

Glad Tidings

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



Blessing of the Backpacks

Lani Sanders

Mark August 9 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 2026/27 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

Our 2026/27 Sunday School year kicks off August 9th. We look forward to sharing God's love with all children 2 years old (potty trained) through adult. We do ask that a parent of each preschool aged student accompany their child at least for the first few weeks. All the new faces and new surroundings can be overwhelming and even a bit scary.

Classes begin with a 15 minute general opening in the fellowship hall at 10:30 AM.

We ask that all parents of students through the 5th grade register their students either prior to or on their first day attending Sunday School. Classes end at 11:45. After Sunday School, student pick up will be in the classroom for children up through kindergarten, or in the playground for the older children. No child through 5th grade will be released except to someone the teacher/staff member recognizes as family.

When classes end on the first Sunday, August 9, we will be handing out popsicles to the students and their families. We look forward to seeing everyone.

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

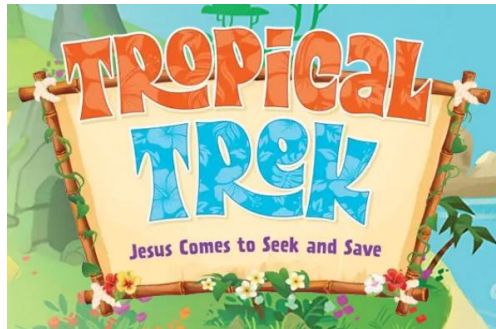


Read the Bible in 2 years

Today's Light

Lani Sanders

Week 31 begins August 3 with 1 Kings 19
Week 32 begins August 10 with 2 Kings 6
Week 33 begins August 17 with 2 Kings 17
Week 34 begins August 24 with 1 Chronicles 1
Week 35 begins August 31 with 1 Chronicles 18
(For more information contact Lani Sanders.)



Vacation Bible School

Don Hays

A big thank you to all who helped with Vacation Bible School this year! Our staff, both youth and adult, was wonderful and I was blessed by the willing support. We appreciate the donations of all the supplies we needed. From what I hear, all the students had a wonderful time, and the teachers were blessed to share God's love with the children. Again, thank you!



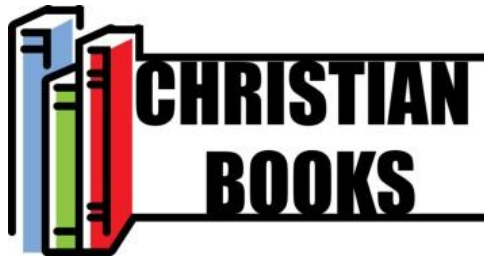
ZLYF Back to School BBQ

Tristina Rodriguez

Welcome Back!!!

ZLYF will be having a back-to-school BBQ and game day on Saturday, August 15th, in the Zion Fellowship Hall, starting at 11:00 a.m.. Please join us!!!

ZLYF is for all students 6th thru 12th grade. We also meet every Sunday morning during Sunday School. Bring a friend! Sunday meetings resume on Sunday, August 9th, at 10:30 a.m.. See you all soon. We hope you had a great summer!



Books! Books! Books!

Karen Guest

Check out the inspirational books available in the meeting room. The book table is a take-one-leave-one table. You are free to take a book to keep, or to borrow one and return it when you have finished reading it. The book table is also a place to leave books that you want to share with others.

The selection changes frequently, so check it out often!



Life in the Spirit

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ...

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk with the Spirit. – Galatians 5:22-23,25

August brings us 'Back to School'. Classes resume and our young people are engaged with new opportunities and they face new challenges. Appropriately, this year's 'Blessing of the Backpacks' theme focuses our attention on God's partnership with our young people as they begin this new portion of their journey. This year's 'Blessing of the Backpacks' theme is 'Live in the Spirit' and is based on Galatians 5. In this passage Paul highlights the 'fruit of the Spirit' and invites all of us to intentionally 'walk' in the ways of the Spirit of God.

The context of Paul's words remind us that we were originally created in the 'image of God' (Cf. Genesis 1:26-28). And, though we turned our back on God and walked away from Him in the Fall (Cf. Genesis 3:1-10), He acted in time and history to reconcile us to Himself and to restore us His image (Cf. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21). A central part of this reconciliation and restoration is the gift of the Holy Spirit (Cf. Romans 8:15 & Galatians 4:6). It is the Holy Spirit that engages our hearts, creates faith, and calls us to once again reflect the 'image' in which we were originally created.

