Glad Tidings

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

November 2026

Thanksgiving Eve
November 24
Worship at 7:00 p.m.
followed by
Fellowship Pie Social
in the nursery
Please come to share time together in fellowship
and to share yummy pie

November 16-23

Operation Christmas Child

National Collection Week 2026

PETAL PUSHERS

Monday, December 28, 8 AM – 4PM

Contact 760-646-3224.for information

Today's Light

Lani Sanders

Week 44 begins November 2 with Job 32
Week 45 begins November 9 with Psalm 12
Week 46 begins November 16 with Psalm 48
Week 47 begins November 23 with Psalm 83
Week 48 begins November 30 with Psalm 119
(For more information contact Lani Sanders.)

ZLYF Nerf Battle and Operation Christmas Child Wrapping Party Save the Date

Tristina Rodriguez

The ZLYF annual Nerf Battle will be Saturday, November 14, at 2:00 PM. You may bring your own Nerf shooter or we will have some available for you to use. Ammo will be provided. We will also enjoy some snacks.

This year we will host an Operation Christmas Child wrapping party alongside our Nerf Battle. Part of our time together will be play time, and part of our time together we will spend wrapping and filling shoe boxes for children in need.

You may bring your own shoebox to wrap, or you may just wrap one that has been donated by members of our congregation. We will also be asking for donations of items to fill our shoe boxes. Come enjoy this special opportunity with us. This event is for 6th through 12th grade students only. However, anyone from the congregation may donate items to fill a shoebox or donate used shoeboxes for us to fill. You may also ask friends and family to donate items. Questions? Contact Tristina Rodriguez ZLYF Direc
tor 760-646-3224.

Samaritan's Purse sends gift-filled shoeboxes to children in need around the world, together with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We at Zion have participated in this loving event for many years. There is information on how and what to include in the narthex, along with a suggested note to include in your boxes, if so desired.

Please bring your gift boxes to church by Sunday, November 22, when they will be blessed before they are sent.

Donations Needed

Tristina Rodriguez

ZLYF will be having an Operation Christmas Child wrapping party on Saturday, November 14, at 2:00 PM. We are asking for donations of shoeboxes and items to fill the shoeboxes. Let us help you with the task of wrapping your items for a child in need. Start collecting items and saving your shoeboxes now. For examples of what items to donate, check the Operation Christmas Child website (https://www.samaritanspurse.org/) or pick up a flyer at church. Donations will be accepted until Saturday, November 14th. Drop off your items at church in the narthex or in the school office. Questions? Contact Tristina Rodriguez, ZLYF Director, at 760-646-3224.

Operation Christmas Child

National Collection Week 2026:

November 16-23

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever. – Psalm 136:1

Blessed November!

Each year, as the season changes, we pause to remind ourselves of the daily blessings that God bestows upon us. Indeed, our annual Thanksgiving celebration serves as an invitation to stop and reflect upon just how good God is to all of us. (Cf. Lamentations 3:23) These blessing, of course, find their greatest expression in the life, death, and resurrection Christ Jesus as he redeems and reconciles us to our holy God for all eternity. But God's blessings extend beyond this central, crucial, and vital blessing. Indeed, God provides all the necessities of life and, as a result, he invites us to trust, praise and serve him. (Cf. Luther: Explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles Creed)

The Psalmist hits this point directly in the passage above (Psalm 136:1) as he directs us to give thanks to our God and to trust him. This 'thanksgiving' is more than words. This 'thanksgiving' reflects a deep and abiding confidence that resides within our souls. Our 'thanksgiving' reflects our faith, hope and confidence that, as God promises, his love 'endures forever'. Paul echoes this confidence as he writes: 'God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Christ Jesus our Lord, is faithful' (1 Corinthians 1:9; Cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:24; Hebrews 10:23). Indeed, faith trusts God!

