves, Madeline Heling, Taylor Johnson, Elias Popp, Aiden Preston, Rosella Wegner, Isaac Wehlander & Joel Yeakev.

IN OUR PRAYERS

We lift these individuals in prayer, seeking God's healing, strength, comfort, peace, and renewal. Gerald Bartline, Dale Bergsbaken, Leslie Buckbee, Marilyn Dahl, Terry Fusek, Larry Gueths, Lynn Hintz, Pete Hintz, Adeline Holtz, Bob Janicki, Helen Kaurala, Wendy Nead, Ken Spreeman, and Jim Yeakey.

SUSAN ANDERSON REMEMBERED

Susan Anderson, a devoted member of ZION Lutheran and Jerusalem (Lunds), passed away on Tues., Aug. 19, 2025. She was remembered for her leadership, choir music, and creating prayer shawls that brought comfort. In accordance with her wishes, no services were held. Members were asked to keep her family in their prayers.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 7 – **Rally Sunday** | Backpack Blessings, Ministry Fair, Service Projects, Scavenger Hunt

Sun., Sept. 14 – Kids of the Kingdom Begins | Education Hour Wed., Sept. 17 – Confirmation Parent Meeting | 6 PM

Wed., Sept. 17 – High School Youth Group Kickoff | 6:30 PM Sun., Sept. 21 – Middle School Bible Study Starts

Sun., Sept. 21, 28; Oct. 5, 12 – Saints & Servants

(9th Grade Confirmands) | 5–6:30 PM **Mon., Sept. 22 – Blood Drive** | 1–5:30 PM

Thurs., Sept. 25 – 55+ Singles Group Jeopardy & Tacos

3:30–5 PM, \$10 (call Nancy 715.390.4540)

Thurs., Oct. 9 – Basket Drop-off Deadline | Silent Auction Oct. 11–19 – Silent Auction of Baskets | Bidding closes at 10:30 AM

CHURCH CALENDAR Subscribe to the ZION Calendar online at www.shawanozion.org/calendar.php

ZION BLOOD DRIVE Mon., Sept. 22 | 1-5:30 PM

Thank you to so many who have said "Yes" so far! For those I left messages with, please call Ginny Vraney at 715.799.3507 to secure your spot to give. Start eating iron rich foods, hydrate, and bring your identification card! See you then to be "Heros!"



PASTOR'S COLUMN

Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, 'Who do the crowds say that I am?'
They answered, 'John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered, 'The Messiah of God.'



~ Luke 9:18-20

Perhaps you've seen those optical illusions that seem at first to be one thing but then suddenly become something else. The outline of a chalice turns into two faces, or an old haggard woman becomes a lovely young girl. It depends mainly on what you expect to see, and sometimes, once you have seen one of the figures, it becomes challenging to find the other. What we believe to be there is what we tend to see. Once we think we understand something, it's difficult for us to go beyond that understanding.

In the realm of faith, too, there are things we think we understand. Indeed, that was so for the disciples. When Jesus questioned them about who people believed he was, Peter seemed to understand a great deal. Others may have thought that Jesus was John the Baptist or Elijah or one of the prophets, but Peter knew and declared him to be the Messiah. After all, Peter had been with Jesus for some time. He had heard him teach, had seen him heal the sick, raise the dead, feed the hungry. It is not really surprising to hear Peter's confession: "You are the Messiah of God." He had good reason to know and understand who Jesus was.

And yet, as Jesus then went on to discuss what it meant to be chosen by God and to follow God's anointed, it is likely that Peter and the others were surprised. Suddenly, like an optical illusion that seems to change before our eyes, their perspectives will reverse. Jesus spoke not of the power and majesty and dominion that they might have expected from the Messiah, but of suffering and rejection and death. These must have been hard and confusing words for them, because the words flew in the face of what they thought they understood. This was a view of discipleship that was both new and difficult to grasp.

For us, of course, it is no longer new. We have heard these words of Jesus before, so that they no longer shock us. We have the advantage of knowing what lies ahead for Jesus and those who followed him. More than two thousand years of history and

tradition have taught us that those who name the name of Christ pay a high price. Peter may have been amazed at Jesus' saying that he must take up his cross, but we know that he indeed calls us to do just that. Peter would die a martyr's death, nailed, head down, to a cross. All of that aligns with our understanding of what it means to be a Christian, and therefore, it is unlikely to shock us as it did those first disciples.

There is, however, another reason these words are less likely to trouble us. The reality is that most of us will never see a cross. Martyrdom is not expected of us, and so the call to take up our cross is less frightening. But what if our perspective were to change suddenly, and a different understanding came to light? Might this call then take on a new meaning for us?