Paul's list of the 'Fruit of the Spirit', though, can sound odd. In the Fall our focus was turned inward, and our desires began to reflect a sense of selfishness. The 'Fruit of the Spirit' on the other hand truly reflect the heart of God and have a definite sense of selflessness. Paul writes: *'The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; truly, against such things there is no law'* (v22-23). The work of the Holy Spirit is to bring us once again to that place where we begin to reflect God's image. Paul concludes by calling us to intentionally endeavor to 'walk in the Spirit'.

As our kids and grandkids begin another year of growth and development along their journey of life, may we be God's instruments of grace. May we, by reflecting the 'Fruit of the Spirit' in our own lives, be encouragements to them to engage this same journey of faith.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Busch



Adopt a Class and Support the Mission of Zion Lutheran Church

Lani Sanders

The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is Zion Lutheran School. In offering education in a Lutheran Christian context, we are committed to teaching children about the world they live in through the lens of Jesus and his saving work. We have been given the opportunity and privilege of sharing God's love with our students and their families.

There are several ways to support this mission.

Adopt a class and pray for the teachers, the students and their families, and the school: not only their studies, but also their family life and home issues, their influence in their communities, their health, their salvation. Lists of first names of students in each classroom are in the narthex of the church by the kitchen. Please pick one up and pray for our students, their families and our teachers!

Physical presence is support. Show up at their programs, their open houses and educational displays, etc.

Commit to the Give25 program—\$25 a month in monetary support—a small amount to further the love of God is our community and world.



Welcome back to school! After the long summer break, the 2026-2027 school year will finally begin on Wednesday, August 12th, and it will be a half day. The students will be released at 11:40 a.m. We will start the day with a chapel service at 9:15 a.m at the church. You are more than welcome to join us!

On Sunday, August 9th, all students and teachers are invited to attend our annual "Blessing of the Backpacks" during the church service. Students and teachers will bring their backpacks to have them blessed for the new school year.

This year, Mrs. Martinez will be teaching TK/K combo class, Mrs. Gong will be teaching 1st and 2nd grade class, and Miss McCormack will be teaching 4th-6th grade class.

We are still enrolling students for the new school year! If you know anyone who would be interested in a Christ-centered education, please have them call the school office at 730-243-3074.



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.



Preschool News

Rosemarie Carrizosa

We are excited for a new school year to start!

The *Blessing of the Backpacks* at our 9 AM Sunday worship service on August 12th starts our new school year.

We are happy to see some of our preschoolers start TK with Mrs. Martinez.

August 27th we will have a free vision screening for our preschoolers.

We look forward to a fun school year as we continue to learn and grow physically, spiritually, and academically here at Zion.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support.



Church **FAMILY** —PRAYER LIST—

Lani Sanders

Please remember...

- ...**Fred Perry**, diagnosed with colon cancer...
- ...**Marlene Henry**, recovering from hip surgery...
- ...**Scott** (son of Gene Dale), diagnosed with a brain tumor...
- ...**Walter** (son of Joann Asta), recovering from lung surgery...
- ...**Pat** (Deborah Hofmann's mother), being treated for cancer...
- ...**Delorah Gothard** (former member), suffering with heart issues...
- ...**Cozelle** (M'Less Tripple's mother), on hospice care, asking for comfort...
- ...**Jimmy Garcia**, recovering at home after long stay in rehab...
- ...all those in harm's way due to armed conflicts,,,

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.



STAY
connected

Lani Sanders

Richard Sack's Memorial Service has been tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 13th at 11:00 am.

The **Gomez family** has moved. Their new address is 14829 Desert Lily Ct., Apple Valley 92307

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!

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

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

Circles of Friends are close small group faith families forming friendships to support and encourage faith in each other's lives. Sign-up now!

