

# Glad Tidings

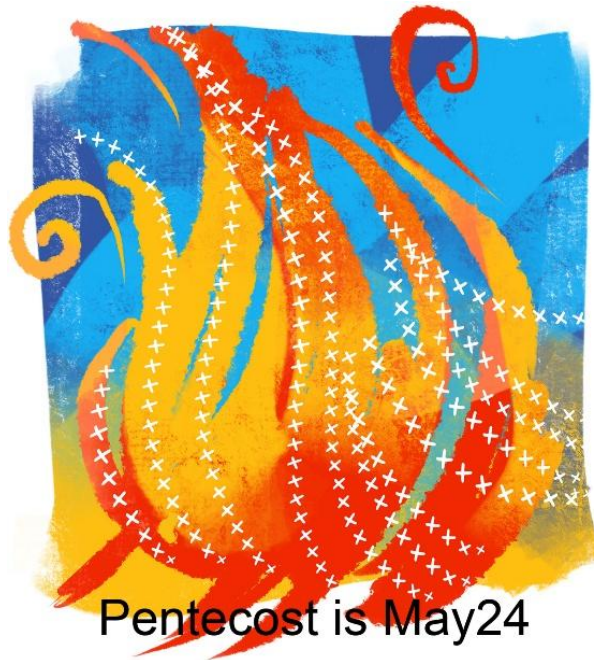
Zion Lutheran Church – A Joyous Oasis Sharing Life through Christ!  
May 2026



On Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, we welcome 4 young people into Zion family membership.

Caleb Bottom, Grace Griffen, José Rodriguez, and Alex Xia have been involved in Zion's confirmation ministry, meeting with Pastor Busch for two years. They are each publicly affirming their baptismal relationship with the Triune God, and professing their faith in the living Lord Jesus Christ.

The members and friends of Zion are asked to pray for these young people and their families, and regularly encourage them in their Christian lives. May this daughter and these sons of the King always rejoice in God's love and live faithfully for their Savior!



Pentecost is May24



## **Summer Schedule**

Don Hays

This year we are going to try a different approach to Sunday School. Classes for nursery through fifth grade students will continue to meet throughout the summer. We will continue to start our classes with opening at 10:30 AM in the fellowship hall. After opening we will proceed to our regular classes until 11:45.

Our youth group, sixth grade through high school, combine Sunday School with youth group activities. They will again take a summer break. Their last class for this school year will be on May 17, the Sunday before the Memorial Day weekend. They will again join the rest of us on September 13, the Sunday after Labor Day weekend.

We wish everyone a safe and fun summer filled with God's gracious blessings.

## **Missionary Sunday**

by Chuck Knapp

The Scheiwes, Zion's missionary family, sent a letter to our congregation stating that they are no longer in need of our financial support. Zion will now be forwarding the door offerings from the 5th Sunday services to Lutheran Hour Ministries for use in their Global Initiative.

God has called Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) to proclaim the risen Savior around the world to reach those who have never heard the Good News of Jesus Christ.



*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

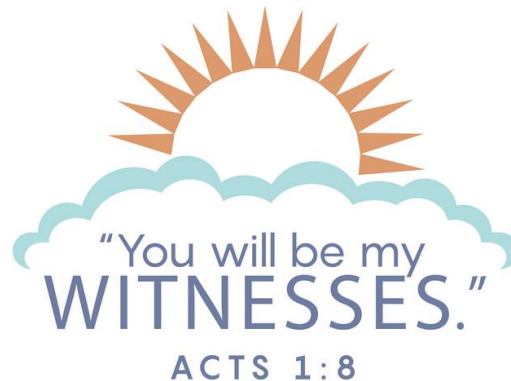
Week 18 begins May 4 with Deuteronomy 33

Week 19 begins May 11 with Joshua 8

Week 20 begins May 18 with Joshua 22

Week 21 begins May 25 with Judges 3

(For more information contact Lani Sanders.)



