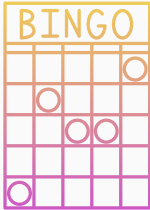




HS Youth Group Meetings- May

We will have Youth Group on May 7 and Bible Study on May 14. These will be our last classes before our Summer Schedule starts.

Summer Schedule- We'll meet once per month during the summer with several other outings scheduled in between. June 11, July 9, and August 13 6:30 pm.



BINGO!

Sunday May 18th 6-7:30pm. Join us for Bingo! Bring your friends and family for a night of fun and prizes.

Graduation Celebration

We celebrated our graduating seniors on Sunday, April 27 between services with cupcakes, quilts, prayers and well-wishes! It was a great way to celebrating this big accomplishment for our members!

PIECE IT TOGETHER: A MULTI-GENERATIONAL SHOWDOWN!

Get ready for a fun-filled showdown ! Gather your team of four, including:

- ✓ One member under 20
- ✓ One member aged 20-50
- ✓ One member over 50
- ✓ 4th member of any age!

Each team receives the same 300 piece puzzle Work together, and race to the finish for a chance to win prizes for the top three teams! A light dinner will be available to participants. \$10 per team fee to help offset the price of puzzles, dinner and prizes.

Summer Outings for Youth

We are working on putting together several outings for the summer. The Youth Committee brainstormed options and we'll be putting together a schedule! This will include a 1 or 2 day mission trip, fun adventures, and concerts. Stay tuned for more details.

VBS- True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed!

This year's Vacation Bible School will take place June 2-5, 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/2a414b.

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

Help Us Reach Our Goal!

Our goal this year for VBS is 50 kids—and we need your help to get the word out!

The flyer is attached on page 4, so please share it with families you know who might be interested in sending their kids.

With a bigger goal comes the need for more volunteers—so please consider joining us in making this a special experience for all the kids! If you have any questions, contact Kristin.



"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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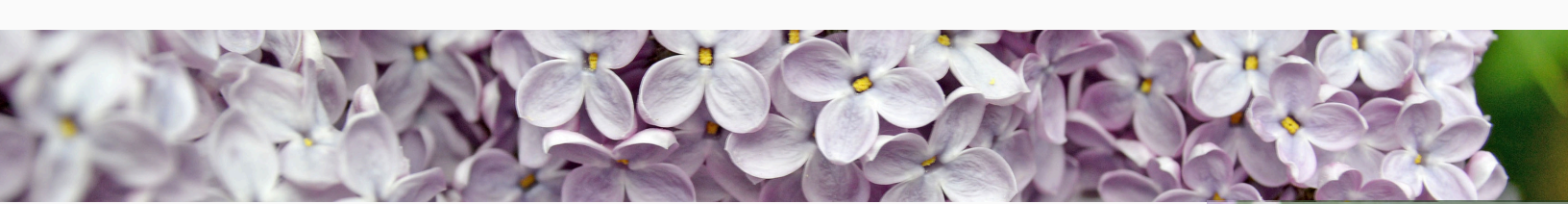
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God's Little Wonders Update

Our God's Little Wonders classes will continue through May, with sessions on May 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.

Why is MomCo Important?

Motherhood is beautiful, but it can also be exhausting and isolating. MomCo creates a space where moms feel seen, known, and loved. By providing a supportive network, Zion's MomCo group will be a lifeline for moms in our church and the wider Shawano community. Together, we can help moms build strong, lasting friendships and deepen their faith.

What Are the Benefits to Our Church?

Bringing MomCo to Zion will extend our outreach to young families and moms who are searching for connection and support. As we build these relationships, we welcome more families into the life of our congregation. MomCo also nurtures future leaders and volunteers by encouraging moms to grow in their gifts and confidence. Supporting moms ultimately strengthens families—and strong families build a strong church!

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!

May & Summer at a Glance

May 7-
HS Youth Group

May 14-Last
HS Bible Study

May 18- Bingo!

May 21- Piece it
Together: Puzzle
Challenge

May 25- First Service at
County Park

June 11- HS Youth Group

July 9- HS Youth Group

Aug 13- HS Youth Group

Aug 24- Hope in the
Park, Anne Wilson
concert

Parent's Corner

Motivating the Unmotivated Child Katie Polski | April 10, 2025

For years, my husband and I tried every method we could think of to motivate our high school son to improve his schoolwork. We discussed the importance of good grades for college, spoke with a mentor about why grades matter, and—yes, in desperation—offered money. We reached a point where we offered financial incentives for better grades, hoping it might spark his motivation.

But all of it was futile. Despite our best efforts, our teen remained unmotivated.

Sometimes, motivating teens feels like trying to herd cats blindfolded, in a windstorm, with one hand tied behind your back. It's incredibly challenging. But it's also necessary, and more importantly, we must believe that as parents, God can use us to reach the hearts of our teens.