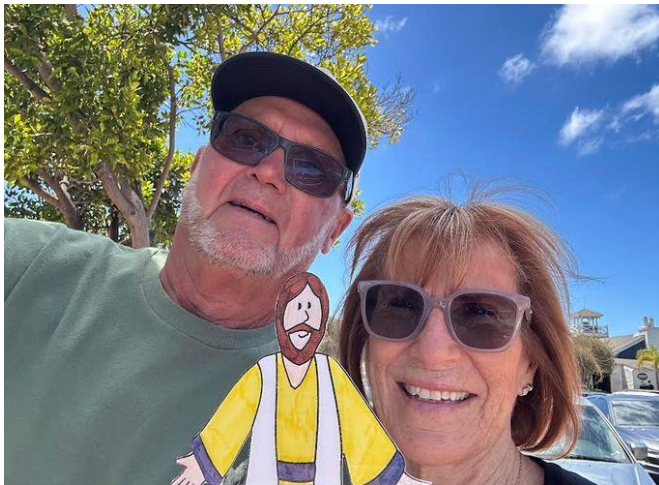
Zion Family Adventures with Flat Jesus



Flat Jesus at NASCAR San Diego June 2026
Betsey, Donna and Amy



Betsey Donna Amy Guy



Flat Jesus at Seaport Village San Diego with Guy and Donna.



Mike and Noel Duffy late June 2026



Mike and Noel Duffy late June 2026



Burgess Falls, TN



Flat Jesus in Kansas with Caleb and Zackary



Hays family in Yukon, Oklahoma



Flat Jesus in Kansas with Zackary and Caleb Visiting Family



Flat Jesus at Brown vs Board of Education National Historical Park with Zackary, Christy and Caleb



He is always with me at work!!!! Lisa Reimers



Lilly at the Big Bear Zoo



"A family that eats together stays together."

Family

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

This backpack has been blessed by a congregation
that loves and supports this student.
Zion Lutheran Church and School

Live by the Spirit (Gal. 5:25)

*Since we live by the Spirit,
let us keep in step with the Spirit.*
(Gal. 5:25)

*Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.* (Eph. 4:32)

We know that because we follow Jesus, we reflect His love wherever we find ourselves, including school. (Not we *should* reflect His love, or we *need to try to* reflect His love, but we *DO* reflect His love.) And we know Jesus is always with us everywhere (as Flat Jesus has been reminding us)! We are assured of God's presence over and over in His Word. Serving Jesus by reflecting His love to everyone around us is a way of life. We serve with our hearts, our souls, and our minds all the time, whatever we're doing and wherever we are—school, work, eating, playing, traveling, at worship.

We will be blessing all our students, teachers, administrators, classroom aides, etc., their school bags, and the stuff in them at our Sunday morning worship service on August 9. We have special backpack tags to put on your backpack, book bag, attaché case, etc., specifically to remind you that GOD is with you and loves you all of the time, and your Zion family loves you, encourages and supports you. So be sure to bring yourself and your school bag to church on the 9th!



The Family Storybook Project

Lani Sanders

Have you preserved any of your life stories for your family? We are told so many times in the Bible that we need to tell our children about what the Lord has done, so they will trust Him. How can tell what He has done in your life? Through the stories of your life!

Here are some questions to get you started:

- Tell about a moment in your life you'd never forget. What happened and why does it stand out to you?
- Who was someone who influenced you a lot when you were younger, and what impact did they have?
- What's a time in your life when you faced a big challenge or difficult situation, and how did you get through it, or what did you learn from it?
- What is your favorite hobby? How does it enrich your life?
- What is something you've always wanted to do
- Where were you born?
- What is your best piece of advice.
- What's something you're proud of accomplishing, big or small?
- If you could share one piece of advice or a life lesson that's really helped you, what would it be, and how did you come to learn it?



Sharing life in Christ is

ZLYF!

Tristina Rodriguez

MEETINGS:

Every Sunday during Sunday School at 10:30 AM

ACTIVITIES:

August 15 - Back-to-School BBQ and Game Day at 11:00 AM

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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



Contributors:

Pastor Lewis Busch
Rosemarie Carrizosa\
Xiaojie Gong
Karen Guest
Don Hays
Charlene Perry
Tristina Rodriguez
Lani Sanders
Diana Santini

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 fmldsdrs@aol.com, subject Glad Tidings. Articles are subject to editing for clarity and length. The deadline is the 20th of each month.