

Glad Tidings

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



Sunday School Kick-off

Don Hays

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Pr 22:6) I cherish the promise that God gives me in this verse, but I am also very aware of the challenge He lays before me. With it I am also thankful for the help God has provided along the way with Christian church and Sunday School and, here at Zion, day school and youth group. I am also blessed to have been and still be a part of that assistance God provides His people here at Zion by directing and teaching Sunday school.

The eternal seriousness of the promises and challenges God lays before us leaves me both looking for all the help I can get parenting my own children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and rejoicing in the opportunities I have to bless and encourage other parents in that task.

We at Zion are blessed to offer Sunday School and Adult Bible study programs to assist parents in fulfilling God’s expectations. Our Sunday School lessons are designed to help our children and youth learn about and experience God’s love through Bible-based lessons lovingly presented by faithful and caring teachers. Our new friend, the puppet Mojave Jack, will join us for opening and share treasures to introduce and help us remember the day’s lessons.

Children ages 2 through 12th grade, and all adults are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you are bringing a 2 or 3 year old student we strongly encourage you to attend with them and participate in their activities to alleviate their fears and model and encourage learning about Jesus.

This year we will again kick off our Sunday School year the Sunday after Labor Day, September 8, with classes followed by a pot luck Bar-B-Q and water games. Sunday School will provide hot dogs, buns, condiments and drinks. If you can, please bring a side or dessert. Don’t forget bathing suits!!!

If you have questions, give me a call or text at (760) 881 1925. God’s Blessings!



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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 36 begins September 2 with 2 Chronicles 1
Week 37 begins September 9 with 2 Chronicles 13
Week 38 begins September 16 with 2 Chronicles 27
Week 39 begins September 23 with 2 Chronicles 34
Week 40 begins September 30 with Ezra 9
(For more information contact Lani Sanders.)



zionvv.org

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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



Community Sharing

Linda Bowers

The Community Services Board will be collecting **canned soup and stew**, and **shampoo and bar soap** during the month of **September**.

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



ZLYF Family Camping Trip

ZLYF Family Camping Trip

Tristina Rodriguez

Join us on Friday, October 18 – Sunday, October 20 at Mojave Narrows Regional Park for a fun camping weekend. All ZLYF families are invited. Must supply your own tent, camping equipment, etc., and reserve your own campsite. Each ZLYF member must have at least one parent in attendance. Call or text Tristina at 760-646-3224 with any questions.

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Submit Yourself to God

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
Come near to God and he will come near to you. – James 4:7-8a*

This September our Epistle readings come from the Letter of James. Luther once referred to James' epistle as an "Epistle of Straw" (Preface to the New Testament, 1522). With these comments Luther was underscoring the fact that James contains little in terms of the Gospel and can, if misunderstood, lead one to a sinful self-righteous life. Luther, though, never suggested that the Epistle of James did not have a place in the Christian's life. While James is primarily an exposition of God's Law, it is still an expression of God's holy will and as such is valuable for the Christian.

James speaks to us who have already been incorporated into God's family through the gracious action of our Lord. Being the redeemed people of God, James asks, "What character traits should begin to manifest themselves among us?" James speaks of our lives as they are being transformed by the working of the Holy Spirit. This is not the stuff of salvation. James is not speaking about things we do to get right with God, rather he speaks of how our fallen-ness begins to be stripped away by God as we attempt to order our lives according to his will. The holiness of life that James speaks of IS ALREADY the reality of our lives in faith. In God's sight, because of the gift of God's grace in Jesus, we are seen as Jesus—that is, holy and perfect. Our pilgrim journey on this side of heaven, I would suggest, is God's work in us getting us used to our new reality. Ultimately, what James speaks of is not fully perfected until we get to heaven, but as God's redeemed people, we rejoice in our new life and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we intentionally "work" to put on this new life in Christ.

This pilgrim's journey, as James points out, is not an optional thing. If we think we can keep God boxed up in a pretty package with a bright bow and not let his holy will change us, then we deceive ourselves. James is speaking to the deep-rooted core of our fallen-ness. We, in our rebellion, think that we can continue to serve multiple masters (Romans 7:19). Yes, in our fallen-ness we may intellectually ascent to God and all that God has revealed. We may even rejoice in the news that God's Son has bailed us out of trouble, but our enemy heart still hesitates at the call of God to place ourselves under his will (Philippines 2:5-8).

