

JUNE 2025

ZION YOUTH NEWS



YOUTH GROUP

HS Youth Group Meetings- June

We will have Youth Group on TUESDAY, June 17 at 6:30 at the Church. These summer sessions are a great time to bring a friend who might be interested in joining!!

Bay Beach Outing

We'll kick off summer with an evening at Bay Beach on Monday, June 30. Meet at the Zippin Pippin at 5pm. We will set up carpooling as we get closer. Bring a friend!

PIECE IT TOGETHER: A MULTI-GENERATIONAL SHOWDOWN!

Thanks to all who participated in the puzzle challenge! It was great to have so many people of all ages working together and having fun! We will hold another challenge during the winter.



VBS- True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

Thank you for making True North VBS 2025 an unforgettable adventure! We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible support that brings our True North VBS to life this week. Thanks to your generous donations and dedicated volunteer efforts, we are guiding our kids on an unforgettable Alaskan adventure, complete with glowing northern lights, a waterfall with rocks, towering trees, and the comforting truth that Jesus is our unmovable, unshakable friend forever. Trusting Jesus in a Wild World is the heart of every activity. From water fun and painting rocks to creating colorful sand art, even bear chocolate cupcakes, each day is filled with joy, creativity, and connection. We truly couldn't have done VBS without all the great Youth Volunteers! I received so many compliments on how amazing you all were- great job!



"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

BINGO!

PAGE 01

Bay Beach Outing

PAGE 01

PIECE IT TOGETHER: A
MULTI-GENERATIONAL
SHOWDOWN!

PAGE 01

VBS- True North

PAGE 1

Service Trip Meeting

PAGE 2

Anne Wilson Concert

PAGE 2

God's Little Wonders
Update

PAGE 2

MomCo Comes to Zion

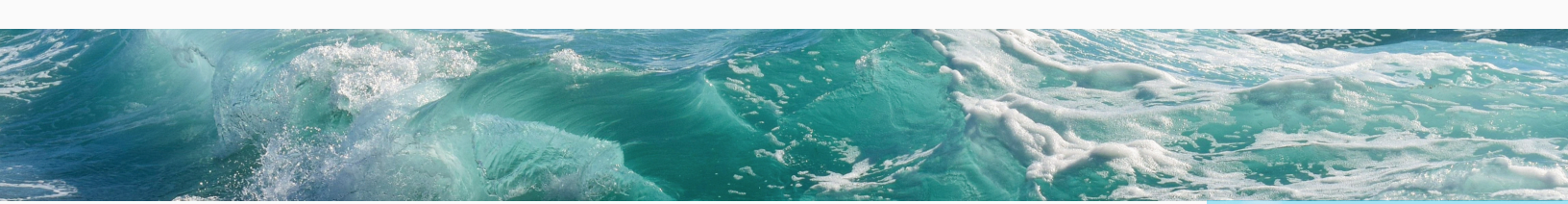
PAGE 2

Carwash Cards

PAGE 02

Parent's Corner

PAGE 03



Service Trip Update

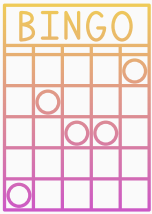
Watch for a planning meeting for our service trip to Milwaukee. We will meet to pick dates and activities. All High School Youth and parents are invited to join.

Anne Wilson Concert, Hope in the Park

The Hope in the Park festival will again take place in Wausau in August. We are looking to put together a group to go see Anne Wilson in concert on Sunday, August 24. More information to come, save the date if you're interested in attending

BINGO!

Watch for our next Bingo date coming in July... it might even be Cosmic Bingo!



God's Little Wonders Update

Our God's Little Wonders classes will continue through June, with sessions on June 1, 15, and 29. During the summer, we'll transition to a schedule that alternates between classes and outdoor playdates. Then in the fall, we'll launch our MomCo program, featuring special curriculum for the kids while moms enjoy their meeting time.

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.

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!

June & Summer at a Glance

**June 17-
HS Youth Group**

**June 30- MS & HS Youth
Outing to Bay Beach**

July 8- HS Youth Group

**July TBD- Float the Wolf
River**

Aug 6- HS Youth Group

Aug/ Sept TBD- Lock In

**Aug 24- Hope in the
Park, Anne Wilson
concert**



Parent's Corner

Parents of Teenagers, Don't Forget to Maintain The Connection Connie Leung Nelson | May 20, 2025

Lately, there's been a series of TikTok videos floating around that make me chuckle. They feature parents of teen daughters tripping over themselves to run and hide as the teenager enters the room, her eyes glued to her phone, nary a glance upward. The gag is that the teen girl is so intimidating, her parents flee and hide from her presence in their own house. What makes the situation even more comical is that the teen is so preoccupied in her own world, she hasn't the faintest idea that she's sending her parents flying in the opposite direction.

