OCTOBER 2025

ZION YOUTH NEWS





HS Youth Group Meetings- October

Youth Group will meet Wed. Oct 1st and Oct 15 6:30-8pm. Bible Study will be Oct 8th and Oct 22 6:30-8pm. Remember you're always invited to bring friends who might be interested in joining!!

Youth Lock-In + Day of Service - October 11-12

Students in grades 6–12 are invited to join us for an overnight adventure of faith, fun, and service! We'll kick off at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday with a devotion before heading out into the community for hands-on service projects. Back at church, we'll enjoy dinner, games, creative activities, snacks, worship, and plenty of late-night fun before winding down for a lock-in. Sunday morning will include breakfast, prayer, and a group photo before worship. This is a great opportunity for students to grow in faith, build friendships, and live out "faith in action." Parents—we need chaperones! Please see the email from me about chaperoning.

Saints and Servants- Oct 21st

9th grade Confirmation students will meet for the Saints and Servants classes. Students are to bring their Confirmation Mentors. These meetings will be Sunday, Oct 5 and Oct 12. Students will practice following the 10:30 service on Oct 19 and then go to lunch with Pastor (confirmands, mentors, parents, and siblings are invited). Confirmation will be Sunday, October 26th during 10:30 service.

Confirmation- Oct 26th

Confirmation will be Sunday, October 26th during 10:30 service. Confirmands need to be at church by 9:30 a.m. for a group and individual picture as well as a reception in their honor. We have 7 Confirmands this year. Please join us in celebration this momentous event with these special youth.

College Care Boxes

The first of the College Care Boxes went out last week! If you have college students, ask them if they got their packages! If you haven't sent in your college kiddos address- please get it to Kristin ASAP!

Youth Halloween Party – Wed, October 29

Youth families, mark your calendars! Our annual Halloween Party for middle and high school students is happening on Wednesday, October 29. Come dressed in your best costumes and bring a friend for a night full of spooky fun, games, treats, and fellowship.



Octoberfest Setup- THANK YOU

Thank you to all the amazing students and parents that showed up to set up for Octoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 4! Many hands makes light work! This is a great, easy fundraiser for the Youth group.

SportsYou App

For those of you new to ZION Youth or who didn't join before and want to now-We use the SportsYou app to share information, updates and a calendar of events for the Youth. Parents and students are invited to join. Our group's access code is YMVE8SLB. Contact Kristin with questions.

"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





Zion is excited to host MomCo —a ministry where moms of young children can gather for encouragement, friendship, and faith-filled support. We believe that better moms make a better world, and MomCo is designed to give you a space to connect, recharge, and grow alongside other women in the same season of life.

Our group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month from 10:00–11:30 a.m. Childcare is provided through KidCo, but children must be preregistered to ensure we have enough helpers and space.

We are also looking for volunteers to help in the KidCo room—a fun and meaningful way to support moms by caring for their little ones during meetings. If you enjoy spending time with young children, we'd love to have you join the team!

Whether you're looking for a place to belong, a moment to breathe, or ways to grow as a mom and woman of faith, MomCo is for you.

For details or to volunteer with KidCo, visit our church website shawanozion.org/momco or contact Kristin.

Holiday Handmade Marketplace

Mark your calendars! Zion will be hosting the Handmade Holiday Marketplace on Saturday, November 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Come shop from a variety of local vendors offering unique handmade gifts, festive décor, and more—perfect for your holiday shopping.

We still have a few vendor spaces available, so if you or someone you know would like to join as a seller, applications can be found on our church website or by contacting the church office.

As part of the Marketplace, we are also collecting gently used books and puzzles (including children's books and puzzles) to sell. Donations will be accepted through November 1.

New this year—we're offering a Kidpreneur Event! Young crafters and creators will have the opportunity to host their own vendor tables and sell their handmade products. This is a fun way to encourage creativity and entrepreneurship among our youth.

Don't miss this exciting community event filled with shopping, fellowship, and holiday cheer!

YOUTH- are asked to work this event as a service event and fundraiser. We will help with set up and tear down and sell books and puzzles in the nursery. More to come on this, but save the date for now!

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!

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October at a Glance Oct 1- Youth Group Oct 8- Bible Study Oct 11-12 Lock- in Oct 17- HS Youth Group Oct 24- HS Youth Group Oct 26- Confirmation Oct 29- Halloween Party **Mark Your Calendars:** Nov 15 - Holiday Marketplace Vendor Show

Parent's Corner

Parents, You Don't Have to Know It All Isaiah Marshall | September 16, 2025

The year 2014 was special for me and my wife as we welcomed our first child into the world. I still remember the joy, the exhaustion, the beauty of it all. The hospital staff made us feel seen and supported. Our nurse was attentive, the doctor reassuring, and we were coached through every little detail of caring for our newborn daughter.