As we journey through the book of James, we will be challenged, offended, and struck by the harshness of God's Law. We will also need to flee to the shadow of Jesus' cross, for it is only in Jesus that we find life and salvation. James speaks of what God is looking for from us. We need to remember that Jesus is the only perfect man, and that Jesus gave his life because we are not. This is our hope and the content of our salvation. In response to this grace of God, we take this journey of James.

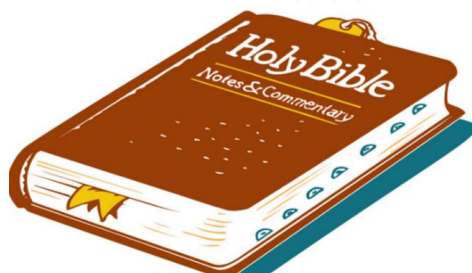
Pastor Busch

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*“We look to our God to inform us, to shape us,
to inspire us to be His people; to put our reality into the perspective of God.”*

Pastor Lewis Busch; May 8, 2022 sermon



4 Ways Daily Bible Reading Will Change Your Life

Neal Samudre

Delving into God's Word regularly will give you a brand new perspective.

In today's busy world, it can be difficult to prioritize daily Bible reading. Many of us are dashing about as soon as we wake up, and don't stop moving until we go to bed at night. Even if the desire is there, life often takes precedence over reading the Bible consistently.

Yet, on the days when I don't read God's word because I haven't stopped moving, I notice something—I'm in a bad mood.

This is not a coincidence. We were created to operate within a godly rhythm of work and worship. When all we do is work, we're stretching our body to operate without the essential praise experience we need to replenish ourselves.

If we are to live the lives God designed for us, we must get back to what's essential for us to thrive. We must move against the grain that tries to quicken our pace, slow down and pick up our Bibles. As a result, we'll begin to see the world in a new lens, one colored with the hope and optimism we need to face the day.

As I made it a priority to read my Bible in the morning each day, I found my outlook on life was changing for the better.

Here are the four ways reading the Bible each day can change your life:

1) You'll gain a new insight on your problems.

Bible stories are timeless because they deal with universally human themes like stress, worry, fear, love and hope. The disobedience of the Israelites in the Old Testament, for example, can help you see the messes of your life—and God's mercy and grace towards you—in a new light.

Whatever you're struggling with, let the powerful stories of the Bible better clarify what you're going through.

2) You'll see God in a new light.

It's difficult to notice God throughout your day when you forget how He operates. By reading the Bible each day, you can keep the nature of God and how He works at the forefront of your mind so you'll always notice when He's working in your own life.

3) You'll refocus your attention on what's important.

When you're busy, your mind is focused on yourself, what you have to do and how you're feeling. But reading the Bible expands your perspective. It reorients you back to what's important, like giving God His due time with you first and attending to your family, friends and neighbors in love.

If you find your mind is stuck on yourself, let the words of the Bible carry you to a godly perspective—that everyone in your day matters.

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4. You'll make better choices.

The Bible teaches us that, “out of the heart the mouth speaks.” Without even being conscious of it, we can store up sinful things in our heart based on what we spend our time thinking about or consuming in the media. Over time, these harmful items can transform our outlook into a negative one and can cause us to act or speak in ways that aren't godly or loving. That's why we're called to guard our hearts against such things. So you need to be intentional about storing up healthy things in your heart.

By reading the Bible each day, we can be sure to maintain a healthy and life-giving soul which will flow out of us in every facet of our lives.

Don't let your fear of missing a deadline or being late to work stop you from making a daily connection with God first. Slow yourself down and read the Bible each day and watch how your life will change.