True motivation isn't about coercion or control; it's about discipleship. When we take the time to understand their struggles, listen to their dreams, and point them to God's truth, we move beyond mere behavior modification into heart transformation. When a teen feels known and valued, when they experience the love of Christ through us, their desire to do what is good for them flows from a heart surrendered to God rather than from external pressure. It's important to look at how the gospel shapes our approach to motivating an unmotivated child. Here are a few guiding principles to consider from the wisdom of the Proverbs.

Realize Your Definition of Success

As parents, our attempts to motivate often stem from our own definition of "success," which is shaped by comparison with others, and our own life experiences. For example, if I'm being honest, my push for my teens to excel on the ACT largely comes from the belief that success, in my circles, means getting into a prestigious college. It's essential to recognize what we define as successful because sometimes we push our children toward a path we think is "right" for them based on our own definition of "right." When they show interest in something we didn't expect or don't like, we try to force them back to what we envision for them, creating tension and frustration. Our children are uniquely made by God, and it's possible they'll flourish on a path we hadn't even considered.

Additionally, we must prayerfully discern whether we are trying to justify ourselves by having a successful child. In other words, sometimes we parent out of fear thinking that if a child is "unsuccessful," it will make us look bad. For example, for some parents, motivating a child becomes less about shaping their heart, and more about appeasing the fear that an unsuccessful child will make them look bad.

In other families, if a parent is concerned that their child isn't motivated to reach a certain earning potential, that concern is less about the child's well-being and more about the parent feeling secure about their child's future.

The point is, we must recognize why we're pushing them. If our goal is for our child to succeed by our standards or to justify our worries, we need to realize that true success, according to Scripture, isn't about personal achievement but about fulfilling God's purposes for our lives. Proverbs 16:3 says, "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established."

More important than motivating our teen to be who we want them to be is encouraging them to trust God with their plans and efforts, knowing that ultimately, he is the one who grants success according to his purposes.

Recognize the Difference Between Lack of Motivation and Disobedience

It's important to understand the difference between motivating a child and expecting obedience. For instance, when I ask my teenager to clean her room, I'm giving a clear instruction, and it's her responsibility to follow through, whether she feels motivated or not.

Proverbs 13:24 says, "Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him." Discipline is an act of love. When we don't correct disobedience, we aren't helping our child grow. So, if my teen refuses to clean her room, I need to address the disobedience—not just assume it's because she lacks motivation.

That said, it's also essential to check our approach. Are we setting unrealistic expectations based on our own hopes for their success? Or are we encouraging them to take ownership of their responsibilities in a way that feels meaningful to them? Motivation is personal—it's about helping them find purpose in what they do, not just pushing them to meet external expectations.

The key is balancing discipline with motivation. If a teen is struggling to stay motivated in areas where they have potential—like schoolwork or extracurricular activities—it's helpful to have open, honest conversations. Instead of simply commanding or scolding, ask questions like, "What excites you about the future?" or "What could make this task feel more engaging?" While discipline is necessary for obedience, motivation requires understanding what sparks their interest.

Remember that Passions Emerge Over Time

It's not that teens are NOT motivated, but they are not always motivated to do what we're asking of them. Take heart and remember that your unmotivated teen will eventually find what drives her. If your concern is simply that she doesn't seem motivated about anything, start by praying that God will reveal her unique gifts and passions.

Proverbs 22:29 says, "Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men." In other words, notice the gifts in your children, even if those talents or interests seem unconventional. You never know how the Lord might use their gifts to greatly influence others.

Encourage gifts that you may think are "useless," such as gaming, and then prayerfully consider how you might engage in a conversation about using that gift for the betterment of others. Maybe it's standing out as a Christian in online gaming or teaching someone younger about their particular area of interest.

You never know the kind of influence they might have with the gifts they've been given. Passion fuels excellence, and when your teen finds what they're passionate about, motivation will follow.

Retain the Gospel Message in Your Motivating

Proverbs 4:23 says, "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life." When trying to motivate our teens, we must remember what's ultimately important: their relationship with Jesus.

It's easy to get caught up in motivating our teens to perform in school, sports, or other areas, but we cannot lose sight of nurturing their hearts. More than anything, our teens need to know that they are fully loved and fully accepted by God. Lasting change begins in their hearts.

The gospel transforms our approach to motivation. When we remember what Jesus does for us – daily showing us his grace and mercy – it changes our pushing from "why don't you do this," to "what can you do in light of what Jesus has done for you?"

After two years of college, my son left school to pursue a job in sales. That was when he discovered his passion, and for the first time, I saw my son motivated in ways I never expected. Now I see him eagerly learning, teaching, inspiring, building, and creating. Watching the transformation has been humbling.

As we wait for our teens to find their passions, let's be prayerfully patient. Trust that God will guide them in using their gifts and fulfilling his purposes in their lives.

Registration
Deadline
May 20



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 2-5

9AM-NOON

Zion Lutheran Church
Shawano, WI



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

VBS is open to all 4K-5th
Grade Students

Volunteer and child
registration found at
www.shawanozion.org/vbs