But then came the moment we were discharged. I pulled the car around, secured the new car seat, and looked through the rearview mirror at that tiny, beautiful person. And suddenly it hit me. They're really going to let us take her home . . . alone? A quiet panic settled in. She was so small. So precious. So cute. And we were so inexperienced. We had no manual for new parents. Although we had read a couple of books, this was the real thing. We had an overwhelming sense of responsibility and love.

In that moment, I realized something I would continue learning as a parent, a husband, and a ministry leader: The weight of caring for someone doesn't require you to know everything. It only requires you to know what matters most.

Trying to Know It All

The problem is, we're led to believe that as parents, we need to have it all together. We need to have the right sleep schedule for our kids, the best discipline strategy for our kids, the perfect school choice. Nothing says "Best Parent Ever" than leaving the store with your two-year-old tantrum free. No terrible two's here, right?

We start to believe that our kids' mistakes and shortcomings are a reflection of us. We don't want people looking at us like we are terrible parents, so we try to look the part. In this age of parent influencers, online experts, and endless reels of curated family life, there is an unspoken pressure to become a parenting expert or at least look like one. The saying goes, "pressure makes diamonds," but pressure can also discourage parents.

What we hear communicated to us is that good parents raise high-achieving kids. That successful parenting looks like well-behaved children, perfectly packed lunches, impressive extracurriculars, and family photos where everyone's smiling in coordinated outfits. It tells us that if your child excels, you are a success, and if they struggle, you are a failure.

As a result, we strive, scroll, compare, and panic silently. We listen to podcasts, read books, and watch videos to consume the wisdom of others. While all these are not bad things to do, they become unhealthy when they are the main source that we drink from, which will never fully satisfy. Jesus says, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37–38). God knows that you and I will fall short as parents. He knows that we don't have all the answers.

Most of us are just doing our best to love our kids through exhaustion, confusion, and trial-and-error. That's why 1 Corinthians 2:2 is so freeing. Paul, writing to a culture obsessed with wisdom, eloquence, and status, says something profound: "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."

This comes from a man who wrote about 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament. He was a really smart guy with a lot of influence. Paul didn't decide to lead with impressive words or worldly credentials.

In a culture obsessed with human wisdom and influenced by Greek rhetoric, Paul came with one central truth: Christ crucified. That was his confidence. His confidence was not in his own knowledge or expertise. Paul's message was Christ crucified. That was his foundation. And it should be ours too, even in parenting.

Knowing What Matters Most

What our kids need most isn't a parent who has all the answers. They need a parent who is rooted in what matters most, Jesus.

This is counter to our cultural narrative on parenting. Yet as we navigate the challenges of parenthood, we have an advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus calls the spirit of truth, who will lead us and guide us to all truth (John 16:13). It is important that as parents we hold to the truth of the gospel. The gospel doesn't demand perfection; it offers grace. It doesn't tell us to raise perfect kids; it calls us to point our kids to the only perfect Savior.

When we feel the pressure to prove ourselves to others, the gospel reminds us that Jesus already proved his love and faithfulness towards us by dying on the cross. If and when we feel the need to know it all and have all the answers, the gospel invites us to cling to the One who holds all wisdom. When we fall short as parents—and we will—the gospel doesn't condemn us. It meets us with mercy and says, "You're still loved. And my grace is sufficient for you, and for your children."

Knowing Jesus

The gospel doesn't make parenting easy, but it does make it possible, not through our strength, but through Christ, whose "power is made perfect in our weaknesses" (2 Cor. 12:9). So no, we don't need to be the most informed, most put-together, most impressive parents on the block. We just need to be parents who've decided to know one thing above all else: Jesus Christ, and him crucified. So much of parenting feels like a long list of things we're supposed to know and get right. But the gospel reminds us that the foundation isn't our knowledge or performance; it's God's faithfulness.

Your kids don't need a perfect parent. They need a parent who's surrendered to a perfect Savior. A parent who admits weakness, clings to grace, and keeps pointing the family back to Jesus, again and again. That's what Paul did in Corinth, and that's what we can do in our homes. When you feel the urge to dive into articles, podcasts, or parenting books, pause first and go to the Lord in prayer. Ask him for wisdom, clarity, and peace. Parenting advice is helpful, but it's no substitute for the presence of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit. It's easy to place our own hopes and dreams onto our kids: their behavior, their choices, their future. But before we project what we want for them, let's ask: What does God want for them? Align your parenting with his heart, not just your plans.

So the next time you feel overwhelmed by expectations, underqualified for the task, or discouraged by your own mistakes, remember this: you don't have to know everything, just what matters most. And what matters most is not your knowledge, your image, your strategy, or your parenting resume—it's Jesus Christ, and him crucified.