



HS Youth Group Meetings- September

Youth Group will start again on Wed. September 17th 6:30-8pm. This would be a great time to bring a friend who might be interested in joining!!

Rally Sunday- Fall Kickoff

Join us for Sun., Sept. 7 Rally Sunday at ZION! This special day marks the beginning of our new program year, filled with opportunities to grow together in faith, and strengthen our ZION family. Our morning will begin with a Commissioning of Sunday School Teachers during worship, as we celebrate and pray for those who will guide our children in their faith journeys this year. We invite students of all ages to bring their backpacks for a Backpack Blessing, which reminds us God goes with us into our schools, classrooms, and daily lives. After worship, the fun continues with our All-Church Ministry Fair! Rally Sunday is your chance to learn more about the many ministries at ZION, meet ministry leaders, and discover ways you can get involved. We'll also participate in a meaningful Service Project to serve our community together. For a bit of excitement, don't miss our Church Scavenger Hunt with prizes! Explore the building, learn about our various ministries, and enjoy some friendly competition. Whether you're a lifelong member or brand new to ZION, Rally Sunday is the perfect time to connect, serve, worship, fellowship, and celebrate as a church family.

Confirmation Meeting- Sept 17

Students in grades 6-9 and parents- there will be a Confirmation meeting Sept 17th 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 21st

9th grade Confirmation students will meet Sunday Sept 21 at 5pm for the beginning of Saints and Servants. Students are to bring their Confirmation Mentors. These meetings will be Sunday, Sept 21, Sept 28th, Oct 5 and Oct 12. Confirmation will be Sunday, October 26th during 10:30 service.

Youth Lock-In + Day of Service – October 11-12

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for an overnight adventure of faith, fun, and service! We'll kick off at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday with a devotion before heading out into the community for hands-on service projects. Back at church, we'll enjoy dinner, games, creative activities, snacks, worship, and plenty of late-night fun before winding down for a lock-in. Sunday morning will include breakfast, prayer, and a group photo before worship. This is a great opportunity for students to grow in faith, build friendships, and live out "faith in action." Parents—encourage your student to come, and consider signing up to help with food donations or chaperoning!

SportsYou App

For those of you new to ZION Youth or who didn't join before and want to now- We use the SportsYou app to share information, updates and a calendar of events for the Youth. Parents and students are invited to join. Our group's access code is YMVE8SLB. Contact Kristin with questions.

"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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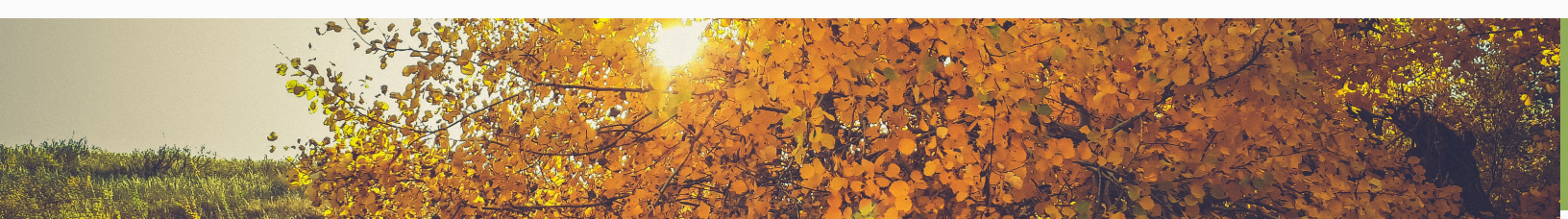
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MomCo Kickoff and Informational Meeting

MomCo kick-off meeting will be Thurs., September 4 @ 10:30 or 6pm. Come learn what MomCo is about and what it will look like at Zion.

You can learn more about MomCo at www.themomco.co.

Let's come together to support the moms in our community and help them thrive!

Octoberfest Setup- October 4th @ 7am

We have been asked to help set-up for Octoberfest in Downtown Shawano on Oct. 4th. We will need as many volunteers as possible, with some being adults. Our setup in July went quickly with a good group of volunteers- let's make this happen again! RSVP in the SportsYou app or by emailing Kristin.

This is a service and fundraising opportunity for the Youth.

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
YOUTH GROUP
25-26**

September 17- Youth Group 24- Bible Study	February 4- Youth Group 11- Bible Study 18- Youth Group 20-22, Journey with Jesus Synod Youth Gathering 25- 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	March 4- Youth Group 11- Bible Study 18- Youth Group 25- Bible Study
November 5- Youth Group 12- Bible Study 19- Youth Group 26- NO CLASS	April 1- Youth Group 8- Bible Study 15- Youth Group 22- Bible Study 29- Outing
December 3- Youth Group 10- Bible Study 17- Christmas Party	May 6- Youth Group 13- Bible Study 20- Youth Group 27- Bible Study
January 7- Youth Group 14- Bible Study 21- Youth Group 28- Bible Study	Summer '26 June- Service Trip

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

BINGO

Council has approved us getting a raffle license which will allow us to host Bingo as a fundraiser! This will be an opportunity for us to have an ongoing fundraiser for the Youth. Dates will be set soon. We are looking at starting with once a month. More information to come!

Confirmation Retreat

Instead of attending Confirmation Camp this summer- we have decided to take all of our students on a short retreat this fall. More details will be coming soon. Watch your emails for information and a possible poll for dates.

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!

