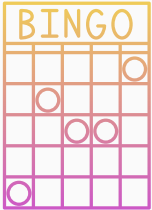


YOUTH
GROUP**HS Youth Group Meetings- April**

Through Easter we'll be diving deeper into the lives of the Disciples that Pastor portrays during Wednesday services. Regular Youth Group will resume April 23 with Bible Study resuming on April 30

See the full schedule on the website shawanozion.org/youth

**Game Nights Go Monthly!**

We will be skipping game night in April but get ready for BINGO! in May! watch for more information as we get closer.

March Madness: Bible Story Bracket Challenge!

Congratulations to our Winners in the March Madness: Bible Story Bracket Challenge! Morgan, Peyton, and Cooper Boucher and Lane Laude all received Culver's Gift Cards for participating!

**VBS- True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World**

Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed!

This year's Vacation Bible School will take place June 2-5, from 9:00 AM to Noon each day, and we are looking for volunteers—both youth (6th grade and older) and adults! There are a variety of fun and meaningful jobs available to fit your interests and schedule.

➡ Register online with our new program at vbspro.events/p/2a414b.

When registering, you can select the roles you're interested in, or feel free to talk to Kristin about the best options for you.

Help Us Reach Our Goal!

Our goal this year for VBS is 50 kids—and we need your help to get the word out!

The flyer is attached on page 4, so please share it with families you know who might be interested in sending their kids.

With a bigger goal comes the need for more volunteers—so please consider joining us in making this a special experience for all the kids! If you have any questions, contact Kristin.

**Crossways Camps**

Give your child an unforgettable summer at Crossways Camps! Campers will grow in faith, make lifelong friends, and enjoy outdoor adventures like swimming, hiking, and campfires—all in a Christ-centered environment.

With programs for all ages, Crossways provides a safe and supportive space where kids can explore their faith, build confidence, and have fun. Caring counselors, engaging activities, and meaningful worship make this a summer experience they won't forget! Learn more and register at www.crosswayscamps.org/youth. Spots fill fast—don't miss out!

"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

March Madness: Bible Story Bracket Challenge
PAGE 01

VBS- True North
PAGE 1

Crossways Camps
PAGE 1

God's Little Wonders: Parent Tot Hour
PAGE 2

MomCo Comes to Zion
PAGE 2

Carwash Cards
PAGE 02

Parent's Corner
PAGE 03

VBS Flyer
PAGE 04



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 April 3rd and April 17th.

Exciting News: MomCo is Coming to Zion Lutheran Church!

We're thrilled to announce that MomCo is launching at Zion Lutheran Church! Formerly known as MOPS International, MomCo is a vibrant, faith-based community where moms can connect, be encouraged, and grow together.

What is MomCo?

MomCo, short for Moms Collective, believes that remarkable things happen when moms come together. Through authentic relationships, practical help, and spiritual growth, MomCo empowers women to flourish in every stage of motherhood. Our Zion MomCo group will offer regular meet-ups where moms can relax, share their experiences, and support one another in a safe, welcoming environment. Each gathering will include inspiring speakers, small group discussions, creative activities, and time for fun and friendship.

Why is MomCo Important?

Motherhood is beautiful, but it can also be exhausting and isolating. MomCo creates a space where moms feel seen, known, and loved. By providing a supportive network, Zion's MomCo group will be a lifeline for moms in our church and the wider Shawano community. Together, we can help moms build strong, lasting friendships and deepen their faith.

What Are the Benefits to Our Church?

Bringing MomCo to Zion will extend our outreach to young families and moms who are searching for connection and support. As we build these relationships, we welcome more families into the life of our congregation. MomCo also nurtures future leaders and volunteers by encouraging moms to grow in their gifts and confidence. Supporting moms ultimately strengthens families—and strong families build a strong church!

How Can You Get Involved?

Our first MomCo session kicks off late this summer or early fall, and we would love your help! Whether you feel called to serve as a mentor mom, help with childcare (a huge blessing to our moms!), provide snacks, or assist with activities, there's a place for you to be part of this exciting ministry. If you're a mom looking for community or if you know a mom who would love to join, we welcome you to come and see what MomCo is all about.

For more information or to get involved, contact Kristin WhiteHorse at youth@shawanozion.org. You can also learn more about MomCo at www.themom.co. Let's come together to support the moms in our community and help them thrive!

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!

April at a Glance

**Apr 2- Lent Service and Dinner
HS Bible Study & Confirmation Class**

**Apr 9- Lent Service and Dinner
HS Bible Study & Confirmation Class**

Apr 16- HS Bible Study & Confirmation Class

Apr 23- HS Youth Group & Confirmation Class

Apr 30- HS Bible Study & Confirmation Class

Parent's Corner

Six Things Parents Need To Know About TikTok Jalyn Mikell | March 18, 2025

Honestly, I feel ashamed when I tell fellow Christians I use TikTok and enjoy it. I fear that my brothers and sisters in Christ will judge me for enjoying TikTok even if I am attempting to do so in a God-glorifying way. But the shame I feel is not guilt from participating in something inherently sinful. Rather, it is the fear of man.

