



## YOUTH GROUP

### HS Youth Group Meetings- Summer

Summer Events to mark on your calendar!

June 17- Green Bay Rockers Game

July 26- Float the Wolf River

Aug 30- Hope in the Park, Jeremy Camp Concert

### Thank You to the HS Youth Who Serve Dinner @ SAM25



On April 15, several members of the Youth Group served dinner to guests at SAM25. Thanks to the warm weather, attendance was lower than usual, but those who came were very grateful for the spaghetti meal. Thank you to Curt Preston and Sara Boucher for helping transport and serve the food. We look forward to serving another meal this fall.

### Graduation Celebration

We celebrated our graduating seniors on Sunday, May 3 between services with cupcakes, quilts, prayers and well-wishes! It was a great way to celebrating this big accomplishment for our members!



### KIDS OF THE KINGDOM HOSTS INTERGENERATIONAL EVENTS

Kids of the Kingdom are excited to host monthly intergenerational events during the education hour between services — and the congregation is invited! Each month will feature a unique hands-on opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship together.

MAY 17th between services- we will be going to the GRACE Trail to explore, reflect, and reconnect. The park is located at 286 Northridge Dr Shawano.

These events are open to all ages — children, youth, parents, grandparents, and friends. Come learn, serve, create, and grow together as one church family. We hope you'll join us!

### JDoggs

On May 9 the High School Youth Group will be gathering at JDoggs at 6pm for some fun, food, and fellowship. We have the simulators reserved. If you plan to join us, please RSVP in SportsYou so we have an estimate of how many people we'll have.

"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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## Serve Boldly - Service Trip



The youth will be embarking on a service trip this summer through Serving Boldly. While we don't know exactly what work we'll be doing, the group promises "An immersive journey of service and spiritual growth. Spend 4 days serving communities in need, engaging in meaningful service projects, and building lasting connections with fellow youth participants. Whether you're sorting medical supplies, helping with yard work, or spreading love and positivity wherever you go, these trips are designed to leave a lasting impact on both you and the communities you serve."

Youth and parents who are interested need to see or contact Kristin ASAP. Cost and logistics will be worked out once number of interested participants is determined.

To learn more about Serve Boldly- visit their website at <https://www.gllm.org/sb-summer-youth.html>

## VBS- Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God

Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed!  
This year's Vacation Bible School will take place August 3-6, 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/925066](https://vbspro.events/p/925066)

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



## MomCo/KidCo Summer Meetups

Throughout the summer, our MomCo group will host monthly meetups at Memorial Park for parents and their little ones. Each gathering will include stories, crafts, snacks, and plenty of fun!

Feel free to share the attached flyer with anyone who has young children and might be looking for some summer adventures.

## 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!

## May & Summer at a Glance

May 9- J Doggs

May 24- First Service at County Park

June 17- Green Bay Rockers Baseball Outing

July 26- Float the Wolf River

Aug 3-6- VBS

Aug 30- Hope in the Park, Jeremy Camp concert

# Parent's Corner

## Getting to Know Your Teenager Again **Clinton Wheeler** | April 16, 2026

Going to students' games has always been one of my favorite parts of being a youth minister. I get to see them in their element and how Christ shows up for them on the field. It also gives me the opportunity to get to know their parents and hear about the challenges of parenting teenagers. One day at a baseball game, I was speaking to the dad of one of my students. We began talking about day-to-day things, and I asked him about what his son was up to. He simply replied, "I don't know," and said that he and his son didn't talk about things like that.

I was very taken aback by this! Why didn't this father know about what this son was doing in his day-to-day life? He was obviously supportive of his son because he was at a 3:30 p.m. baseball game. He would have had to get off work early for this. However, somewhere and somehow, there was a gap in the relationship. Along the way, this father and son had grown apart, and neither one of them might have admitted it.

### Are You Afraid of Your Teenager?

As a 28-year-old man, I have to admit that I am still intimidated by teenagers. They know so much that I don't, or they are so much more athletic than I ever was. In my early years of youth ministry, I had to get over this intimidation and get over it quickly! If I didn't, I wouldn't have meaningful conversations with youth because of my own fear of rejection or of not being who they needed me to be.

Even with our own children, this intimidation can sneak its way into the parent/child relationships. As a parent, maybe you don't know the new trends. Maybe your child is participating in something you know nothing about. Or maybe you do not feel worthy to talk to this growing teenager.

