



MARCH 2026

ZION YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH GROUP

HS Youth Group Meetings- March

All of March this year falls during Lent. We will have a devotional and reflection based on Pastor's sermon available. We will also gather to discuss if students would like to.

Game Nights Go Monthly!

Get ready for some fun—our Game Nights are now happening on the 3rd Sunday of every month! The next Game Night is March 15th from 4-5:30pm.



Join us for board games, card games, snacks, and laughter! Bring your neighbors, friends, and family to challenge them to games like Spoons, Battleship, or Twister. We'll have something for all ages—even Hungry, Hungry Hippos for the little ones! Don't miss out on the fun—see you there!

Thank You for Making Our Youth Spaghetti Dinner a Success!

What a wonderful evening of food, fellowship, and generosity! Thank you to everyone who attended, donated, volunteered, baked, served, cleaned, or supported our Youth Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser in any way.

Because of your generosity, the funds raised will directly support youth activities, including Bible studies, service projects, retreats, special events, and opportunities that help our young people grow in faith, leadership, and community.

Your support is more than a meal ticket — it's an investment in the lives of our youth. We are so grateful for a congregation and community that believes in encouraging and equipping the next generation. Thank you for making this event such a success!



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March at a Glance

Mar 4- Lent Service & Discussion

Mar 11- Lent Service & Discussion

Mar 15- Game Night

Mar 18- Lent Service & Discussion

Mar 25- Lent Service & Discussion

"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



Upcoming Activities

There are lots of activities “in the works”! We’ll share more info and specific dates as they get closer.

HS Youth Fellowship Outing- We’re going on an outing but yet to determine what that’ll look like- snowshoeing, sledding, ice skating, bowling... something fun!! All we know is it will be fun! Date TBD also.

HS Youth Serve Dinner @ SAM25- April 15th at 6:15. We’ll be making spaghetti using our extra donations from the spaghetti dinner. We’ll make a plan for cooking food as we get closer.

MS/HS- Masons Easter Egg Hunt Help- We’ve been asked to help with the Mason’s Easter Egg Hunt March 28. More info to come- but mark your calendars!



VBS- Planning has begun for this year’s VBS. The theme is “Rainforest Falls.” We are looking at the first week in August for our dates and will need lots of volunteers so please mark your calendars! Also- if you have any brown packing paper from Amazon boxes (or other boxes) please save them and bring in to Kristin’s office- we’re going to be making lots of vines!

Carwash Cards

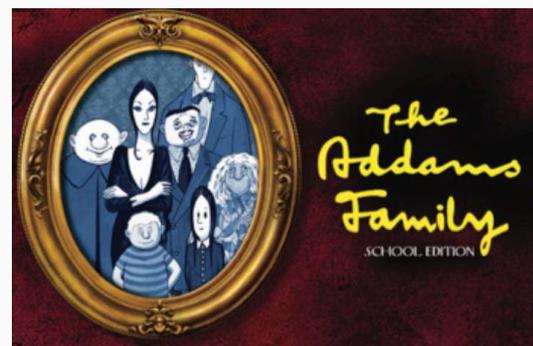
We will continue to sell Kwik Trip carwash cards to raise funds for our programming. They are always available in the main office and will be available between services several times a month.



Our Youth In Action

Congratulations to Emma Effenberger (cast) and Grady Krone (pit band) for their great performances in SHS’s musical “Addam’s Family” ! Great job to the entire cast and crew for a job well done!

If youth are performing or playing in an activity or sport that you think the congregation or other youth would enjoy- please share with Kristin so we can promote them!



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!

Parent's Corner

The Small Speech Habits In Building Up A Christian Home Foster Toft | February 10, 2026

I ran my first marathon this year, and I can honestly say, it was the hardest thing I've ever done. Running 26 miles seemed impossible to me! But I didn't begin by running 26 miles. I ran 1 mile around my neighborhood for weeks until I gained enough energy (and determination) to go further. Simply put, being able to run 26 miles doesn't happen overnight.