Actually, all of the blessings we receive are invitations to turn in trusting faith to our God. Unfortunately, in our fallen ness, we have a tendency to turn things on their head and to worship the blessings instead of the one giving the blessing. This what Jesus is talking about in the Gospel of Matthew when he says: 'I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? … So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' The pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. Rather, seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things provided to you as well' (Matthew 5:25-34).

Indeed, God is ever endeavoring to move us to this place faith, that is to that place where we have the heartfelt confidence that 'God's love endures forever'. With this confidence we have a peace that surpasses understanding (Cf. Philippians 4:7) and we know that God will work all things together for our good. (Cf. Romans 8:28; John 16:33)

We have much to be thankful for, and, in faith we rejoice in the enduring goodness of God!

Blessed Thanksgiving
Pastor Busch

Save the Date

Tristina Rodriguez

This year ZLYF will once again be hosting the Annual Christmas Bake Sale. Come support our church youth group on December 19th and 20th. We will be accepting donations of both baked goods and craft items. Plan now what you might like to donate. Also if there is a favorite baked good you would like to see at our bake sale let us know. Contact Tristina 760-646-3224 with any questions.

Church FAMILY PRAYER LIST

Lani Sanders

Please remember...

…**Bobby Sanders**, recovering at home from hospitalization due to a cellulitis infection…

…**Jiovanni Rodrigues**, recovering from a fall…

…**Joann Asta**, recovering at home after hospitalization…

…**Cindy Walker**, recovering at home following hospitalizations…

…**Lerma Bockhorn,** recovering from hospitalization…

…**Becky**, Theo Gierloff's daughter, recovering from cervical spine surgery…

…**Lisa Reimers**, recovering from wrist surgery…

…**Cozelle** (M'Less Tripple's mother), on hospice care, asking for comfort…

…strength, comfort and peace for our **caregivers**…

…all those in harm's way due to armed conflicts,,,

We ask for the Lord's comfort and peace for the family and friends of **Joe Gudmonson** at his passing…

We ask for the Lord's comfort and peace for the family and friends of **Pat** (Deborah Hoffman's mother) at her passing…

We ask for the Lord's comfort and peace for the family and friends of **Vicki Shannon** at her 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.

stayCONNECTED

Lani Sanders

Fellowship will be hosting the annual **Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social** on Wednesday, November 24, following the evening service. Bring a pie to share, or just come to enjoy the fellowship and pie.

ZLYF is hosting the **Annual Christmas Bake Sale** on December 19th and 20th.

ZLYF invites the congregation to help **decorate Rose Parade floats** on Monday, December 28th. Our session is 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We have only 30 spots available.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gift Collection Week is November 14-22. The blessing of the collected boxes will be Sunday, November 21.

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

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!

ShopWithScrip®

Whenever you purchase scrip you are contributing to our school. Use it when you go shopping or dining. Scrip is on sale in the office during the week.

Elementary NEWS

Xiaojie Gong

October was such a great month! We enjoyed Fire Truck, Fall Break, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Fall/Reformation Party, and Trunk or Treat! We are so grateful to our parents, volunteers, donors, and helpers. You rock! Thanks for fueling our mission with your kindness!

We will have the First Quarter Awards on November 4th at the church after the chapel. You are welcome to join us. On November 11th, we will take a day off in honor of Veterans Day. Thanksgiving Break starts from November 23rd till 27th.

During Thanksgiving Break, a number of teachers will attend the Lutheran Educator Conference. The theme for this year is "Riding God's Mighty Wave," which is based on Psalm 93:4. It will be a great opportunity for the teachers to communicate with and learn from each other.

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

Preschool News

Rosemarie Carrizosa

Greetings from our preschool here at Zion!

We are excited for the upcoming holidays!

School will be closed for Veteran's Day. We want to remember all who have served and thank them for their service.

Thanksgiving is approaching and we will have many activities about giving thanks for all God has given us. We will celebrate Thanksgiving with our students and parents, enjoying a Thanksgiving feast together on Wednesday, Nov 25th. The schools will be closed on Thanksgiving and Friday.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

GRATITUDE game

Start a fun tradition by playing this game on Thanksgiving.