## **Zion's Families' and Friend's Adventures with Flat Jesus**



Many of our Zion family have given Flat Jesus to members of their family and their friends, and those friends and family members are taking Him on their adventures. A few of their pictures have been shared with us. How encouraging!

Here's the summer challenge! Share Flat Jesus with any friends or family—living here or elsewhere—who would like to take Him with them in their daily life and travels. Encourage them to share pictures, and share those pictures with us! If they don't want their name or exact location used, we absolutely will honor those wishes. Let's see how Jesus becomes part of their lives and adventures. And don't forget to send us your pictures!

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

[But you, person of God,] *pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.* – 1 Timothy 6:11-12

Our celebration of Jesus' Resurrection continues here in the month of May. We continue to rejoice in God's gracious mercy and to lift our voices in praise. For God 'made him who had no sin to be sin for us and we might be restored to His Righteousness' (Cf. 2 Corinthians 5:21). This reality is what Jesus accomplished for us in his Resurrection.

Our celebration of Jesus' Resurrection, though, also raises an important question, 'So What?' This goodness of God would remain but mere words if it wasn't applied to our hearts and lives. Indeed, 'we are saved by grace through faith' and even this 'faith/trust/confidence in the promises of God is the work and gift of God (Cf. Ephesians 2:8-9). As Paul says, 'No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit' (1 Corinthians 12:3). God the Father purposes and plans our salvation, God the Son, Jesus, accomplishes our salvation, and the God the Holy Spirit brings it to our hearts and establishes it in our souls! But this grace of God impacts how we live!

In this context, we should see our lives as acts of worship. As Paul writes: 'I urge you, in view of God's mercy, to offer yourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is true and proper worship' (Romans 12:1). The Gospel, that is the good news about Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection, changes us and gives us a new perspective on life! This is the context for Paul's words to Timothy printed above as Paul calls Timothy, and all of us, to 'pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness and to fight the good fight of the faith intentionally taking hold of the eternal life to which we were called' (1 Timothy 6:11-12). This is God's work of Sanctification in our hearts. In this we are called to stop conforming to the pattern of this world, the pattern of our fallen-ness, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds through the work of the Holy Spirit (Cf Romans 12:2). Again, these 'works' aren't the 'source' of our salvation but they do directly flow from our salvation. As Paul reminds us: 'It is by grace we are been saved, through faith, and even this faith is not from self-generated, it also is a gift of God, not by works, lest we should boast. But we are God's workmanship, created new in Christ Jesus to do those good works which God has prepared in advance for us to do' (Cf. Ephesians 2:8-10).

Easter is a great celebration. Good Friday and Easter are the center of God's grace, but it all has a purpose. We are redeemed from our sin and reconciled to God's holy presence so that His original purpose for us might be restored. On this side of heaven, this is imperfect, but we are on a pilgrim journey to our eternal home where we will live eternally in the presence of God (Cf. 1 Peter 2:4-12; Hebrews 11:13-16; Revelation 21:3-5; Revelation 22:3-5).

Pastor Busch



Flat Jesus in Corinth at the Meat Market behind the Temple of Apollo with Edy  
Cf. 1 Corinthians 8:1-3 & 1 Corinthians 10:23-33

Flat Jesus at the Roman Amphitheater in Athens with Edy





## Church Family Prayer List

Lani Sanders

### Please remember...

- ...**Linda Bowers**, recovering after hospitalization for pulmonary embolism and blood clots in her lungs...
- ...**Sofia Gomez**, recovering from surgery...
- ...**Karen Guest**, hospitalized with an infection...
- ...**Jimmy Garcia**, in rehab after hospitalization...
- ...**Walter Asta**, hospitalized...
- ...**Maribel Svider**, recovering from knee replacement surgery...
- ...**Roy and Skylar** (nephews of Lerma and Ernie Bockhorn), fighting cancer...
- ...**Scott** (son of Gene Dale), diagnosed with a brain tumor...
- ...**Amy Knapp**, recovering from surgery...
- ...**Joann Asta**, recovering from shoulder surgery...
- ...**Jean Sabala**, hospitalized in Texas with pneumonia...
- ...**Gidget** (sister-in-law of Della Parker), hospitalized in Florida...
- ...**Bob Dunnerman**, on hospice and suffering with heart problems...
- ...all those

**We ask for the Lord's comfort and peace** for Maria and Norm Briggs, at the passing of her father...

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).