"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

September at a Glance

Sept 7- Rally Sunday

Sept 17- HS Youth Group

Sept 24- HS Youth Group

Oct 4- Octoberfest Setup

Mark Your Calendars:

Oct 11-12- Youth Lock-in & Service day



Parent's Corner

Parenting Teenagers: Are You Coaching or Controlling? Joey Turner | August 26, 2025

By the time it was half-time I needed an aspirin. The opposing coach had been yelling at his team the entire game. Nothing bad, just constant instructions: "Pass!" "Cross!" "Move-up!" "You're offsides!" "Look over there!" If this coach thought it, he yelled it, as loud as he could... and he had lots of thoughts.

I coach my daughter's junior high rec soccer team. I don't like soccer, but I love my daughter. One night while watching YouTube videos on how to coach junior high soccer, I came across a video called, "Five signs your kid has a bad coach." Not wanting to be a bad coach, I clicked the video. "One sign that your kid has a bad coach is that the coach is constantly joysticking their players," said the brilliant YouTube soccer man on the screen.

"Joysticking" happens when the coach gives a steady stream of specific instructions to players during the whole game: "Pass it here!" "Run there!" "Shoot it!" While the coach means well, the players don't learn to find an open player to pass to—they learn to respond to their coach's yelling. Players don't grow more independent; they grow more dependent. What's even worse, the coach grows frustrated in the need to keep yelling all season.

Don't get me wrong, it's quite tempting to yell when your player is standing in front of the goal and not taking a shot, especially if that player is your kid. But why? Why do coaches "joystick?" It could be fear of failure – maybe losing was a sin in their household; fear of others – maybe they don't want to be seen as losers; or maybe they are trying to relive some of their own glory days.

Regardless, the goal of a good coach is not to control his or her players, but to develop them, and you can't develop players if all you do is "joystick" them.

You know where I'm going with this. Parents can "joystick" their kids. Some are "joysticking" their child's every move by constant instruction, disapproving looks, grunts, or passive aggressive comments. As a parent of 14 years and a guy who has worked with youth and parents for over 15 years, I think this is a big problem in parenting. We "joystick" our kids. At least I do. Our kid's good performance, especially in front of other people, brings some sort of relief that we are doing a good job and they are going to be ok, but over time we grow frustrated with the results.

Of course we mean well, but this type of constant control removes the opportunity for growth in our children. Our kids don't learn to do things well, they learn to respond to their parents' "joysticking." They don't need to remember, or learn from yesterday's mistakes, because mom or dad is going to jump in and prohibit that from happening. They don't grow more independent from the consequences of life experiences; they grow more dependent on Dad and Mom's instruction. What's even worse, the parents grow frustrated that they must continue "joysticking" their kids into their teen and adult years.

The thing about "joysticking" is that it works, temporarily. The kid does pass the ball where they should, they do get back on sides... It also works in parenting. The kid does sit up straight, he does take out the trash, and so on.

One "tell" of a good coach is that they don't "joystick." They are willing to suffer through poor play on the field, making note of things to affirm in their players and areas to work on in practice. They then get to experience the joy of true athletic development in their players

when the kids do things without being asked or told, and they implement in real time what you've affirmed in them or they've learned from your instruction in practice, or from their own mistakes. These types of coaches are not worried about winning games.

One "tell" of a good parent is that they don't "joystick." They are willing to joyfully suffer through the childishness and immaturity at every stage of development, making note of things to affirm in their kids and areas to work on at the appropriate time. Those parents then get to experience the joy of true growth in their kids. They will marvel as they see their son and daughter mature, though these parents will still be baffled by some of their mistakes (forgetting their own time as a child and teen). Kids of non-joysticking parents may not look as polished by comparison, but their parents are not focused on "winning" or "comparing," they are focused on loving their kids well.

If your days are filled with "joysticking" your kids on posture, eating habits, time management, good work ethic, friend choices, fill-in-the-blank, could it be that your aim in parenting is off? If your days are filled with "yelling across" the field (or living room) every time you see your kid missing the obvious play right in front of her, are you really developing her maturity? Instead of focusing on winning, or on not losing, the parent game, recognize that God has called you to the task of faithful development.

So what can you do?

Repent - "Joysticking" in coaching is annoying, but "joysticking" in parenting is probably sin. If fear is our primary motivator for "joysticking" our kids, that demonstrates a lack of faith, and anything not done by faith is sin (Rom. 14:23). At the root of "joysticking" is unbelief in a sovereign, loving and providential God. "Joysticking" comes from a heart that has somehow deceived itself into thinking that assuming the role of God in our child's life is not sinful. Confess it to the Lord and turn from it. "God, I am so afraid. I am not trusting you with my child's development. I am trusting in myself. I don't turn to you for wisdom, I am leaning on my own wisdom. Forgive me, Father. Search my heart and lead me in the way in which I should go." Consider apologizing to your kid or teen and see the fruit.

Recognize - There is a time for instruction, and a time for watching how your kids implement the instruction you've given them. Not only are our kids going to fail, but they also need to fail. They need to develop the ability to trust God on their own, learn from their mistakes, and confess their own sin. God will give you wisdom on when to instruct and when to watch. Instead of focusing on your child's mistakes, or potential mistakes, focus on affirming what they do well. Follow the 80:20 Rule: spend 80% celebrating what they do well, and 20% instruction on areas you want to help them grow and develop.

Rest - We are gospel people. Rest in the Gospel. Neither you, nor your children, can bear the weight of you finding your joy in their performance. Our joy is found in the perfect performance of Jesus Christ on our behalf. We live from that joy we have in him. Nothing else can compare to Jesus.

This week you are going to grow so much as a parent. You have the Holy Spirit inside of you, and amazing undeveloped kids in your house, and you get to parent without unnecessary performance pressure on your kid- or you. God's got this! He holds you and your child in his hands. Being a parent is the greatest coaching job in the world, although you still will need aspirin at times. Get after it!