What you need:

- M&M's or other colored candies
- A bowl
- The list below (adapt the colors, as needed)

Red: a need God has provided for
Orange: a gift you've received
Yellow: something you've recently learned
Green: something in nature
Blue: a special memory
Brown: someone you love

What you do:

1. One at a time, people pick a candy and share what they're thankful for (according to the color).
2. Pass the bowl around and continue reflecting on God's goodness until all the candy is gone!

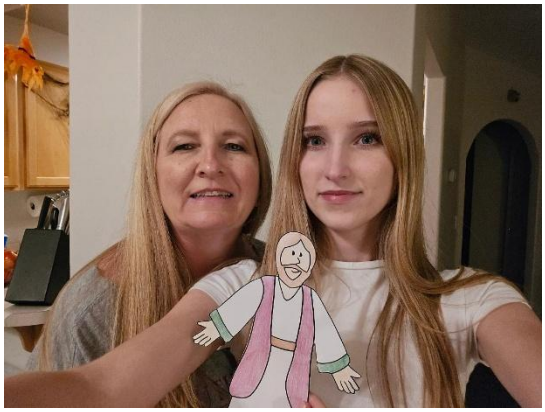
GIVING THANKS

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

Zion Family Adventures with Flat Jesus

Flat Jesus in Las Vegas at Pastors Conference

Flat Jesus in Las Vegas at Pastors Conference


Flat Jesus in Cedar City, Utah, with Debra and Emma

ZLYF Pumpkin Carving Party

Family

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

The first day of the new liturgical year is Sunday, November 29—the first Sunday of Advent. The liturgical year is the cycle of seasons and feast days in Christian churches that organizes worship and scripture readings around the life of Jesus Christ and key events in salvation history (Search Assist). Reformation Sunday (October 31), All Saint's Day (November 1), and Christ the King Sunday (last Sunday of the church year – November 22 this year) mark the end of the liturgical year. Advent Season, Christmas Season, Epiphany Season (including the Day of Epiphany, the Baptism of our Lord, and the Transfiguration of our Lord), the Season of Lent (including Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday), Easter Season (including Easter, Ascension Day and the Day of Pentecost), and Pentecost Season (including Holy Trinity Sunday, and the last three special days mentioned above) complete the year.

January 1 is the first day of the calendar year, which also has a cycle of seasons (Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall) and holidays (New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving being the major ones).

Much of our lives are organized around the rituals associated with these seasons and holidays, and the anticipation of the events and traditions we associate with them. For many of us, these rituals and traditions serve as anchors in our lives, bringing us into community with others. The influence of their dependability can be comforting and stabilizing. The influence when that dependability crumbles can be shattering and isolating.

These various seasons and holidays influence us in many ways. What we believe and our very character are shaped to some degree by being part of, and sharing in, the rituals associated with the seasons and holidays we choose to make important in our lives.

As the community of forgiven saints at Zion, may we choose to participate in the coming festivals and seasons with a caring awareness of their significance in the lives of those around us. May we choose to participate in them in the light of the Gospel, with an appreciation for their meaning, the reasons they are celebrated, and the peace and comfort they offer. May the thankfulness in our Thanksgiving be a blessing for us all.

Contributors:
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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.

Lord,
Thank you for the food before us,
the family and friends beside us,
the love between us,
and Your Presence among us!
In Jesus' Name,
Amen

Sharing life in Christ is

ZLYF!

Tristina Rodriguez

MEETINGS:

Every Sunday during Sunday School at 10:30 AM

ACTIVITIES:

November 14, 2026 — Nerf Battle and Operation Christmas Child Wrapping Party at 2:00 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 28, 202 6— Petal Pushers 8 AM – 4 PM shift
July 3-7, 2028 – LCMS National Youth Gathering in San Antonio, TX