## **Vacation Bible School**

Don Hays

Spring is here! Summer vacation will soon be here too. With that I have begun plans for our Vacation Bible School (VBS), planned for July 13-17, with classes from 9:00 AM till noon. This year we will be using the Concordia Publishing House program *Tropical Trek*, with the theme: Jesus Comes to Seek and Save. We intend to provide classes for children from preschool (beginning with potty trained two year olds) through fifth grade.

There will again be no charge for registration but we will be taking up a free will offering during opening each morning. All offering money will again this year go to support the mission of Concordia Gospel Outreach sending children's Bible story books all over the world. Check out this year's program at <https://www.concordiagospeloutreach.org/mission>.

A successful VBS program requires a great deal of congregational commitment and support. Above all, we need your prayers. Psalm 127 tells us, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain." Indeed, we cannot accomplish anything without God's help. Please pray for me; as I open this year's starter kit I am overwhelmed. Pray that God will send help both to share God's Good News with the children and also to help with the administrative duties. Pray for the children God will send our way, and pray that He will bless His message that we will bring to these children.

We will need site leaders and guides! I have begun recruiting but still need both adult leaders and youth (sixth grade and up) assistants in the following areas: Early Childhood Storytelling, Elementary Storytelling, Crafts, Snacks (youth assistant), Games (adult coleader), and registration.





Johanna Allen

April was a wonderful month for our school. The students did an awesome job as they led us through the Stations of the Cross service on Maundy Thursday. We also celebrated the resurrection of Jesus and we took a week off for Easter Break. We are now looking forward to the end of the school year, which is quickly approaching!

In May, the students will be busy practicing for our annual Spring Musical. It will be Friday, May 8th and it will take place in the church sanctuary. It begins at 6:30 p.m. Please come and see the children as they have put a lot of time and effort into this special musical.

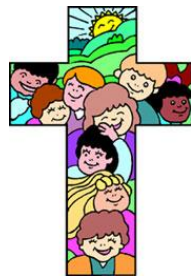
We also have another chance to earn money for our school through a restaurant fundraiser at Red Robin. The fundraiser will take place all day on Tuesday, May 12th at the Red Robin in Victorville, on Bear Valley Rd. Our school will get 20 percent of the food sales. You can even participate with online orders. Don't forget to bring your flyer!

The Parent/Teacher Group (PTG) has been busy this month planning for our end of the year carnival. It will take place on Friday, May 29th from 5-7 p.m. and you are all invited! There will be games, food, and a small silent auction. We need food/Cake Walk donations and volunteers. Please see the back of the church for our sign-up sheet. Pre-sale tickets will be on sale after church on May 17th and 24th.

Our last day of school will be Thursday, June 4th. Our Promotion Service will take place at 9:00 a.m. Please come join us as we give out awards and promote our kindergarten and sixth grade students. The students will be released for summer vacation immediately following the service.

Do you know a family that would be interested in a Christ-centered and challenging education? Invite them to see what our school family is all about! We are now enrolling for the 2026-2027 school year. Any prospective families can contact the school at 760-243-3074 or check out our website at [www.zionvv.org](http://www.zionvv.org) for more information.

As another school year comes to an end, the staff, students, and families of Zion school would like to thank you for your prayers and love throughout this school year. Your support means so much to us and words cannot express the gratitude that we have for the church's congregation. We pray that you have a wonderful summer vacation!



## **Preschool News**

Rosemarie Carrizosa

Greetings from our Preschool.

This month we continue to discuss the season of spring. Because the children have been so interested in the caterpillars they have found in the preschool playground, we have been discussing the life cycle of butterflies. We want to thank the preschool parents who donated a live caterpillar kit for our children so they can watch them grow and develop into butterflies.

