

# Glad Tidings

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



## **ZLYF Sweetheart Dinner**

Tristina Rodriguez

ZLYF will be hosting our traditional Sweetheart Dinner on Saturday, February 14th, from 5-8 pm. Tickets will be \$20 per person and need to be purchased ahead of the event. Reservations need to be made when tickets are purchased.

The full dinner menu includes salad, spaghetti with bread, dessert and drinks. Spaghetti will be catered from Giuseppe's Italian Restaurant in Victorville.

The Sweetheart Dinner has been a tradition for many years here at Zion. Come join us for a memorable evening. Call or text Tristina at 760-646-3224 with questions.



**Ash Wednesday Worship Service**  
**February 14 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Please join us for the soup supper  
preceding the service at 5:30 p.m.**

*Lent*  
B E G I N S



*The Season of Lent* is a time of penitence, reflection and spiritual growth centered on the cross of Jesus our Savior.

Our congregation offers special worship and fellowship opportunities during Lent. Wednesday midweek services begin at 7:00 p.m. and are preceded by a Soup Supper in the fellowship hall at 5:30 p.m. You are invited to enjoy food and fellowship, and then join in the Lenten worship.

Put these special opportunities on your personal and family calendars and join with your family in Christ as we walk together through this special season. God bless your Lenten journey!

Please join us:

Ash Wednesday, February 18

Soup Supper at 5:30 p.m.

Lenten Service at 7:00 p.m.

February 25 Soup Supper at 5:30 p.m.

Lenten Service at 7:00 p.m.

*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 5 begins February 2 with Genesis 45

Week 6 begins February 9 with Exodus 5

Week 7 begins February 16 with Exodus 14

Week 8 begins February 23 with Exodus 23

(For more information contact Lani Sanders.)



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!



### Soup Suppers

Don Hays

Soup suppers are again being served on Wednesday evenings prior to our mid-week Lenten worship services. They are intended as a time of fellowship as well as to provide an opportunity for an evening meal prior to worship for those who work late or commute.

This year our first mid-week Lenten Soup Supper and Lenten service will be on February 18. Serving will begin at 5:30 PM and end at 6:15 PM to allow time for cleanup prior to worship. If you can help out by providing a soup, salad, or dessert for one or more of these meals, it would be appreciated. In any case, please join us for a delicious meal and fellowship.



### Sunday Fellowship

### 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.



*“Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends” – John 15:12-14a*

Blessed February! This month we commemorate the annual observance of Valentine’s Day. While today’s Valentine’s Day observance tends to focus more on romance than anything else, the origins of this day call us both to an understanding of the love God has for each of us and then a calling to reflect that love in our own lives. Indeed, as Jesus says: ‘love each other as I have loved you.’

While this sentiment sounds nice, in reality, it’s not as easy as it sounds. We love being loved but loving others as God has loved us is not so easy. Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, highlights the type of love that we’re called to reflect saying: *‘Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres’* (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). Again, sounds nice, but, in reality, it conflicts with both our fallen nature and just about everything our culture says is important.

Since the Fall, our hearts say: ‘Me first’. But, in Jesus, we see the true depth of the love God has for us. Indeed, *‘God demonstrates his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us’* (Romans 5:8; Cf. John 15:13). Seeing, experiencing and knowing this love, we see the very heart of God. A heart that says: ‘You first’. (Cf. 2 Corinthians 4:6) This love changes our hearts and restores us to the fellowship of God. (Cf. Romans 5:9-11; Colossians 1:21-22; Isaiah 61:3b; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21) As John writes: *‘Since God so loved us, let us love another’* (1 John 4:11). Indeed, this is true and proper worship (Romans 12:1-2) and the source of our peace. (Cf. Philippians 4:4-7)

Blessed February  
Pastor Busch



## **Lutheran Hour Ministries Sunday**

Chuck Knapp

We will be celebrating Lutheran Hour Ministries Sunday on February 1, 2026. You will learn more about the Daily Devotions, video Bible studies, and many other resources that are free to you because of friends like you who support this amazing ministry. Visit <https://www.lhm.org/discoverlhm/> to find helpful free resources today! Many are already available in the narthex.



