

JULY 2025

ZION YOUTH NEWS

July



HS Youth Group Meetings- July

We will have Youth Group on TUESDAY, July 8 at 6:30 at the Church. These summer sessions are a great time to bring a friend who might be interested in joining!!

Lock In and Service day Planning Meeting

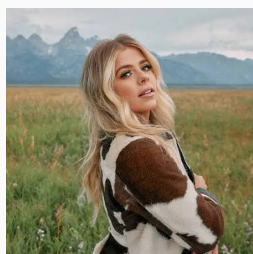
Do you want to help plan our Lock-In? Have ideas for how we can make a real impact in our community?

Join us Wednesday, July 23 at 6:00 PM for a planning meeting! Bring your calendars to help choose dates and your ideas to help make this an amazing event.

Parents are welcome too — your input is valuable!
Let's work together to create something meaningful and fun!

Float the Wolf River

July 28th at 2pm, all youth members, family members and all congregation members are invited to join us for a float! Meet at the Great Wolf Tubing Company at 1013 S Water St, Shawano.



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

God's Little Wonders Update

Our God's Little Wonders classes will continue through July, with sessions on July 10 and 24. 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.

MomCo kick-off meeting will be

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!

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

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July 27- Float the Wolf
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Aug 6- HS Youth Group

Aug/ Sept TBD- Lock In

Aug 24- Hope in the
Park, Anne Wilson
concert

Parent's Corner

Encouragement for Parents: When Kids Ask Tough Questions Steve Eatmon | May 15, 2025

Many parents dread the time when their child asks a perplexing question about the Christian faith. They feel comfortable doing family devotions, attending church, or praying with the kids, but freeze when asked a difficult question such as, "Why does God allow suffering?" "What happens to those who never hear the gospel?" or "Where is heaven located?" Fears can cripple parents whenever a child introduces a difficult subject. Here are three tips to help parents address these thorny issues.

Be Available to Interruptions

Having been a youth pastor for many years and now having teenage children of my own, I have come to learn that children, especially teenagers, ask questions when the subject feels important to them, not when it's most convenient for the parents. If you try to organize a time to have a theological Q&A, kids will often respond with one-word answers. But when you are getting ready for work, or school, or trying to finish an important project, your daughter will randomly pop one of these difficult questions. It's important to be ready at a moment's notice for these loving interruptions.

This doesn't mean that you have to defend a dissertation at your child's beck and call, but as much as possible, try to be available for questions. You can always revisit the discussion later, but we parents should always make good on our word to talk further. There can be a perfectionistic tendency to procrastinate on these questions because we are afraid of not sounding intelligent, not having polished answers, or being unable to counter their objections. Even more than expecting great answers, children are looking more for someone to hear them and engage with them. They often want to see how their parents have wrestled with these types of issues on their own faith journey, so it can be better to give a raw, unfiltered answer than wait until some undetermined date to give a more refined response.

Research

While we should be available as much as possible to dialogue with our kids, it also helps if we take the time to learn about the challenges they are facing. Almost every statistic on the health of the church and Christianity overall shows that our kids are growing up in a less Christian, less Bible-based culture than previous generations. They will undoubtedly hear certain objections and discussions that we may not have faced ourselves as children.

During my childhood, it seemed there were not so many questions about the reliability of the Scriptures. One a person accepted the resurrection or the existence of God, it seemed easier to accept the rest of the Bible as God's truth. Now, every line of Scripture is under scrutiny independent of the whole. Just because people may accept one part of it (i.e. the existence of God) doesn't mean they will accept others as such (i.e. the exodus from Egypt, or the commands regarding sexual behavior).

Because of this phenomenon, we as parents should do what we can to become students not only of God's Word itself, but also the defense of his Word. When our kids see that we are as eager as they are to learn about the controversial issues regarding the Christian faith, we gain their respect and help them see that we are committed to their faith development. There are a number of websites and books you can consult to help you get going. Gotquestions.org is a great place to start and [Christian Apologetic Research Ministry](http://ChristianApologeticResearchMinistry.org) (CARM) offers answers to a wide variety of current objections. There are also many books on the subject such as [Before You Lose Your Faith: Deconstructing Doubt in the Church](#) (edited by Ivan Mesa) and [Apologetics: A Justification of Christian Belief](#) by John Frame.

Humility

Even with all of the research that we can do help them understand the validity of the Bible as God's Word, we must remember that there is no answer, no matter how clear and thorough it may sound, that will make a child say, "I get it now, therefore you have answered all of my questions and I will never doubt again." Every child's faith journey has twists and turns that might cause you to wonder if he really has accepted and taken hold of the essential truths of God's Word.

The making of a diamond requires a lot of pressure and tension. The teen years are tense years of testing. Teenagers (and pre-teens) are figuring out who they are, what they believe, and what they should do with their lives. Just as diamonds are forged through much pressure and heat, the genuine deep faith of a mature adult Christian requires as much, if not more, tension. It's necessary that young people wrestle with deep and often controversial issues so their faith can be deep and secure and not easily broken by the non-believing world.

Parents must trust in the sovereignty of God as we evangelize our kids. God's sovereignty relieves us of this idea that we must be perfect in order to save those around us. The truth is that we don't save anyone; God does, through his son Jesus Christ. Jesus died to save our kids, and while none of us know if our children will accept that free gift or not, it can be freeing to know that their salvation does not depend on our providing the perfectly crafted answer at the proper time. Long-lasting faith is not built on human wisdom, but on a God who made the entire universe.

For more gospel-centered parent resources, check out the [Rooted Parent podcast](#).