The same is true for the parental desire to build homes that please God. Many of us want to raise our children to love Christ and obey his commandments. We want our homes to have an atmosphere of Christ's love. But too often, expectations are crushed when our children (and we ourselves) do not act in godly ways. Parents become frustrated when it seems like nobody in the home is behaving or speaking in ways we hoped.

I'm convinced that frustration and dashed hopes happen when parents expect their households to run "righteousness marathons" without training a mile at a time. In other words, without the practice of righteous speech habits, families are unprepared to react graciously in tense moments.

I do not promise a magic pill to make your families perfect. But I do believe that by cultivating godly speech in your home, you can build your family up, encouraging them and preparing them for the marathon of life. My desire is to help parents daily disciple their children in ways that practically change the atmosphere of their homes.

Below are three godly habits of speech that help to build up your home.

Practice Thankfulness

It may seem obvious, but a home that expresses thankfulness builds its members up. More than just thanking God at the dinner table, I want to advocate for actively expressing thankfulness for one another daily. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians, "I give thanks to my God always for you" (1:4). Elsewhere, he says, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you" (Phil. 1:3). The New Testament is riddled with encouragement to express thankfulness for one other, to one another.

Instead of gossiping, slandering, or constantly critiquing, make the tone of your home thankfulness. Imagine with me, you regularly share a reason why you are specifically thankful for your child or spouse—how might that change the culture of your home?

When we practice thankfulness, we seek to identify characteristics and values in a spouse or child that are specific to that person. For example, I am thankful for your honesty/humor (or other attribute), or I am thankful you like (insert school subject).

There are countless things for which to give thanks. Expressing thankfulness encourages your spouse and children. It lets them know you notice them and care.

Celebrate Good and Godly Attitudes

Similar to cultivating thankfulness, the habit of verbally celebrating righteous actions also builds up a household. Paul writes in Romans: "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor" (Rom. 12:9-10).

Celebrating good and virtuous actions, especially when they're hard, is holding fast to what is good. It makes doing right the norm of the home while making what is evil alien. When the good and the virtuous are celebrated, everyone takes joy in outdoing one another in showing honor. Some examples of praising virtue may be, "That was very kind of you to share!" or "You responded with kindness when they hurt you!"

Use Words That Build Up, Not Tear Down

Perhaps one of the hardest things to do in the home is to consistently use words that build up. This entails being vigilant to not use words that can tear down, particularly sarcastic words. I know many when they hear this might say, "But sarcasm is my love language!" Yet Paul writes in Ephesians: "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear" (Eph. 4:29).

According to Merriam-Webster, sarcasm's very purpose is to insult or show irritation. Since it typically targets an individual, I strongly caution against regularly practicing sarcasm at home (or in general). Sarcasm points out deficiency in others and says "I noticed your shortcomings without any grace."

A built-up home is one in which parents and siblings make an effort to encourage one another with their words. It's one in which family members don't vocalize one another's failures all the time, but regularly praise one another's good character instead. In a Christian home, parents value children and tell them how proud they are of them.

There are few instances more relationally rewarding than to look at your family at dinner, after you've expressed thankfulness and celebrated the good, and genuinely saying, "Son/daughter, I'm proud of you." The pride your child will feel in being your son or daughter! This builds up a home.

Running The Race In Grace

"But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!" (Josh. 24:15). Joshua makes this declaration for his household when Israel is faced with the choice to live as God's people or not. Like Joshua, we want to serve the Lord and finish the race well. As we pray regularly for our children and their own hearts towards Christ, let us run the mile we are on—daily doing the little things that help us get to the end. And though we won't do this perfectly, there is grace for us in Jesus, who died so that we can rest in his power to save instead of our own. He gives us everything we need to lead our households across the finish line.

<https://rootedministry.com/the-small-speech-habits-in-building-up-a-christian-home/>