Jesus spoke of taking up the cross before his crucifixion, linking that symbol with Christian martyrdom. Speaking to the twelve about a cross would not necessarily have made them think of death. Instead, it might have brought to mind the cross-shaped mark branded on cattle as a mark of ownership. That cross was, in effect, a mark of slavery, and that is a very different matter from martyrdom.

In a way, it is easy for us to talk about taking up the cross if it means dying a martyr's death. We know that most of us will not be asked to make that sacrifice. But it is harder to talk of slavery, because that means giving up control of our lives, and we want to be in control. Acknowledging that we cannot provide for ourselves, that is the slavery we call to accept, the cross we summon to take up. Following Christ then means offering whatever service we can, in gratitude for all that we have received. That service may be grand or noble or earthshaking; it may mean visiting a nursing home, rather than becoming a missionary in Africa. Nevertheless, the God who provides in love, who spreads the table before us, calls us to respond in humility. It is God who leads, not we ourselves. R

~ In God's service, Pastor Scott Ludford

STEWARDSHIP

By the time you receive this newsletter, your church leadership and committees will have already begun planning for an aggressive and dynamic fall calendar of ministries geared toward spreading the Gospel and caring for people's needs. Their devotion to God's ministry is the inertia that will provide opportunities for everyone to find a place in our faith community where they can involve themselves through their time, talents, and financial gifts. It will take all of us sharing what God has blessed us with to bless others and honor God in the process.

Vince Lombardi gave us this quote: "Winning isn't everything. It's the only thing." But did you know that he regretted saying what he said? Shortly before he died in 1970, Lombardi told famed Jerry Izenberg, "I wish I'd never said that. I meant the effort. I meant having a goal.

Life Stewardship

I sure didn't mean for people to crush human values and morality." Asked how he would restate his words, he replied, "I would say: Winning isn't everything, but wanting to win is."

He knew that what matters is the desire, not the conquest. Vince Lombardi understood the priority of pursuing victory in the right way with the right motives.

Lombardi also understood that winning is the result of a process that begins at the most basic level. Holding up the familiar pigskin, he started each year's spring training with the words, "Men, this is a football." His purpose was to move from the simple to the complex, concentrating on the essential components that lead to success. **Rally Sunday** is precisely what ZION will be doing. We will begin with the basics and build upon them.

When you come to worship the weekend of **Sept. 6-7**, plan to spend some extra time visiting the displays of the various ministries of ZION and talking with those already involved. Open yourself to the Holy Spirit to inspire you in finding a place to share your God-given-gifts. Let us fill the sanctuary at all three services that weekend and feel the power of Christ's people as we praise the Lord! R

~ In God's ministry, the Stewardship Committee



SAINTS & SERVANTS 9TH GRADE CONFIRMANDS

Our 9th Grade confirmands will gather on Sunday evenings for Saints & Servants, a special four-session program designed to help students grow in faith and live it out in the world. Each evening will include snacks, devotions, and faith development activities, with a focus on becoming active members of the community and beyond. Field trips and guest speakers may also be part of the experience. A key element of this program is mentoring. Confirmands will choose a mentor, and together they will spend one-on-one time each session, sharing

and together they will spend one-on-one time each session, sharing stories, encouraging one another, and growing in faith. Schedule: Sun., Sept. 21, 28; Oct.5, 12 from 5-6:30 PM. Mark your calendars: Confirmation will be Sun., Oct. 26 at 10:30 AM worship service.

CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING

Parents of middle school confirmation students are invited to join us in the Sanctuary for our **Confirmation Parent Meeting** on **Wed., Sept. 17** at **6 PM**. We'll review this year's schedule, service opportunities, expectations, and special events, and answer questions.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP KICKS OFF

We're excited to launch another great year of **High School Youth Group!** All students in grades 9-12 are invited to join us for our first gathering on **Wed., Sept. 17**, at **6:30 PM** in the **Teen Lounge**. We'll kick things off with games, snacks, and time to reconnect after summer. Each week, we'll dive into meaningful discussions about life and faith, explore God's Word together, and enjoy plenty of fun and fellowship. Invite a friend and see what Youth Group is all about! Email Kristin at **youth@shawanozion.org**.

ADDRESS REQUESTS TO STAY CONNECTED



Do you have a recent graduate going off to school, military, or out on their own for the first time? Send their address to *youth@shawanozion.org*. ZION would love to keep in touch with them! If you have any updates to your contact information, email the office at *zion@shawanozion.org*.