### Finding Your Worth in Christ

Worth is one of a teenager's biggest struggles as they navigate middle and high school. Where does my worth come from? My friends? Sports? How do I find worth? Parents, where do we find our worth? In our job? The amount of money we have? How successful our children are? As a youth minister, I am constantly reminding our students that their worth comes from Jesus and Jesus alone. It's a message that we need as parents too. What does that mean? It means that we have a Savior, Jesus Christ, who died to save us, and if we believe and trust in him, then we can live a life that is free in him.

We have to remind ourselves as parents that we are never going to be perfect parents. If our worth comes from how we parent or how we can connect with our teenager, then we will always be let down. But, if our worth comes from Christ, we can take comfort in knowing that we have a Savior who is perfect so we don't have to be. Paul writes, "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8). So what does this mean for us parents? It means that no matter what stage of life our teenagers are in, we are worthy to build meaningful relationships with them because our worth is not determined by how much or little we know, but by who Jesus says we are.

### Getting to Know Your Teenager Again

So what are some practical ways we can get to know our teens better as parents? First, it is important that we learn to be vulnerable and emotional with our teenagers. It is okay for your teenager to know how you are feeling on any day or how you are dealing with something that might be difficult in your life. Being vulnerable lets them know that it is okay for them to be vulnerable with you.

Another way is to practice being good listeners. When I was growing up, I went to summer camp a lot. When I got back from camp, my parents would always ask how my time was. I would usually just say, "good" or "fun", but I learned early on that this was not an acceptable answer for my parents. They wanted to know every detail about my week, and they made it a priority to sit and listen to me without any distractions.

When I got older and came back from camp, I got to a point where I wanted to share every detail with my parents because I knew they truly wanted to listen to me. This is just one example from my life, but the important thing to take away from this is to set up an environment where you are listening to your teenager and where you are asking good questions so our teens feel comfortable sharing.

### Make Their Spiritual Lives Your Responsibility

Lastly, as parents, it is important for us to know that we are spiritually responsible for our teenagers. As they get older, parents can get into thinking that everything that they are going to learn spiritually will come from their youth minister or some other mentor. But our children are only with a youth minister or mentor for maybe an hour or two a week. This leaves the rest of the week up to us parents!

This goes back to how we become vulnerable with our teenagers. Make sure that they know how you are doing spiritually and what Jesus means to you. Other habits to start could be praying with your teenager regularly, going through a book of the Bible or devotional with them, or making sure that they see you living out your spiritual walk.

### An Unexpected Question

My wife and I were walking around the Summit in Birmingham, AL and were stopped by two parents. The mom said that she was concerned about her teenage daughter. The daughter had great friends, but she really enjoyed hanging out with her parents most weekends. Her daughter enjoyed hanging out with her friends, but was she hanging out with them enough?

My wife and I laughed a little because this was an amazing picture of a relationship! The student was very comforted by the presence of her parents, enough to want to spend time with them. She wanted to be involved in their lives as much as they were involved in hers. This revealed that these parents knew their worth was found in Jesus. They did not have to try and change who they were to fit in with their daughter. Instead, they knew they were enough to be a part of their child's life and to ultimately lead her closer to God through a loving relationship.

Parents, building back a relationship and getting to know your teenager again will take some time. Stay involved in their lives and open up to them. Your relationship with them will be one of the most fruitful relationships in their lives. Know that you are worthy in Christ. Because of that, we can have intentional relationships with our children.

Our [Rooted Parent Podcast](#) gives you regular, gospel encouragement and practical help as you navigate the challenges of parenting and seek to disciple your children in the faith.

<https://rootedministry.com/getting-to-know-your-teenager-again/>

Registration  
Deadline  
July 20



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

AUGUST 3-6, 2026  
9AM-NOON

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

VBS is open to all 3K-5th  
Grade Students



Volunteer and child  
registration found at  
[www.shawanozion.org/vbs](http://www.shawanozion.org/vbs)



**Zion Lutheran Church,  
Shawano WI**





COME AND JOIN

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH'S

# KIDCO MEETUPS

Faith-Filled Fun for  
Tots and Parents:  
Crafts, Stories,  
Snacks, and Sun!

June 18

July 23

Aug 13

10-11am

**Memorial Park**  
Lincoln Street side.  
Look for the KIDCO sign

For more info call 715.390.4580 or  
visit [shawanozion.org/momco](http://shawanozion.org/momco)