Used with permission

<https://guideposts.org/positive-living/health-and-wellness/better-living/positive-thinking/4-ways-daily-bible-reading-will-change-your-life/>



Our school year is off to a great start! Students were eager and excited to be back in the classroom and with their friends again. We began our electives and are happy that Mrs. Busch is returning as our Spanish teacher. Mrs. Knapp will once again have Art; Mrs. Allen and Miss McCormack will be alternating Music, Computers, and P.E. until we can find a volunteer for P.E. So... if anyone is interested in volunteering 30 minutes twice a week from 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. please let Pastor know. We would love for you to enjoy our students as much as we do.

This September we will be celebrating Kindness Week (Ephesians 4:32) September 9 – 13, 2024. Monday - Hats Day, Tuesday - Work Out Clothes, Wednesday (Patriot Day) - Red, White and Blue Day, Thursday - Tie Dye, and our favorite Friday - Pajama Day. On Patriot Day we will also be gathering by the flagpole while the flags are raised and the students will recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

September 25 is Picture Day and September 27 will be an early release day for the teachers to plan the next quarter's activities.

If you know anyone interested in a quality Christian education, send them our way! We always have room for new students.



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Preschool News

Geoffrey Bottom

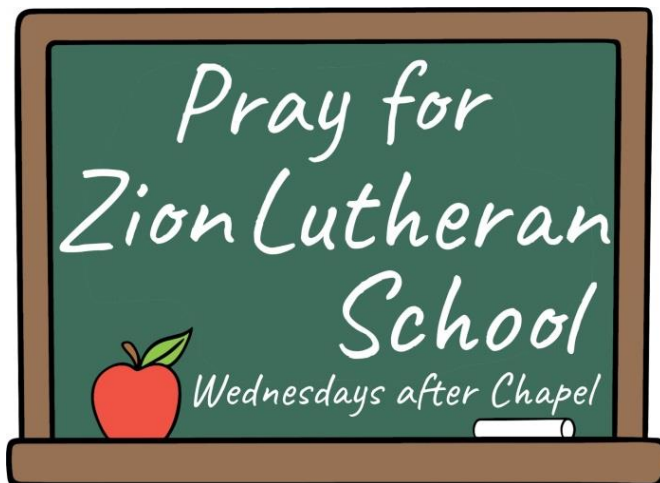
Another exciting school year has begun. Our preschool department has happy new faces to get to know. We are excited to begin our new year with two classrooms, Red Room—two and three year olds—with Mrs. Martinez, and Blue Room—four and five year olds—with Mrs. Carrizosa.

We will be closed September 2nd in honor of Labor Day!

We will also be having spirit week from September 9th through September 13th.

Our staff here at Zion Preschool is looking forward to a happy, fun and safe year. Children and teachers are looking forward to autumn weather and all the fall activities that are being planned.

If you know anyone who is looking for good quality child care please let them know about our wonderful preschool here at Zion. Jesus continues to bless us with His love and care while nurturing all the children here at Zion. Please pray for our wonderful ministry, that we continue to grow and serve in His love and continue to give Him thanks!



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LORD, hear our prayers

Lani Sanders

Please remember...

- ...**Beverly Rauscher**, recovering from knee replacement surgery...
- ...**Tiffany** (Ashely Johnson's sister), recovering from surgery...
- ...**Hazard Perry** (grandson of Fred and Charlene Perry), recovering from surgery on his wrist...
- ...**Richard Waiwood** (brother of Rob), recovering from surgery for brain cancer...
- ...**Lauri and Ira** (Lani's sister and brother-in-law), both diagnosed with cancer...
- ...**Chuck Knapp**, recovering from eye 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...
- ...**Joann Asta**, ongoing medical problems...
- ...**Emily** (daughter of Beverly Rauscher) – for healing...
- ...son and daughter of **Mark McNamara** – for healing...
- ...**Bob Dunnerman**, on hospice and suffering with heart problems...
- ... **Lerma Bockhorn** as she continues on dialysis...
- ...**Jonah Dimas**, dealing with multiple health issues....

We ask for the Lord's comfort and peace for the family and friends of ...

- ...**Jay Graham**, at his passing...
- ...**Marie Figueroa** (mother of Maribel Svider), at her passing...



Danny and Noelle Dimas and family have a new address: 3020 Mountain Lion Drive, Apt. 108; Loveland, CO 80537

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Zion Family Adventures With Flat Jesus...