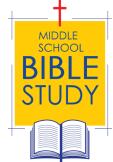
KIDS of the KINGDOM BEGINS SEPT. 14

Kids of the Kingdom starts **Sun.**, **Sept. 14**, during the education hour. We invite kids **ages 3 through Grade 5** to grow in their faith through Bible stories, music, crafts, games, and hands-on activities. We'll explore God's Word in fun and meaningful ways,

help children learn how much Jesus loves them and how they can live out their faith every day. Join us for an exciting year of

learning, growing, and friendships as God's children! Scan the QR
Code to register.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY



Our Middle School Bible Study kicks off on Sun., Sept. 21 during the education hour in the Youth Room! All students in Grades 6-8 are invited to join us as we dig into God's Word, ask big questions, and discover how Scripture connects to our everyday lives. We'll mix in games, discussions, and

activities to help make the Bible come alive.



MomCo Comes to ZION Lutheran Church

What is MomCo?
We are The Mom Community — MomCo for short

MomCo is a non-profit organization that encourages and equips moms of young children to realize their potential as mothers, women and leaders, in relationship with Jesus and in partnership with the local church.

Kickoff Meeting – Sept 4 at 10:30am or 6pm

For More Information go to https://www.shawanozion.org/momco or email youth@shawanozion.org

YOUTH GROUP 25-26

September

17– Youth Grou<mark>p</mark> 24– Bible Study

October

1– Youth Group 4– Corn Maze Palooza, Porter's Patch, Bonduel 8– Bible Study 15– Youth Group

22- Bible Study 29- Halloween Party

November

5- Youth Group 12- Bible Study 19- Youth Group 26- NO CLASS

December

3– Youth Group 10– Bible Study 17– Christmas Party

lanuary

7- Youth Group 14- Bible Study 21-Youth Group 28- Bible Study

February

4– Youth Group
11– Bible Study
18– Youth Group
20–22, Journey with Jesus
Synod Youth Gathering
25– Bible Study

March 4- Youth Group

11- Bible Study 18- Youth Group 25- Bible Study

April 1- Youth Group

8- Bible Study 15- Youth Group 22- Bible Study 29- Outing

Mag

6- You<mark>th Group</mark> 13- Bi<mark>ble</mark> Study 20- Youth Group 27- Bible Study

Summer '26
June- Service Trip

All Meetings are 6:30-8pm and meet in the Youth Room

Contact youth@shawanozion.org with questions

NEW ZION LIBRARY BOOK The Swiss Nurse by Mario Escobar

Elisabeth Eidenbenz left Switzerland in 1937 to aid children orphaned during the Spanish Civil War. Now, her work has led her to France, where she's determined to provide expectant mothers and their unborn children a refuge amid one of the worst humanitarian crises of the 20th century.

Desperate to escape the invasion of Franco's Fascist troops, Isabel Duenas becomes one of many Spanish patriots fleeing their country. She leaves behind her husband as he fights for democracy, and she seeks asylum in a refugee camp across the border in France. Without adequate shelter, clean drinking water, or medical care, Isabel's future looks bleak — until she meets Elisabeth. When Germany invades Poland, an avalanche of humanity sweeps into France. In the cascade of crises that follow, Isabel and Elisabeth learn the cost and the unexpected joy of sacrifice. Based on the true stories of refugees and the woman who risked everything to save them, The Swiss Nurse shares a message of love and strength amid one of history's often overlooked conflicts. R

~ **ZION** Library Committee

NURSE

CHRIST IN OUR HOME

The fall edition of *Christ in Our Home* (regular or large print) will be available on **Rally Sunday**. This quarterly devotional resource encourages readers to live out their faith each day with scripture, thoughtful reflection, and prayer that follow the Revised Common Lectionary. Pick up your copy

Revised Common Lectionary. Pick up your copy today and be renewed in your daily devotion this season.

ZION ENDOWMENT FUND

In addition to the scholarship awards announced on page 1, the Endowment Committee is pleased to share the colleges and universities our recipients are attending this fall. Taylor Johnson – Palmer College of Chiropractic; Rosella Wegner – The George Washington University; Lily Glysch – UW-Stevens Point; Isaac Welander – UW-Stout; Madeline Heling – UW-Whitewater; Elias Popp – Northern Michigan University; Brady Glysch – University of Minnesota; Bailey DeFere – UW-Madison; Aidan Preston – UW-Madison; Joel Yeakey – Wartburg Seminary; Jackson Boucher – NWTC Green Bay; and Jack Grieves – Fox Valley Technical College. In addition to scholarships, the Endowment Fund also provided support to ZION's Mission Quilters for their quilting ministry.