Here's where I am coming from: I am 25 years old, and I am the Marketing Coordinator at Rooted Ministry. During my time with Rooted, I also served in the student ministry at Grace Bible Church of Oxford, Mississippi. My career has had two recurring themes: youth ministry and social media. Often, I ask myself, "how do ministry and social media relate to each other? Can they co-exist?"

We know we are not to be conformed to this world (Rom 12:2). And yes, social media can be ground zero for comparison, idolatry, and distraction. However, social media is not inherently evil and can avail the mission of the Church. But before we can lean into the positives of TikTok, we must first address the negatives.

Inappropriate content and cyberbullying are real dangers.

It comes as no surprise that TikTok is full of inappropriate content and cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is a real threat because unlike traditional bullying, cyberbullying can occur 24/7, with no physical restraints. Cyberbullying is often anonymous, which may lead the bully to believe there are no repercussions for vile remarks and cruelty.

TikTok has the power to influence subjective belief.

Since its inception, Tik Tok has been influencing its users' values and beliefs. Teenagers are especially susceptible to this, frankly, because their frontal lobes are not fully developed. As children believe in fairytales, teenagers tend to be easily persuaded by what they see on the internet. This is especially true given that arguments on TikTok are presented in succinct video clips which fit within the modern attention span. The stripped-down nature of the arguments also makes them incredibly persuasive. Given that we live in a fallen world and post-Christian society, an overwhelming number of arguments on this app are opposed to Christianity. Therefore, TikTok can guide teenagers to compelling secular and anti-religious views.

Privacy concerns are real.

There is a real concern about TikTok's privacy clauses, especially the personal information that the company collects on its users and who might have access to that data. As Christians, we need to be aware of what is happening in our social media and evaluate if it aligns with Christian doctrines, even when it comes to privacy. We are also called to follow the governing authority ruling over us to the best of our ability (Romans 13: 1-2). In other words, when our government is concerned about the safety of its citizens on a social media platform, maybe we as Christian citizens should be, too. And if we are banned from using the app for a time, maybe it's for the best.

TikTok is addictive by design.

TikTok has such high engagement rates for a reason. The platform can be addicting. The feed is perfectly curated for each particular user's interests, and the content seems infinite. Short videos capture attention and hold it. Additionally, the inside jokes, jargon, and latest celebrity gossip of the day circulates on TikTok, leading to teenagers feeling like they have to keep up with the trends. Lastly, even considering some of the positives we will discuss, a negative can still result: your teenager may want to be on their phone all day, even if they are consuming wholesome content.

All this begs the question: what positives can come from TikTok? There are Christians on TikTok.

Unlike other social media platforms, TikTok has no religious content restrictions. As a result, Christians have claimed a special nook within the app. "Christian Tok" is full of influencers, businesses, and churches that proclaim the gospel. The app is a place where churches and other ministries can promote activities and service times to reach a broader audience.

Communities are also built through TikTok. Christians can find unlikely friends, bridging the geographical gaps that for most of human history have divided us. Teenagers especially look to TikTok to find friends when their worlds feel small. And if teenagers are looking for like-minded Christians on social media, the TikTok algorithm is more likely to lead them there than other content-restricted platforms.

The reality is this: the Lord can use TikTok for the goodness of the kingdom. Many influencers share their faith on the platform and inspire others to do the same. The message of the gospel can carry around the world with a 60 second video at our fingertips. These faithful influencers have the unique ability to speak to millions.

The Lord is sovereign over TikTok.

While social media can put a spotlight on your teenager's struggles (or your struggles, for that matter), it is not the root of the problem we face. The truth is, this world is a broken place. (Romans 5:12-14; Psalm 14:2-3). TikTok is just a display of that decay—it is an app full of sinners. Our hope is not in "getting it right" in deciding whether to allow your teenager to use TikTok and protect them from failures; our hope is a return of our true Savior who will fix all failures (Rom 5:15-17). The Lord will make all things new and wipe all our tears (Rev. 21:4-5). As we long for his return, we find hope only in the resurrection, knowing that the Lord our God cares for our children in a more loving and effective way than we possibly can.

What fruit do you see in your teenager's use of TikTok?

This may be the most important question to inform your decision about whether your teenager should use the app. Maybe TikTok use is just not good for your teenager. We are not all equally susceptible to the same temptations.

Even if you find no harm in your teenager's use of TikTok, proceed with caution and oversight. Proverbs 4:23-24 says "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you." If we allow our teenagers to use TikTok, we must be protective about what we allow them to view and post. We are to guard their hearts from both the outside influences which seek to pervade them and discourage our teenagers from taking part in the darkness.

Parents, you do not have to be scared of social media or TikTok, nor do you have to fear making the perfect decisions for your teenagers. God, who loves your children and knows their names, is sovereign over it all. (Isa. 43:1-3).



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 2-5

9AM-NOON

Zion Lutheran Church
Shawano, WI



New friends * Amazing experiments * Creative games
Super-fun snacks * Surprising adventures * Incredible music

VBS is open to all 4K-5th
Grade Students

Volunteer and child
registration found at
www.shawanozion.org/vbs