Of course the videos are an exaggerated depiction from the parent's point of view, but they humorously capture the funny awkwardness of parent-teen relationships. Our teens can be kind and thoughtful to us, but they can also be careless and moody. We are left guessing where they are at if they shut us out, which happens especially if we come head to head in disagreement (anyone else been given a days-long silent treatment over Snapchat?). The teenage years are indeed a precarious time for connection between parents and their kids.

Parents, Don't Lose Sight of Your Teens

While it's true that our teens have packed schedules and they're less keen to spend time with mom and dad, we parents need to be aware of what's in us that can contribute to disconnection too.

When our teens' futures seem to hang in the balance of decisions made in these years, our parenting can become consumed with trying to help fix whatever we see threatening them. Our teens' "problems" take front and center stage in our minds, overshadowing them as individual image-bearers. When we lose sight of our teens that way, we're in danger of seeing them as problems to solve and not people to love.

Stewardship of our teens includes our parental obligation to many things, including teaching, correcting, helping, supporting (Eph. 6:4). But parents are to reflect the love of God at all times, as people of God (Matt. 22:37-39). Our teens receive our love most easily when they feel seen and heard, loved and valued as people apart from whatever problems they are facing.

As we parents navigate both our teens' natural distancing from us as well as whatever issues we help them face, we do well to persevere in getting to know our teens. Yes, connecting may feel unnatural and hard in this season – it certainly does for me. But seasoned youth ministers will tell you that it is this connection that serves as a vital conduit for so much correcting and teaching, helping and supporting.

And finally, love that perseveres when things are hard is all the more reflective of God's perfect, pursuing love for his children.

Ways For Parents To Maintain The Connection

Be Available

Parents of teenagers know that we are no longer the ones dictating when the points of connection happen – our kids are. Our teens feel we are safe when they can see that we are not too busy to care about them. We can let them know we're available both verbally ("I'm doing some work on the computer but I definitely want you to interrupt me!") and by following through ("Sorry I couldn't watch that show with you last week, I really wanted to. Could we do Tuesday night?")

Take Care to Repair

Inevitably, our connection with our kids will take a hit when we disagree or when we unintentionally hurt one another. Asking for forgiveness when we act less-than-loving is not only right, it shows our kids that we value our connection to them (Prov. 28:13, Eph. 4:26). If our child disagrees with a decision we've made, parents can restore the connection by acknowledging and validating that child's feelings ("I understand you're disappointed about ____"). We then continue the conversation to help our kids understand the reason behind our decision.

Talk More

While we do need to have conversations to correct, inform, or advise our teenagers, these talks don't feel good for our teens (my daughter calls them 'judgment lectures'). Consider using the bigger portion of your limited time together purely to connect with them. Listen with curiosity, suspending judgment, with the aim of getting to know them. Asking for their opinions on what's current and trending or for how-to advice on a topic they're confident in will help our kids feel seen and heard.

Persevere

When our teens rebuff our attempts to connect with them, we feel helpless. While we do need to respect our teens' personal boundaries, we must persevere in initiating connection often. When we are willing to pursue our kids by meeting them where they are, we show a love that "believes all things, hopes all things", by "becoming all things" for the sake of the gospel (1 Cor 13:7, 9:22-23). We don't need to upend family calendars to do this – many ordinary moments make for good connecting points. Anytime we are in the same space, we can choose to be open and present (doing dishes, during car rides). We can ask our teens to join us in whatever we're doing, or ask permission to join them. ("I'm going to get groceries, want to come? We can get stuff for your lunch this week" or "Hey, if you're making cookies can I bake with you?")

There's no doubt that this season of parenting comes with challenges we didn't hope for or expect. But what God has called us to do, he will give us grace to do, giving us everything we need at all times (2 Cor 9:8).

By his grace, as we persevere in doing the hard work of loving, may we experience the special joy of being parents to children God has given us to steward.

By his grace, may we grow in seeing our kids as marvelously unique people whom God loves and works in and through.

By his grace, may our children see our love for them as a small reflection of God's supreme, perfect love for them and us.

We know all this is possible, because we parent and we love out of being abundantly loved by our heavenly Father God in Jesus.