THANK YOUS

Many thanks to ann
and John for delivering,
setting up the hospital bedand more thanks for
dismantling and returning it
to gion. Marlin and Swere
nery grateful for the wal of
the hospital bed. Mirule Duquerre

Dear ZION Endowment Committee,

Thank you so much for awarding me a scholarship
I am so gratebul for your generous gift.

The support from our congregation will help
greatly in my persuit of a degree in neuroscience.

Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Rosella Wigner





SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

REGISTRATION FROM 8 - NOON, TROPHY CEREMONY AT 2:30 OCATED AT ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH ON HWY. 45. MARION. WI

- •FREE SPECTATOR ENTRY
- FREE PARKING
- •FOOD SERVED ALL DAY
- BAKE SALE
- •50/50 & BUCKET RAFFLES
- ·SILENT AUCTION
- FOR INFORMATION CALL: 715-754-2028, 715-754-5083, 715-250-0702

SHOW VEHICLE ENTRY \$10 FIRST 100 ENTRANTS RECEIVE A FREE DASH PLAQUE CLASSES FOR 2025

1-1839 - SPECIAI 1-1949 - MUSCLE 1-1959 - RATT ROI 1-1959 - STOCK 1 1-1959 - MODIFIE 1-1989 - TRRCTO 1-2009 - SURVIVI

979 - MODIFIED TRUC
989 - MOTORCYCLES
989 - TRRCTORS
2009 - SURVIVORS
PRESENT - PRSTOR'S CHOIL
RODS [RIL] - LARIOS CHOILE
TS - FOUNDERS RWR
RTIBLES - BIST OF SHOW

HEALTH & WELLNESS

HEALTH COMMITTEE UPDATE

ZION's Health Committee is looking forward to getting back into the swing of things after Labor Day, we will be starting a motivational program to keep everyone on track to healthy eating and to keep moving in the right direction for the fall and winter days. More to come in the *NEWS*. Can't wait to get together with you all. R ~ Blessings, **ZION's Health Committee**Kathy Beyer & Joyce Phalen, Co-Chairs

THANKSGIVING DINNER PLANNING

Thanksgiving is fast approaching, and we're looking forward to hosting this special meal again with the help of many wonderful volunteers! I will be reaching out to those who assisted last year to see if you're ready to assist again. We learned a lot together, from planning and cooking to our successes (and even a few failures), but I'm confident this year will be even better. An informal planning meeting will be on **Tues, Sept. 23**, at **1 PM** at ZION; depending on the group size, we'll select an area of the church for our gathering. If you'd like to assist or know someone who would like to help for the first time, please call Joyce Phalen at 715.584.1778. Enjoy the last days of summer, and get ready for fall, your support and dedication are deeply appreciated! R

~ As God as my guide we shall serve, Joyce Phalen

SUMMER TRIVIA NIGHT



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING BACK-TO-SCHOOL DONATIONS



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated clothing, school supplies, and hygiene items for

the Shawano Boys & Girls Club's Backto-School program. Because of your generosity, local students, including our Littles in Big Brothers Big Sisters, received the

essentials they needed to begin the year with confidence and care. We are grateful to **ZION members** and **Strong Bodies** participants for going above and beyond with your support. Together, you have shown our children that they are valued and cared for, and with your help, brighter futures are possible, one child at a time. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Wisconsin served 47 children in 2024 through school-based mentoring. R

ZION BLOOD DRIVE

Mon., Sept. 22 1-5:30 PM

Mark your calendars!

You may give blood every 56 days.

We will be calling you soon for your appointment:

Be ready to say 'YES!'

- The Health Ministry Committee

SOCKTOBER

SOCKTOBER IS COMING BACK AGAIN, OCTOBER 1-31, AS ZION COLLECTS NEW SOCKS FOR BOTH SAFE HAVEN AND SAM25!

New socks are needed for women, men, boys, girls, and infants.

Please help us fill our bin in the Narthex during the month of October.

Last year we collect 683 pairs of socks. Let's beat that total this year!

THANK YOU for helping! HAPPY SOCKTOBER, everyone!

- THE HEALTH MINISTRY COMMITTEE

SUMMER FUN ON THE WOLF RIVER





ZION youth and families enjoyed a beautiful day of fellowship on the Wolf River, filled with swimming, floating, sunshine, and plenty of laughter. It was the perfect way to celebrate summer together!

