

# Glad Tidings



## **Blessing of the Backpacks**

Lani Sanders

Mark August 10 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 2025/26 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/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!



Don Hays

Sunday School kick off will be on August 10 with classes followed by a pot luck Bar-B-Q and games. Sunday School will provide hot dogs, buns, condiments and drinks. If you can, please bring a side or dessert.



## **ZLYF Back to School Water Day**

Tristina Rodriguez

ZLYF will be hosting a back to school water play day on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, at Zion from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.. We will be welcoming new ZLYF members, including all new 6th graders. All kids 6th through 12th grade are included in ZLYF. Come prepared to get WET!!!! BRING A FRIEND!!!!(As long as they are 6th through 12th grade).

We are excited to start a new school year together. We will begin meeting weekly on Sundays again on September 7. If you have any questions contact Tristina Rodriguez 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

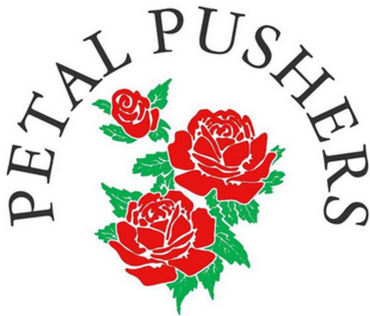
Week 84 begins August 4 with Acts 3

Week 85 begins August 11 with Acts 13

Week 86 begins August 18 with Acts 24

Week 87 begins August 25 with Romans 7

(For more information contact Lani Sanders.)



### **Save the Date/Petal Pushers**

Tristina Rodriguez

Our scheduled date for helping with the Rose Parade floats this year is Monday, December 29th. We have 30 spots available. Our session is 8:00am to 4:00pm.

If you would like to participate please contact ZLYF Director Tristina Rodriguez at 760-646-3224.



### **Community Service**

Charlene Perry

For many years Zion has helped to support the ministry of the Victor Valley Rescue Mission. We have collected food items and hygiene products that have been shared with those in need here in the High Desert.

After almost 30 years of serving here in the High Desert the Rescue Mission will be closing its doors. Zion wants to continue helping those in need. After some research we have found a local program that serves youth ages 12-24 called FAM Sport. This program is sponsored by the Family Assistance Program.

"The FAM Spot is open to youth ages 12-24, who are invited to hang out in a safe space with WI-FI and snacks. Tutoring and peer groups are available to give them the tools needed for success. Youth go on field trips, volunteer in the community, attend events, and carry out street outreach projects."

We will be collecting food and hygiene items for the FAM Spot. They are in need of canned or boxed food that is easy for the kids to prepare, such as: Spaghetti O's, Ravioli, Mac n' Cheese, Ramen etc. Please place your donations in one of the collection baskets in the narthex.

Check out the flyer in the narthex that explains this program and how it reaches out to the youth in our community. Thank you for your help!



God is Greater than the Highs and Lows



*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.* – Hebrews 11:1-2

The above passage is from the Epistle reading for the second Sunday in August. In this passage the writer addresses a question and concern that haunts every generation. Why don't things go the way they should? In theological textbooks it's called 'the question of evil' and Scripture is replete with various forms of this question. Isaiah echoes it saying: 'Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!' (Isaiah 64:1) Elijah challenges God saying: "I have been very zealous for [you] O LORD but your people have rejected your covenant ... [and] they have put your prophets to death. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.'" (1 Kings 19:10) And, on the day of Jesus' Ascension, his disciples ask: "Lord, are you [finally] going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6)

Indeed, God's ways are not our ways, (Isaiah 55:8) but the promise of God is that HE IS WORKING ALL THINGS TOGETHER FOR OUR GOOD! (Romans 8:28) As Paul reminds us, 'we are 'more than conquerors' and 'nothing will be able to separate us from the Love of God that is in Christ Jesus!' (Romans 8:36-39)

This place of tension is our life and this is our journey, and it is a journey that can only be transversed in faith. This is also the basic theme of the entire 'Letter to the Hebrews'. Throughout the Epistle we are invited and called to place our trust and faith in God and his promises. In chapter ten we read: 'Since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus ... and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings ... and let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us

consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.' (Hebrews 10:19-24)

In chapter eleven we hear of the journey of the heroes of the faith, those who trusted God's promises even in difficult circumstances. (Hebrews 11:3-16) This is the context of the passage we started with: 'Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.' (Hebrews 11:1) These words are words of encouragement and invitations to trust God in all circumstances.

