

Glad Tidings

Zion Lutheran Church – A Joyous Oasis Sharing Life Through Christ!
August 2024



Blessing of the Backpacks

Lani Sanders

Mark August 11 on your calendar, and plan to attend our special *Back to School Worship Service*, which includes the installation of the Zion Lutheran School teachers for the 2023/24 school year, as well as the *Blessing of the Backpacks!* If you are attending school as a student, a teacher, a teacher's assistant/aide, or a school administrator, please come prepared with your school backpack (or briefcase) complete with its cargo. Be sure all your previous blessing tags are on your backpack.

We know that because we follow Jesus we reflect his love wherever we find ourselves, including school. And we know Jesus is always with us everywhere. Let's send all of our students and teachers into the new school year assured of God's promises and our loving support! After all, serving Jesus is a way of life, and we are invited to serve with our hearts, our souls, our minds... and the stuff in our backpack!

Don't miss this special service...and don't forget your backpacks!

A colorful graphic for "Households of Faith" featuring a staircase and various icons. The text reads: "Zion Family Loud Tables Potluck Sunday August 25 4:30 - 7 PM". Logos for Lutheran Hour Ministries and Bama are at the bottom.

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ZLYF Back to School BBQ & Water Play

Tristina Rodriguez

We would like to invite all students in 6th through 12th grade and their families to our back to school BBQ. The BBQ and water play day will be held on Saturday, August 10th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the playground area of Zion school. We will eat first then participate in some fun water play. Come join the fun!

ZLYF stands for Zion Lutheran Youth Fellowship. All children 6th through 12th grade can be a member of ZLYF. We gather together every Sunday during Sunday School for Bible study and fellowship. We also participate in fun activities throughout the school year. Examples include snow tubing, Raging Waters, Castle Park, and roller skating.

Questions? Call and/or text Tristina Rodriguez, ZLYF Director, at 760-646-3224.

*But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,
and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31*



Read the Bible in 2 years

Today's Light

Lani Sanders

Week 31 begins July 29 with 1 Kings 19
Week 32 begins August 5 with 2 Kings 6
Week 33 begins August 12 with 2 Kings 17
Week 34 begins August 19 with 1 Chronicles 1
Week 35 begins August 26 with 1 Chronicles 18

(For more information contact Lani Sanders.)

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Glad Tidings Sponsors

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The Glad Tidings is published every month by Liturgical Publications Inc. The ads on the last page of the Tidings are designed to cover LPI's costs (paper, ink, printing, shipping, etc.).

We are in great need of sponsors, as you see on the last page of the Tidings. Your assistance in finding sponsors (advertisers) is urgently needed for the continued publication of this newsletter.



Community Sharing

Linda Bowers

The Community Services Board will be collecting **Vienna sausages, peanut butter and jelly, and toothbrushes and toothpaste** during the month of **August**.

Please remember outdated items cannot be accepted.

The Homeless Shelter needs diapers and baby wipes. Donations of these items will be delivered there.

Thank you!

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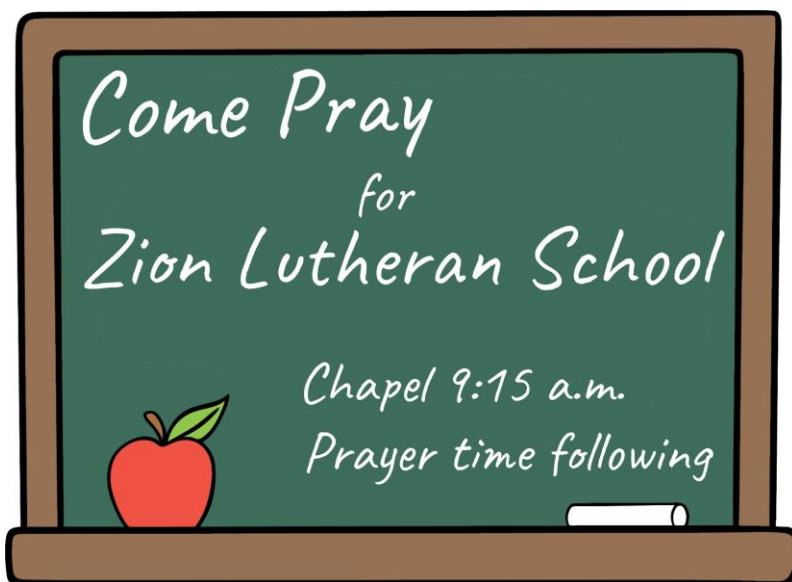
Gracefest 2024

Tristina Rodriguez

ZLYF will be attending Gracefest on Saturday, September 7th, in Palmdale, CA. We are inviting all members of Zion who would like to join us for this music festival. You can buy your tickets online at <https://www.gracefestav.com/index.php>

Join us for an uplifting night filled with fun and fellowship. Gates open at 3 p.m. and things wrap up around 10 p.m. We hope you can join us.