In May we look forward to Mother's Day, doing a lot of crafts prepared for our mothers here at Zion.

We continue to grow in God's love. Thank you for your prayers and support for our preschool.

# Zion Family Adventures with Flat Jesus



Sofia and Flat Jesus after her surgery



Flat Jesus at Waikiki beach with the Cox and Coburn families



Death Valley National Park



Aria and Nathaniel took flat Jesus to Old Town, San Diego



Flat Jesus with Wendy and Rob at Huntington Gardens



Flat Jesus in Berea, Greece, where Paul preached to the Bereans



Lori, Lisa and Amy at the Mercy Me Concert



Flat Jesus in Patmos, Greece, with Edy



Flat Jesus at the St. John Grotto in Patmos, with Edy



Celebrating Herminia's 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday



Amy and Angie walking thru the shadow of Death (Valley)



Guy & Donna Cox Flat Jesus with a Rainbow in Hawaii



Aria and Nathaniel took flat Jesus to Legoland.



Flat Jesus at Mars Hill in Athens with Edy  
Cf. Acts 17:22-32

# Family<sup>+</sup>

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

The loneliness epidemic. A major issue, we're seeing and hearing about it everywhere: TV news stories, interviews, articles online, in newspapers and magazines. Many studies have been done, and research is ongoing. It affects every part of a person's life—mental, emotional, and physical. Former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy first referred to it as an epidemic in 2023, and said that loneliness leads to a "greater risk of cardiovascular disease, dementia, stroke, depression, anxiety, and premature death," and the mortality rate of those experiencing social disconnection is similar to that of people who smoke 15 cigarettes a day.

A November 2025 study done by the American Psychological Association found that more than half of U.S. adults reported feeling isolated and "emotionally disconnected" from others, over 60 percent indicated "societal division as a significant source of stress in their lives," and 69 percent were craving more emotional support than they were receiving. Adults reporting high levels of loneliness were found to be significantly more likely to also experience chronic health issues, including depression, anxiety, and chronic pain, and high levels of loneliness were linked to premature mortality, poor sleep, and cognitive issues.

Even though, technically speaking, our world is more connected than at any time in history, we find ourselves detached and looking for purpose. Digital life increases contact without increasing closeness. We have lost an essential protective layer of our humanity: community.

Sonja Lyubomirsky, a psychology professor at the University of California, points out that loneliness is not an identity but a feeling—something you have, not something you are. She also reminds us that, "Our brains are built for real people, not screens." Without face-to-face connection, the body responds as though something essential is missing—because it is. Community is essential to our being.

So how do we counter this feeling of emptiness that envelopes us? The remedy isn't complicated—although it may be difficult. Isolation tends to generate more isolation. The cure is committing to some small, repeated acts of connection that can help restore a sense of belonging—some regularly occurring, in-person events that demand a degree of personal engagement.

Church can offer some wonderful options, with the added support and encouragement of the faith and hope in Jesus found in those options. Circles of Friends, the Wednesday Bible study, spontaneous circles of friends formed through interactions at coffee time after service or helping out with projects.

Let's start a morning walking group so we can get some exercise in the presence of company rather than alone. Let's start a monthly afternoon tea to learn about other's lives—everyone has a life story, and they are ALL astounding, amazing, and worth hearing. They can change your life in so many small ways. What about a golf group, or a gardening group, a knitting, crocheting or other handwork group or a group interested in books or fish ponds or birds. I'm running out of ideas, but I bet you've thought of something.

Put your ideas or interests on a piece of paper and put it in my box in the narthex (Sanders). Let's commit to community!

"Gather around the table;



love's being served."



## **Community Sharing**

The Community Service Board 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. Thank you!

### **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](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.



Sharing Life in Christ

is

**ZLYF**

Tristina Rodriguez

### **MEETINGS:**

*ZLYF meetings will be on break May thru July.*

### **ACTIVITIES:**

*May 30 – Scandia (for current ZLYF members only)*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

*April 18 – Hope Nights  
July 3-7, 2028 – LCMS National Youth Gathering in San Antonio, TX*