One last passage from Hebrews. 'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Who, for the joy set before him, endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.' (Hebrews 12:1-2; Cf. Romans 8:34)

Pastor Busch

#### Ventures Prayer

'O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not always knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen'



Flat Jesus in Kansas City, Kansas with the Bottoms





## Coffee Fellowship

Charlene Perry

It is great to gather after church for coffee and conversation with our church family. We're looking for families to host our Coffee Time on the first Sunday of each month. Families would help setup (coffee would be prepared), provide a simple treat, and clean up afterwards. Here is a simple way to serve here at Zion. Look for the sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve.



Don Hays

### 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 puppet friend, Mojave Jack, will again join us for opening and share treasures to introduce and help us remember the day's lessons.

Children ages 2 through 12<sup>th</sup> 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 align our Sunday School schedule with the elementary school schedule. Kick off will be on August 10 with classes followed by a pot luck Bar-B-Q and games. Sunday School will provide hot dogs, buns, condiments and drinks. If you can, please bring a side or dessert.

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





## **Preschool News**

Rosemarie Carrizosa

Welcome back! School starts on August 13th at 8:10 A.M. as a half day, with students getting out at 11:40 A.M.

We will have the Blessing of the Backpacks on August 10th at 9:00 A.M. The students can bring their backpack and Pastor will say a blessing. After the service, students and parents are invited to the Sunday School kickoff and a potluck hotdog lunch after. We are so excited to be back at school and praying for a wonderful year.

If you know anyone looking for a Christ centered education, please have them call the school office at 760-243-3074.

We just finished VBS and the Preschoolers had a blast. Thanks to all who put this together and included us! We really appreciate it. We are now finishing up our Summer Program and getting ready to prepare for the new school year. Our TKs and Kinders will go off to their new classrooms and the preschool will continue to have activities to start the new school year. Mrs. Martinez is doing much better and she is looking forward to taking over her new TK/K class on the Elementary side this year.

We are hoping for new enrollments soon. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our preschool here at Zion.

## **Back to School!**

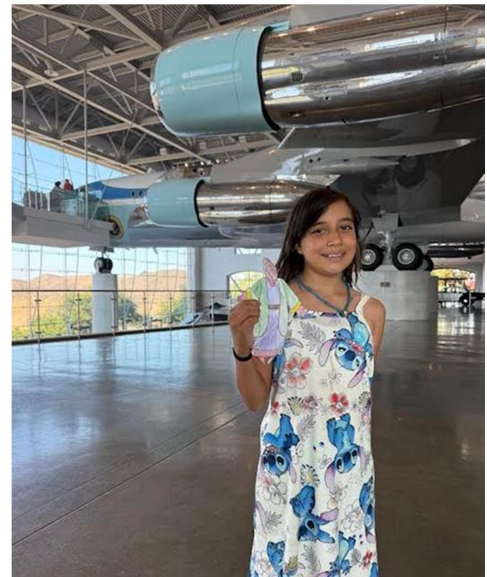
Lani Sanders

Zion School is back in session August 13. We are celebrating our opportunity to share the grace and Gospel of our Lord with our school families during our Back-to-School worship service on Sunday, August 10. Our teachers will be dedicated and blessed for their callings during our worship service that morning, and we will also be blessing all Zion's students and their backpacks.

Our elementary teachers are Mrs. Martinez (Tk/K), Mrs. Gong (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grades), Mrs. Allen (3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grades), and Miss McCormack (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grades).