If you have any questions, call and/or text Tristina Rodriguez, ZLYF Director, at 760-646-3224



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Looking in All the Wrong Places

Jesus answered the crowd, *“I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the sign I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Be careful, do not labor for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.”* – John 6:26-27

There was a secular song back in the 1980’s titled: ‘Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places’. While this song had nothing to do with the Christian faith, it underscored a common human frailty, that, at times, our hearts and minds focus on the wrong things. Our obsessions and perceived needs can blind us to the bigger and better things of life. Jesus, in the text above, highlights the spiritual side of this common human frailty.

Jesus, acting in compassion and love, had just miraculously fed a crowd of over 5,000 people. The crowd, seeing the miracle, jumped to a wrong conclusion and decided to try to make Jesus their king, even if they had to do so by force (v15). The crowd had focused on the wrong thing. They had missed the point. The crowd saw in Jesus someone who could make their lives easier and that was enough for them. The feeding of the 5,000, like all of Jesus’ miracles, was a sign and invitation to see Jesus for who he truly was. God’s Providence IS a reality (Cf. Acts 17:24-27; Matthew 5:45) but this Providence is not the ‘end all and be all’ of God’s purpose. Jesus, in a way, is telling the crowd that they are ‘looking for love in the wrong place.’ Indeed, the love of God is manifested in the entirety of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. It is in ‘this’ that we come to know God and hear his invitation to trust him. This ‘faith’ is the ‘food that endures to eternal life’ and is THE gift that God desires for us.

We, like everyone else in this world, are inclined to lower our sights and focus on the temporal. In this passage Jesus invites us to raise our sights and to set our hearts on the deep things of God’s heart, which is our redemption and salvation. Jesus, in John 10:10 reminds us of his ultimate purpose saying: ‘The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.’ Jesus would have us know this fullness of God’s goodness. May we, with the Psalmist, cry out in faith saying: ‘I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.’ (Ps. 121:1-2)

Pastor Busch

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Zion Family Adventures With Flat Jesus...



Lake Sabrina, Bishop



Camping at Lake Perris June 2024



Mount Rushmore July 2024



Trinity Lutheran Church in Oregon July 2024

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Welcome back to school! School starts on August 7th and the teachers have been busy putting their classrooms together for the new year. The first day of school will be a half day and students will be released at 11:40 a.m. We will start the day with a chapel service at 9:15 a.m. led by Pastor Busch at the church. You are more than welcome to attend if you are able.

We were so blessed that Ms. Blume was a part of our staff, but unfortunately she has decided to retire. We wish her lots of joy and happiness in her retirement. Mrs. Knapp will be teaching the Kindergarten through 2nd grade class this year, Mrs. Allen will teach the 3rd and 4th grade class and Miss McCormack will be teaching the 5th and 6th grade class. Check out the school and our biographies on our new website at www.zionvv.org.

On Sunday August 11th, all students and teachers are invited to our “Blessing of the Backpacks” during the church service. Students and teachers will bring their backpacks to have them blessed for the new school year.

We are still enrolling students for the new school year! If you know a student or family that would like a challenging Christ-centered education, please have them check out our website or give us a call at 760-243-3074. We look forward to a wonderful school year and we are so blessed to be able to share the love of Jesus with a new class of students!



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A Lutheran school provides so much more than a standard education. Academics thrive as life is lived intentionally in faith and trust in God.



GIVE25

Lani Sanders

Children are blessed by the presence and love of Jesus Christ, made known to them daily at Zion Lutheran School. Our school is the mission of Zion Lutheran Church.

GIVE25 is an opportunity to support this mission. Please consider giving \$25 a month over and above your regular gift return, designated specifically for GIVE25 (the school mission and ministry). Blue cards are available in the narthex to use as reminders.



Whenever you purchase scrip you are contributing to our school. Use it when you go shopping or dining. Scrip is on sale in the office during the week.

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Zion Family Adventures

With Flat Jesus...



Southernmost point Key West, Florida



Kapok Tree in Key West



Palm Beach, Florida

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Mile Marker in Key West



With the Kindschy Family in Colorado

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LORD, hear our prayers

Lani Sanders

Please remember...

- ...**Richard Waiwood** (brother of Rob), recovering from surgery for brain cancer....
- ...**Chuck Knapp**, recovering from eye surgery...
- ...Zion School second grader **Naomi** and her family as she recovers from heart surgery...
- ...**Gary Sinclair** (son of Ruth Reynolds) , who is fighting a blood infection...
- ;;;**Andrea Suggs**, recovering from breast cancer surgery...
- ...**Mark Bowers**, dealing with ongoing health issues...
- ...**Doris Hinojos**, (former member of Zion) who has been diagnosed with breast cancer...
- ...**Angie Knapp**, recovering from stress fracture in her foot...
- ...**April O'Hara**, suffering with health issues...
- ...**Matt Donner**, recovering from liver transplant surgery...
- ...**Kathy Blume**, our former 5th/6th grade teacher, in rehab facility working on regaining her strength...
- ...**Shawn Henry**, suffered a broken back and is recovering from back injury...
- ...**Laurie Henry**, having ongoing health issues...
- ...**Joann Asta**, recovering from surgery...
- ...**Emily** (daughter of Beverly Rauscher) – for healing...
- ...son and daughter of **Mark McNamara** – for healing...
- ...**Marie Figueroa** (mother of Maribel Svider), at home in hospice care...
- ...**Bob Dunnerman**, on hospice and suffering with heart problems...
- ... **Lerma Bockhorn** as she continues on dialysis...
- ...**Jonah Dimas**, dealing with multiple health issues....