You may have heard of LHM (Lutheran Hour Ministries) because you listen to the Lutheran Hour. You might have heard of them when the LHM Rose Float glided by during the Rose Parade. Or, you may be familiar with them from participating in one of their excellent Bible studies, or when reading one of their excellent pamphlets from the narthex, or... February 1 is **Lutheran Hour Ministries Sunday**—come hear all about the wonderful things they do!

ZLYF is again hosting the **Sweetheart Dinner**, a thank-you gift to the congregation for their support and encouragement. It will be held on Saturday, February 14, in the Fellowship Hall. See accompanying article for more information.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 18**. Soup suppers will be served before the services, from 5:30–6:15 PM.

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



### **Please remember...**

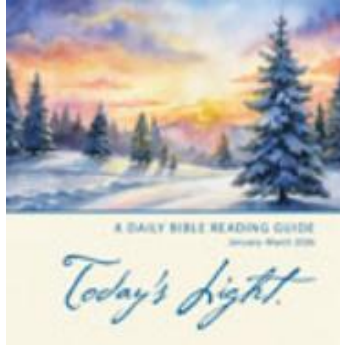
- ...**Walter** (son of Joanne Asta), beginning dialysis...
- ...**Karen Guest**, recovering from an infection...
- ...**Howard Bowers**, diagnosed with cancer...
- ...former member **Doris Hinojos**, recovering from thyroid surgery...
- ...**Diana Santini**, recovering from knee replacement surgery...
- ...**Wilma**, (sister of Theo Gierloff) battling dementia...
- ...**April O'Hara**, experiencing health issues...
- ...**Craig**, (nephew of Theo Gierloff) recovering from a stroke...
- ...**Jonah Dimas** (great-grandson of Fred and Charlene Perry), recovering from surgery...
- ...**Emily, her brothers, and her father** (family of Beverly Raucher) for healing of body and soul...
- ...**Tyler** (grandson of Earnest and Lerma Bockhorn), for restoration of eye sight in his right eye...
- ...**Bob Dunnerman**, on hospice and suffering with heart problems...

**We ask for the Lord's comfort and peace** for the family and friends of **Tony Andreola** (grandfather of Grace and Ella Gauldin), 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).

# Family<sup>+</sup>

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



## **Today's Light**

Lani Sanders

The 15-20 minutes a day I spend in daily Bible reading with *Today's Light* has made such a significant difference in my life. The regular daily experience of reading is giving me wisdom and clarity that helps me navigate life's challenges. It is renewing my mind with the truths of the Word, and reminding me of God's unchanging faithfulness and presence, His character and His promises. It sustains me with God's comfort.

When I miss my Bible time, I notice the difference in my outlook (and "inlook") throughout the entire day.

Please consider joining me as we have just begun a new cycle, beginning again Genesis this January. I would love to have others to discuss with. Even though the *Today's Light* commentary each day is very enlightening, I often read things that I would just like to discuss with others. If you are interested in finding out more about *Today's Light*, about reading the entire Bible and the difference it makes, and/or discussing the readings with me, please meet me for coffee after the worship service.



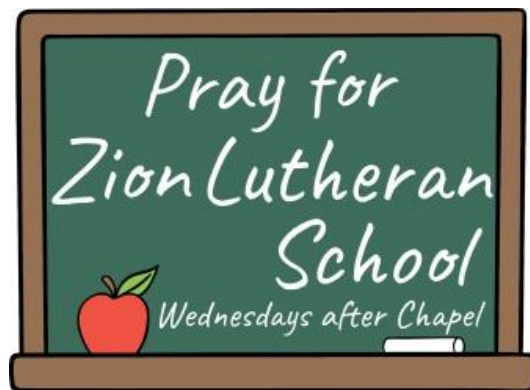
"Gather around the table;  
love's being served."



We welcomed 2026 by ending our second quarter of school and having our second quarter awards at chapel. We also participated in National Lutheran Schools Week where we dressed up each day and focused on our theme verse, "Let's Make a Joyful Noise!" (Psalm 98:4).

Moving into February, we will have no school on February 9th for Lincoln's Birthday and February 16th for Presidents' Day. We also will have *Donuts with Mom and Grandma* on February 12th, starting at 7:30 a.m. We love seeing the students enjoying a morning with their moms and/or grandmothers.

It is not too early to think of the next school year. If you know anyone looking for a "Christ-centered" education, please have them call the school office at 760-243-3074.



### **Preschool News**

Rosemarie Carrizosa

Greetings from our preschool! We hope you are well and are having a blessed New Year so far.