The preschool staff includes Mrs. Carrizozo, Director, Mrs. Calderon, Mrs. Martinez, TK/K teacher, Mrs. Parker, Ms. Rodriguez, and Mrs. Svider, kitchen staff.

Please join us in prayers for our enrolled children, as well as the ones the Lord is still sending to us!



Flat Jesus at the Dead Sea Scroll exhibit at the Reagan Library, Simi Valley, with Zion School 6<sup>th</sup> grader Grace



LORD, hear our prayers

Lani Sanders

**Please remember...**

...**Maribel Svider**, recovering from recent knee surgery...

...**Jonah Dimas** (Charlene and Fred Perry's great grandson) recovering from surgery...

...**Aurora Martinez**, one of our preschool teachers, recovering from gallbladder surgery...

...**Marty Hershman**, recovering from pneumonia...

...**Herminia** (mother of Diana Santini), experiencing leg pain and weakness...

...**Dan Tripple**, recovering from surgery to remove cancerous growth on his hand...

...**M'Less Tripple**, undergoing radiation...

...**Janet** (sister of Ernie Bockhorn), recovering from massive heart attack...

...**Rich Shibley** (father of Noel Duffy), recovering at an acute rehab facility in Pomona...

...**Anthony Delgado** (Kevin and Marlene's grandson), deployed on the aircraft carrier Nimitz, heading to the Middle East...

...**Lisa Portiss** recovering from hospital stay...

...**Walter**, son of John and Joann Asta, re-hospitalized in the ICU in Kingman, Arizona...

...**John Asta**, hospitalized at St. Mary's.....

...**Bob Dunnerman**, on hospice and suffering with heart problems...

**We ask for the Lord's comfort and peace** for the family and friends of **Hildi Seymore** at her passing...

**We ask for the Lord's comfort and peace** for the family and friends of **Norman Garritt** (son of former member Alberta Gray) at his passing...

Names on our prayer list will remain for two months. If you need ongoing prayers, or if you have a prayer request, please contact the church at 760-245-9725, or email [secretary@zionvv.org](mailto:secretary@zionvv.org).



Lani Sanders

**Sunday School** is resuming! Kick off will be on August 10 with classes followed by a pot luck Bar-B-Q and games. Please join us!

Our Backpack Blessing will be August 10 during the 9 a.m. worship service. All students, teachers, and school administrators please bring your school bags to worship.

ZLYF has reserved 30 spots with the Petal Pushers on December 29 from 8 AM – 4 PM.

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!



**Plan for Tomorrow,  
Support Ministry Today**

Start saving for retirement with an IRA from Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). Build your savings early, benefit from tax advantages, protect your future and find peace of mind. Plus, an LCEF Individual Retirement Account (IRA) works double duty—growing your investment while supporting LCMS ministries.



## **Pacific Southwest District Convention Report**

Lani Sanders

The 47<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Pacific Southwest District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod was held June 25-27 at the La Quinta Resort in La Quinta, California. *Redeemed to Tell* (based on Psalm 107:2) was the theme, reminding us that as a church, as a congregation, and as individual disciples, our purpose is to tell our stories: *Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe...*

Recaps of each day's business, including the resolution results, can be found at <https://www.psd-lcms.org/psd-convention>. Rev. Dr. Mike Gibson was re-elected elected for a third term as District President.

Many of the discussions addressed the challenges and opportunities facing churches today: many of the challenges center around declining attendance. These challenges can provide opportunities for partnering, collaborating and working together to shine the light of God's love in the world around us.