Blessing of the
Backpacks

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Parents are the primary shapers of faith and life in their children... ~ Ben Freudenburg

We've been talking about Spiritually Vibrant Households, focusing on how welcoming non-family guests—extending hospitality—is a common activity in those households.

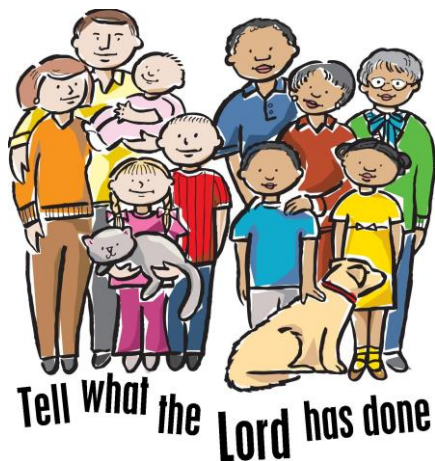
What exactly is a Spiritually Vibrant Household? Households that appear to be exceptionally engaged in communal and consistent faith expression in the home were found to have three consistently practiced activities in common: spiritual practices (defined as praying every day or two and reading the Bible weekly all together); spiritual conversations (defined as talking about God and faith at least weekly all together); and hospitality (defined as welcoming non-family guests regularly, or at least several times a month).

Households that participate in all of these activities (at this frequency) are what Barna refers to as **Spiritually Vibrant**.

Perhaps the most surprising in this short list is hospitality. But then again, perhaps not. We were created in community, in relationship: “Then God said, “Let **us** make mankind in **our** image, in our likeness, **so** that they...” (Genesis 1:26-27) Our Triune God, in relationship within himself, created people to be in relationship with him and each other, right from the start. The Scriptures consistently call on us to love our neighbor (Lev. 19:18, and Matt. 22: 37-40, among many others) and practice hospitality (Gen 18:1-8, Gen 24: 23-25, Ex 2:20, Ruth 2:14, Acts 28:7, 1 Tim 5:10, Heb 13:2, 1 Pet 4:9 among others).

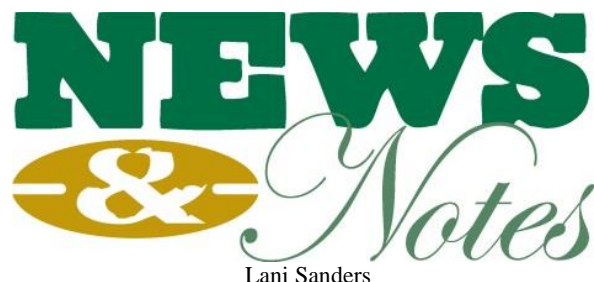
What is hospitality? Hospitality is the practice and quality of welcoming and receiving guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, and generous way.

We'll be practicing hospitality together again as the family of God on August 25. Join us for another Loud Tables potluck!



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The Zion household of faith is again sharing hospitality and life on August 25, from 4:30 – 7 p.m. during our Loud Tables Potluck Dinner. Bring your entire household for food, fun, and fellowship

We're looking for families to host our **Coffee Time** on the first Sunday of each month, by helping setup (coffee would be prepared), providing a simple treat, and cleaning up afterwards. Please consider signing up for a Sunday.

Check out the **inspirational books available** in the meeting room. The book table is a take a book, borrow a book, or donate book table. Check it out!

Our **Sunday School** is in need of a nursery/kindergarten teacher and a Director. If you feel called to serve our Sunday School, please talk with Pastor Busch or Don Hays for information.

Whenever you purchase **Scrip** you are contributing to our school. Use it when you go shopping or dining. Scrip is on sale in the office during the week.

Please join us on Wednesdays after chapel as we pray together for Zion Lutheran School.



Thanks to everyone who helped make Vacation Bible School happen for the children this year!

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Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today?

Charlene Perry

Life Line Screening will be here at Zion Lutheran Church of Victorville on Friday, September 6, 2024 offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these health screenings today. Please refer to the attached flyer to get more info about how you can sign up.

There is no time like the present to take action!

Three ways to register:

- Call toll-free: 1-888-814-0466 promo code HSCA001
- Online: <https://www.ilsa.social/hzca>
- Text: the word circle to 216-279-1607



Sharing Life in Christ
is
ZLYF

Tristina Rodriguez

MEETINGS:

Every Sunday during Sunday School

ACTIVITIES:

August 10 – Back to School BBQ & Water Play 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 7 – Gracefest 3 - 10 p.m.

July 2025 – LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA

Contributors:

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Glad Tidings is a monthly publication. Suitable articles are welcome, and will be printed as space permits. Type in plain Times New Roman 12 pt. font, save as a Word document (not Google Doc, PDF, etc.), attach to an email addressed to fmlsndrs@aol.com, subject Glad Tidings. Articles are subject to editing for clarity and length. The deadline is the 20th of each month.