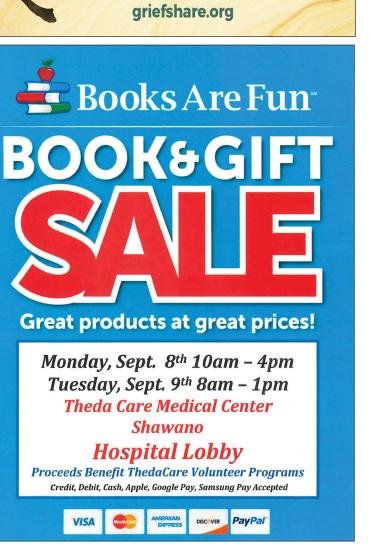


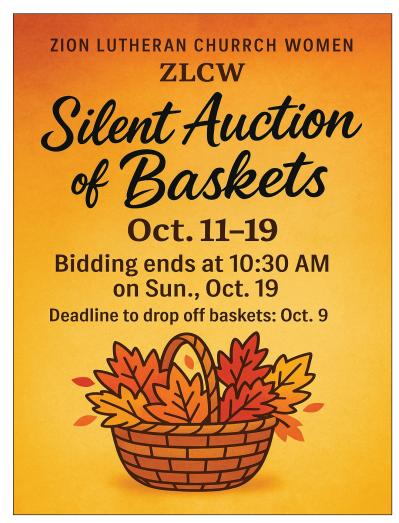
ZLCW PACKS SCHOOL KITS AND QUILTS WITH LOVE



ZION Lutheran Church Women (ZLCW) have been hard at work blessing others through their quilting and school kit ministries. Volunteers recently gathered to pack school kits filled with supplies that will support children in their education, while others dedicated time and talent to creating beautiful quilts to bring warmth and comfort to those in need. We are grateful for the dedication of these women, whose faithful service continues to make a difference both locally and globally.









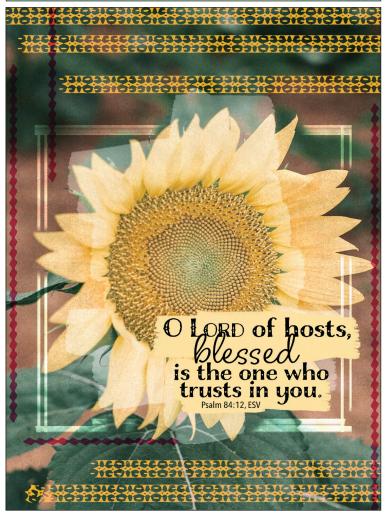


100% of the proceeds support SAM25

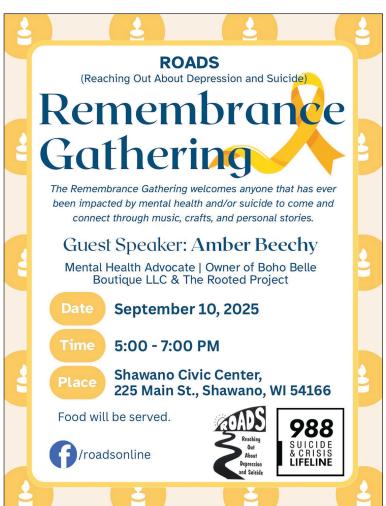
SAM's House Emergency Shelter, SAM25 Resource Center, SAM's Closet Thrift Store and SAM25 Free Health Clinic Belmark Inc

Walsh Dental Group

Peace United Church of Christ









ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH 1254 S. UNION ST SHAWANO. WI

If you are interested in showcasing your products, please consider joining us!

IEW THIS YEAR: We will have a separate Kidpreneur event fo kids 6-17 who have handmade items they would like to sell.

For more information regarding registration and exhibitor details, email dklspeechlady1@gmail.com or call Deb at 320.493.0284 or visit https://www.shawanozion.org/forms

We'd love to have you join us!

Trusting Jesus in a Wild World SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK! 🧺

Zion Lutheran Church

All Are Welcome! Join us for a fun, faith-filled adventure each week as we grow in God's Word together!

Sundays at 9:15-10:15 AM

Zion Lutheran Church - Shawano Starting September 14

Classes for kids ages 3k-5th grade Bible stories, music, crafts, and more Caring teachers & new friendships

Whether you're a returning family or brand new to Sunday School, there's a place for YOU here. Let's grow in faith together!

> Come as you are -Jesus welcomes everyone!



Questions? Contact Kristin WhiteHorse, Youth Director, at 715.390.4580 or youth@shawanozion.org