These statistics were shared with us:

### **The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**

Attendance and numbers of Congregations in 2023

0-50	50-99	100-199	200-499	500+	Total
2,288	1,506	857	504	90	5,761

66% of Synod Congregations worship under 100

40% worship under 50

9% did not report statistics (small churches most likely not to report)

### **All Protestant Churches in the US**

0-50	31%
51-99	37%
100-249	24%
250+	8%

### **Pacific Southwest District**

Attendance and Numbers of Congregations

Year	0-50	50 - 99	100-199	200-499	500+	Total
1973	12	49	66	75	10	212
1994	45	58	84	59	11	257
2023	118	73	38	28	6	263

73% of PSD Congregations worship under 100

45% worship under 50

7.7% did not report statistics (small churches most likely not to report)

President Gibson said that congregations worshipping 75-100 can generally afford to pay a pastor. As smaller congregations tend to pay their pastors the same with few to no raises, when they lose their pastors they are stunned that they cannot pay the salaries needed to replace them, because of inflation and the higher salaries required.

These attendance challenges are not merely about the survivability of declining churches.

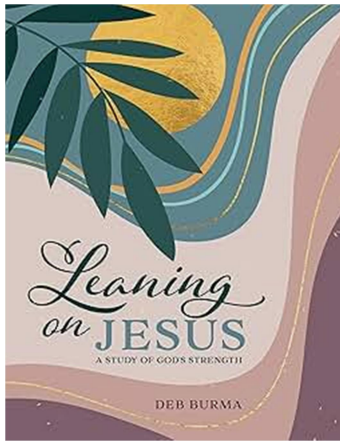
**This is ultimately about the reduced capacity for the saving of souls, and that is our purpose.** So the question becomes, what is our response? Doing nothing is **not** an option.

We heard many stories of churches within our district who have partnered, collaborated, merged, and found other ways to work together to overcome the challenges and thrive, many times because of individuals in congregations taking the initiative to make things happen (an example is a youth leader with a very small youth group reaching out to other area churches to partner for various youth activities, making a huge difference for their youth). Partner, collaborate, and work together were words that were repeated over and over during the three day convention.

This convention was very positive and uplifting. Again, if you are interested, each day's summaries and the recorded live-streamed sessions are all available at <https://www.psd-lcms.org/psd-convention>.



Flat Jesus in La Quinta at PSD Convention



### **Women's Bible Study**

Charlene Perry

On Wednesday, August 20 our Women's Bible Study will start up again with a study called *Leaning on Jesus: A Study of God's Strength*. This study is written by Deb Burma. She has written several Bible studies geared to women. Our group has used a couple of them in the past.

This is an eight-week study. Week 1 – The Only One Worthy of Our Full Weight; Week 2 – Leaning on Jesus When We Don't Understand; Week 3 – Leaning on Jesus When We're Weary; Week 4 – Leaning on Jesus When We're Weak; Week 5 – Leaning on Jesus When We Need Comfort; Week 6 – Leaning In to Listen and Learn and To Lead Well; Week 7 – Leaning on Jesus Together; Week 8 – Leaning On One Another.

Come and check us out on Wednesday, August 20 beginning at 12:30 pm in the church Nursery/Conference room. For more information contact Charlene in the church office 760-245-9725.



Flat Jesus in West Plains, Missouri with the Innskeepers

## **PRAY** FOR STUDENTS **Adopt a Class**

Lani Sanders

Zion Lutheran School is the mission of Zion Lutheran Church, sharing the grace and love of God in all subjects and everyday life with our students.

Everyone can participate in our mission by adopting a class: pray for every student and the teacher by name throughout the school year. You can support the class in other ways if you choose (writing an occasional encouraging note, attending school events, etc.), but the commitment is to lift the students and their teachers up in prayer during the school year.

Lists of first names of students in each grade of each classroom will be left in the narthex of the church. Please pick one up and pray for our students and teachers!

### **Contributors:**

Pastor Lewis Busch  
Rosemarie Carrizosa  
Don Hays  
Charlene Perry  
Tristina Rodriguez  
Lani Sanders

**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](mailto:fmlsndrs@aol.com), subject Glad

Tidings. Articles are subject to editing for clarity and length. The deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.



# August 2025

## Zion Lutheran Church and School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
	<div> <div>Jul 2025</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div> <div>Sep 2025</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30								1	2
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																				
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																				
27	28	29	30	31																																																																																						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																				
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																				
28	29	30																																																																																								
3 9:00 AM Worship	4	5	6	7	8	6:00pm Devotion Worship																																																																																				
10 9:00 AM Worship Blessing of Backpacks	11	12	13 9:15 AM Chapel First Day of School	14	15	6:00pm Devotion Worship																																																																																				
17 9:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM ZLYF Water Play	18	19	20 9:15 AM Chapel 12:30 PM Women's Bible Study	21	22	6:00pm Devotion Worship																																																																																				
24 9:00 AM Worship	25	26	27 9:15 AM Chapel 12:30 PM Women's Bible Study	28	29	6:00pm Devotion Worship																																																																																				
31 9:00 AM Worship																																																																																										

# Serving the Lord at Zion This Month

## August 2025

.....

### Counters

8/3 Chuck Knapp/Betsy Otte  
8/10 Lisa Reimers/Loretta Donner  
8/17 Chris Peterson/Marlene Henry  
8/24 Christy Bottom/Lisa Reimers  
8/31 Chris Peterson/Chuck Knapp

### Flowers

8/3 Chuck & Lori Knapp  
8/10 Walter & Karen Guest  
8/17 Troy & Lisa Reimers  
8/24 Dennis & Linda Seidenglanz  
8/31

### Song Leader

Wendy Waiwood

### Lay Minister

Sunday: Jeff Youskievicz

### Sound & Media Technicians

Rob Waiwood  
Meaghan Imes  
Zack Bottom

### Altar Care

Sat: Beth Erickson / Carolyn Peterson  
Sun: Laurie Henry/Marlene Henry

### Acolytes

### Readers

### Sunday

8/3 Charlene Perry  
8/10 Sharon Ernst  
8/17 Linda Seidenglanz  
8/24 Jeff Sievers  
8/31 Lori Knapp

### Anniversaries

3– Mike & Katherine Meyer; 9–Walter & Karen Guest; 10–Dan & M'Less Tripple; 21–Rick & Larissa Berndt; 22–Danny & Noelle Dimas

### Birthdays

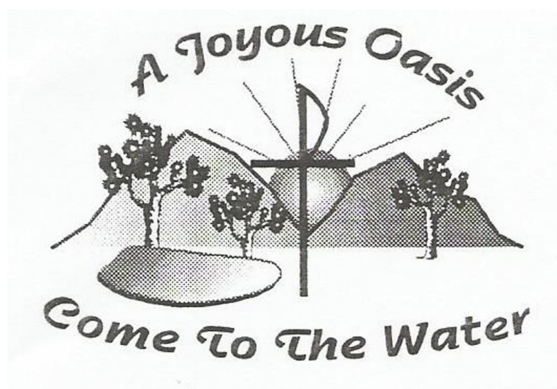
1– Crystal Benavidez; 2– Alex Lugo, Debbie Wheat; 3– Rick Berndt, Logan Zillner; 4– Jiovanni Rodriguez; 6– Norm Briggs Jr; 7– Sharon Ernst; 10– Kris Cookson; 11– Sofia Gomez; 12– Robin Buckles; 15–Joshua Busch; 16–Matthew Taranto; 20–Katie Busch; 22–Troy Reimers; 23–Bo Bowers, Angie Knapp; 25–Kristina McCormack; 31–Lazaro Gomez

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
15342 Jeraldo Drive  
Victorville, CA 92394

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Victorville, CA  
Permit No. 88

Return Service Requested

## Zion Lutheran Church



Tristina Rodriguez

### MEETINGS:

*Every Sunday during Sunday School beginning September 7 at 10:30 AM*

### ACTIVITIES:

*August 17 – ZLYF Back- to-School Water Day from 2 – 4 p.m.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

*December Christmas Bake Sale – Date TBA*

*December 29 – Petal Pushing 8 – 4 shift*

*July 3-7, 2028 – LCMS National Youth Gathering in San Antonio, TX*