February is upon us and we have many fun activities planned. We continue to talk about God's love, and friendships, this month. We will have a Valentine's party on Friday, February 13th. The children will be able to pass out Valentine cards and candy for their classmates. *Muffins with Mom and Grandma* will be on February 12th. We will be closed on February 16th to honor Presidents Day.

Thank you again for your continued support and prayers for our preschool.

# **Zion Family Adventures with Flat Jesus**



## **Lent 2026 Challenge**

Members of Zion travelled with Flat Jesus to 9 countries and 24 states in 2025! It was fun and exciting to be with our family all over the world!

As we contemplate what Jesus did for us in his life and death this Lent, we remember that Jesus is with us always, wherever we are—the grocery store, the library, the doctor, the dentist, school, Costco, Walmart, Home Depot and Lowes, the flower shop, the drug store, the park, the gym, out to eat, at home, at work, etc.

This Lent, let's see him out in our community! As a Lenten commitment to each other at Zion, we're asking everyone to take and share one local picture every week of Flat Jesus, send it to [familyministry@zionvv.org](mailto:familyministry@zionvv.org) and copy to Pastor, to share with each other on the screen and in the Glad Tidings. Please identify where you are—e.g. Costco, Stater Bros, the library, etc.



Maxx at Tennessee Tech, in Cookeville Tennessee



Flat Jesus decorating Rose Floats



Flat Jesus decorating Rose Floats

## **Aging Gracefully**

(Note: Most of this material is based on various items on the Internet, and are cited where the authors are known.)

*"The joy of the LORD is your strength"* (Nehemiah 8:10)

In Isaiah 46:4, the Lord tells his people, Israel: *"Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you."*

A study published in 2018 by The New England Journal of Medicine reported these conclusions:

- The most productive stage in human life is from 60-70 years of age.
- The 2nd most productive stage is from 70 to 80 years of age.
- The 3rd most productive stage is from 50 to 60 years of age.
- The average age of NOBEL PRIZE winners is 62 years old.
- The average age of the presidents of prominent companies in the world is 63 years.
- The average age of the pastors of the 100 largest churches in the U.S.A. is 71.
- The average age of the Popes is 76 years.
- It concluded that the best years of life are between 60 and 80 years of age.

The report says that if you are 60-70 or 70-80, you are in the best or second-best stage of your life.

(<https://jerrykieschnick.wordpress.com/2022/01/27/another-year-of-blessing%ef%bf%bc/>)

As Christians we know the Lord has surely blessed, encouraged and supported us. We can look back and see the faithfulness of our Lord in his daily blessings. We also know that his grace will carry us into each day of the future.

Some people don't like to think about getting older, but we all get older as long as we live, and as past generations have understood, we can build on our accumulated experience, knowledge and wisdom to bless those around us. Some people complain and try to live in their past. Some people make the best of every day, thanking God for his blessings and presence in their lives, and enjoying and laughing every day.

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A woman went to breakfast at a restaurant where the "Senior Special" was two eggs, bacon, hash browns, and toast for \$1.99.

"Sounds good," the woman told the server. "But I don't want the eggs."

"Then I'll have to charge you \$2.49 because you're ordering a la carte," the server warned her.

"You mean I'd have to pay for not taking the eggs?" the wife asked incredulously.

"Yes," came the response.

"Then I'll take the special."

"How do you want your eggs?" the server asked.

"Raw and in the shell."

She ate her meal and took the two eggs home!

The lesson: Don't mess with seniors!

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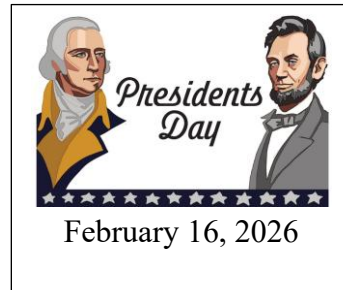
Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman asked her, "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?"

She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

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Remember that you don't stop laughing because you grow old; you grow old because you stop laughing. Let's pray for the wisdom, courage, and strength to age gracefully, no matter what age we are, as we go into the future!





Tristina Rodriguez

### MEETINGS:

*Every Sunday during Sunday School at 10:30 AM*

### ACTIVITIES:

*February 14, from 5–8 p.m. - Sweetheart Dinner*

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

#### **Contributors:**

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