Flat Jesus at Concordia University Chicago July 2024



Flat Jesus in Oceanside



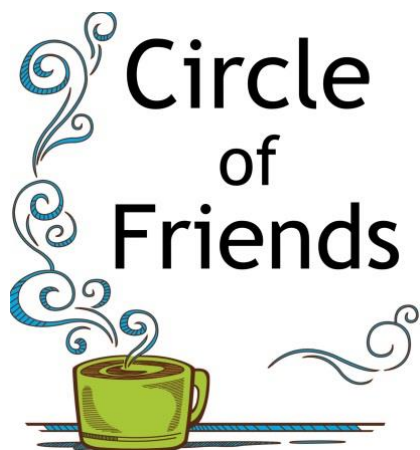
Flat Jesus went to the Bitterroot Valley. July 2024



Flat Jesus at Big Ben in London

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Circles of Friends

Close small group faith families forming friendships to support and encourage faith in each other's lives.

Lani Sanders

Small groups within a congregation provide support, encouragement, education and perceptions on life—perceptions in terms of the context of faith; perceptions that “put our reality into the perspective of God” (Pastor Busch, May 15, 2022).

Circles of Friends are groups of seven to eleven folks who meet together (they decide how often; suggested at least once a month) at the times that work best for the people in their group. They share food (dinner, breakfast, dessert, whatever the group decides), and share their lives and faith (they may just talk about life, have a Bible study, have a devotion, or however they as a group decide to talk about their faith in life). They may meet in their homes, at restaurants; it's up to their group and what works best for them. The result is a special group of friends growing in their faith life, and that growing faith life is reflected in their homes and church family as well.

Please prayerfully and seriously consider being part of this ministry. Join us Sunday, August 25, at 4:30 in the afternoon in the Fellowship Hall for our Loud Tables potluck, where we as the family of God at Zion meet together to share hospitality and our lives lived in faith. You will have the opportunity to join a *Circle of Friends* group that afternoon to connect with fellow Zion family and through them, develop a deeper relationship with God.



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

The *Loud Tables* potlucks are times of fellowship, sharing a meal, and talking about our faith in real life. Practicing hospitality and having spiritual conversations are two of the three activities found to be part of homes that are “spiritually vibrant”—where faith is alive and is reflected in the lives of the members of the household.

As is true for most things, if you want to grow stronger in certain activities you practice them.

Circles of Friends is another way to practice hospitality and sharing our real life faith stories with others as they share with us. A group of 7 – 11 folks meets together (they decide how often; suggested at least once a month) at the times that work best for the people in their group, shares food (dinner, breakfast, dessert, whatever the group decides), and shares faith (they may just talk about life, have a Bible study, have a devotion, or however they as a group decide to talk about their faith in their lives). They may meet in their homes, they may meet at restaurants; it’s up to their group and what works best for them. The result is a special group of friends growing in their faith life, and that growing faith is reflected in their homes and church family as well.

Our next Loud Tables potluck is coming up, and there will be an opportunity to join new Circles of Friends groups. Please seriously consider blessing yourself, your household and your church family by participating in both!

Contributors:

Pastor Lewis Busch
Geoffrey Bottom
Linda Bowers
Don Hays
Lori Knapp
Charlene Perry
Tristina Rodriguez
Neal Samudre
Lani Sanders

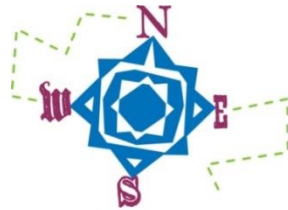
Glad Tidings is a monthly publication.

Suitable articles are welcome, and will be printed as space permits. Articles are subject to editing for clarity and length. The deadline is the 20th of each month.

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Sharing Life in Christ

is

ZLYF

Tristina Rodriguez

MEETINGS:

Every Sunday during Sunday School

ACTIVITIES:

September 7 – Gracefest 3-10 p.m.

October 18-20 – ZLYF Family Camping Trip

UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 30 – Petal Pushers 8AM – 4PM

July 2025 – LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA