

# Glad Tidings

Zion Lutheran Church – A Joyous Oasis Sharing Life Through Christ!  
May 2025



## Pray For Our Confirmands

On Sunday, May 4, five young people who have been engaged in Zion's confirmation ministry will publicly profess their faith in the living Lord Jesus Christ and affirm their baptismal relationship with the Triune God during the Sunday morning worship service.

Those who will be confirmed in their faith are: **Jorge Gomez, Andrew Meyer, Trinity Rodriguez, Christopher Svider, and Roxane Svider.**

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 these sons and daughters of the King always rejoice in God's love and live faithfully for their Savior!

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Little Children met  
**Jesus**  
through you

Lori Knapp began her teaching career 40 years ago in Barstow, teaching at Barstow Christian School for three years before she and Chuck moved to Victorville in 1987. She taught preschool at Zion for a year, and then became director of the preschool for 31 years. She became the preschool director at Zion Lutheran Church in Anaheim in 2014, serving there 5 years before returning to Victorville to teach 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades at Zion Victorville, adding kindergarten this year.

During those years, she completed her Bachelor's degree at Concordia University Irvine, was colloquized, and completed her Master's in Education through Concordia University Portland.

Lori was the 2007 Early Childhood Educator of the Year for the Pacific Southwest District. She served the District on the National Lutheran Schools Accreditation Commission for 20 years.

Lori's main objective in all her positions has been sharing the love of Jesus. Her dedication and commitment to Zion and the children under her care was unwavering.

Well done, faithful servant! So many little children met Jesus through you!

Lori and Chuck are looking forward to a European River Cruise in June to celebrate retirement.

Please join us Sunday, May 18, at the cake reception following the Worship Service to honor and thank Mrs. Knapp for her faithful and devoted service, and celebrate her retirement with her.



**Read the Bible in 2 years**

## **Today's Light**

Lani Sanders

Week 71 begins May 5 with Micah 1

Week 72 begins May 12 with Habakkuk 1

Week 73 begins May 19 with Zechariah 3

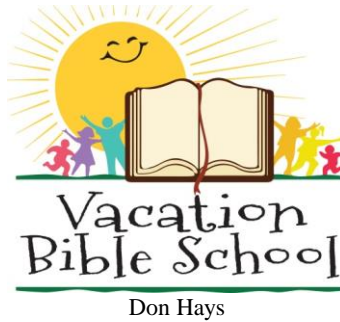
Week 69 begins May 26 with Zechariah 9

(For more information contact Lani Sanders.)

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Plans are taking shape for our summer Vacation Bible School, tentatively scheduled for the week of July 21-25. We have not yet decided on a morning (9:00 AM to noon) or evening (5:30 to 8:00 PM) program. It will depend on how it works with the preschool plans and availability of help. Speaking of help, we need teachers, craft leaders, snack preparers, game coordinators, and either a director or a codirector. We plan to use *Kate and Mack's Summer Adventure*, visiting five different areas of the world in five days using materials developed by Wycliffe Bible Trans-lators. Please pray for me as I undertake some-thing I haven't done in over 40 years, pray for those God will send to help God's Good News with the children, pray for the young ones God will send our way, and pray that He will bless His message we will bring to His little ones.

Your prayer support is greatly appreciated! If you can help out in any of the other ways listed above, please call or text me at (760) 881-1925, or email at [haydk@outlook.com](mailto:haydk@outlook.com).



Linda Bowers

The Community Service Board will be collecting **canned fruit and vegetables, bag of rice and beans, combs and brushes** during May.

The Homeless Shelter has expressed a need for diapers and baby wipes. Donations of these items will be delivered there.

Thank you!

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Don Hays

As we approach the end of our school year, Zion's Sunday School staff members are also making plans for a summer break from our classes. We do not mean that we are taking a break from God, but only to get some rest and relaxation from our classroom duties as we look forward to begin fresh again this fall. As it now stands, we are planning June 1, as our last class of the spring. We pray that each of our students and their families have a safe and relaxing summer and return back, refreshed and ready to learn when we kick off a new Sunday School year on August 10.

Wishing each of you a very blessed summer.



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## Jesus Confirming Peter's Faith

[Jesus] said to [Simon Peter] a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." – John 21:17

This year, our Easter celebration continues through the entire month of May. The Gospel reading for the first Sunday in May is the account of Jesus reaffirming Peter after he had denied Jesus three times on Good Friday morning. (John 18:15-27) As we read the account (John 21:15-17) we can feel Peter's pain as Jesus asks him three times, 'Peter, do you love me?' At first hearing of this passage we may think that Jesus' actions are uncaring, but the opposite is true. Jesus here is not questioning Peter's loyalty, commitment, or even his faith. Rather here Jesus is meeting Peter in the place of his greatest pain and his greatest need. Here, in gracious mercy, we see Jesus reaffirming Peter and inviting him to lay down his doubts and fears.

This passage speaks of God's compassion, understanding and grace, not just to Peter but to all of us. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, (John 10:1-16) knows his sheep. He seeks them out when they get lost and rejoices when he finds them. (Cf. Luke 15:1-7) This is the essence of the Gospel. (Cf. Isaiah 53:4-6) Jesus has come to seek and save that which is lost. (Cf. Luke 19:9-10) We, like Peter, need this reassurance of God's grace every day.

The first Sunday of May is also Confirmation Sunday. This year five young people will stand before the congregation and acknowledge their faith. We rejoice with them as they make 'their good confession' (Cf. 1 Timothy 6:11-12) and we join our voices with theirs acknowledging our loving God and holding onto his promise: 'I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' (Matthew 28:20)

Blessed Easter  
Pastor Busch



Chuck Knapp

As good stewards of the resources God provides, Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) works to be strategic in the allocation of those resources. The final broadcast of The Lutheran Hour® on KBRT 740 AM will be on April 27, 2025. To find other airings near you, check the broadcast guide at [lhm.org/guide](http://lhm.org/guide).

The Lutheran Hour is available today in many other ways beyond traditional radio. From the American Forces Network, Sirius XM satellite radio, [lutheranhour.org](http://lutheranhour.org), the Connected by LHM mobile app, Amazon Alexa, Spotify, iHeartRadio, YouTube, dialing in on your phone, and more, listeners can hear the weekly sermons whenever and wherever they are.

For more information about Lutheran Hour Ministries, visit [lhm.org](http://lhm.org).

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Johanna Allen

Summer break is almost here! We have one month left of school and the students and staff are feeling rested after our Easter break. The students did a wonderful job at our annual Stations of the Cross service and we enjoyed our time off to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior.

In May, we have a lot going on as the school year comes to an end. The first big event is our Spring Musical on Friday, May 9th at 6:30 p.m. The students will be presenting the musical entitled “New World.” If you are able, please join us on May 9th at the church to see the beautiful musical that the students have put together.

The students are also busy working on their End of the Year Project, which is due May 21st. The students choose whether they would like to do a Science or a Social Studies project. They bring the completed project to school and give a presentation on their project to their classmates.

May 30th is our last day of school and we will be celebrating with a Promotion Service at 9:00 a.m.. Everyone is welcome to come and encourage the students that are being promoted. The sixth grade students even prepare speeches about their time at Zion. The whole service will be a celebration and we would love to see you there! Immediately following the service, the students are released for summer vacation.

During the service, there will also be some special time set out to honor Mrs. Knapp. Mrs. Knapp has dedicated years to our school and she has shared the love of Jesus with so many children. She will be retiring at the end of the school year and we will miss her deeply, but we pray that she enjoys her retirement. Congratulations on your retirement, Mrs. Knapp!

Our Easter Treats sale was extremely successful! Thank you to all of those who supported the school by purchasing Easter chocolates. Now the Parent/Teacher Group is busy planning for our end of the year celebration on Friday, May 30th from 5-7 p.m.. There will be games and food and tickets will be available to purchase soon. Everyone is invited! Keep your eyes open for ways to help and items to donate.

Finally, as one school year ends, we begin to think about the new school year. If you know any families that you think would love a Christ-centered and challenging curriculum, please have them contact our school at 760-243-3074. Have a wonderful summer vacation!



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## Preschool News

Geoffrey Bottom

We here at Zion Lutheran Preschool have many fun activities planned this month of May. We start with the children's Program on Friday, May 9, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

We will be closed Monday May 26<sup>th</sup> to observe Memorial Day.

Our graduation/promotion service is at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Have a blessed month.



Lani Sanders

Thank you to everyone—and there were so many—who helped in our Easter celebration!!

Support Zion Lutheran Church's mission—Zion Lutheran School. **Adopt a class** to faithfully pray for during the school year. Pick up your class list in the narthex now.

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

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! HALLELUJAH!



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LORD, hear our prayers

Lani Sanders

## Please remember...

- ...**Nathaniel Perry** (son of Fred and Charlene), recovering from eye surgery...
- ...**Hazard Perry** (grandson of Fred and Charlene), recovering from shoulder surgery...
- ...**Maria** (Norma Gomez's aunt), recovering from surgery for stage 3 cancer...
- ...**Marty Hershman**, schedules to be released to daughter Lisa's home to recover following a car accident...
- ...**Lisa Clayson**, (Marty's daughter), recovering from the same car accident...
- ...**Diane** (Marty's granddaughter), recovering from colon cancer surgery...
- ...**Hildi Seymore**, recovering from hospitalization...
- ...**Walter**, son of John and Joann Asta, re-hospitalized , fighting pneumonia...
- ...**Amy Knapp**, recovering from surgery...
- ...**Diane Mahan**, recently diagnosed with bone cancer...
- ...**John Asta**, recovering in rehab in Redlands...
- ...**Maxx Martyn** (son of Leigh Hannon), for strength and a continued assurance of God's presence during this season as he serves in Jordan...
- ...the **family of Cozelle** (M'Less Tripple's mother) as they care for her...
- ...**Bob Dunnerman**, on hospice and suffering with heart problems...

**We ask for the Lord's comfort and peace** for the family and friends of **Bob Bowers** at his passing...

**Let us offer Praise and Thanksgiving** for the confirmation of **Cara Sanchez**, wife of Christian Barnes...

**Let us offer Praise and Thanksgiving** for the confirmation of **Jorge Gomez, Andrew Meyer, Trinity Rodriguez, Christopher Svider, and Roxane Svider.**

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).

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

Why attend church? Many believe we don't have to "go to church" to worship God. We can watch the live stream, hear Pastor's sermon, who needs our prayers for this week, sing along with the hymn/song lyrics posted on the screen, and basically "participate" in our pjs from the comfort of home...much easier when we're extra tired, we've overslept and would have to really hurry to make it on time, more comfortable when the weather is bad or when we don't feel like talking to anyone anyway...

But is "going to church" really only about hearing the sermon? About knowing who to pray for or even about singing? Can we really worship God alone?

*And let us take thought of how to spur one another on to love and good works, **not abandoning our own meetings, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other**, and even more so because you see the day drawing near.* Hebrews 10:24-25 / New English Translation / emphasis added

The Lord apparently wants us to understand that "going to church" is about more. The Hebrews passage above says being together with His family is important—very important. It is how we encourage each other—we don't just attend for ourselves, but to encourage others as well as ourselves. And we need to be encouraged and supported in our life with Jesus, or we can easily drift in our focus and discipleship. Jesus uses our family of faith—our church family—to do that (no matter how unfaithful and hypocritical we see ourselves and others to be).

We come together as family—the family of God—to build relationships as the family of God. We come together to remind each other and agree together about the greatness of God, the trustworthiness of God, the love of God. We come together to encourage each other—even if only by our very presence. We come together because being together matters a great deal, and our absence in the togetherness is a loss to everyone, not just ourselves.

Worship includes the reception of the means of grace—hearing the Word of God in Scripture and *participating* in the sacraments—but also describes our response to this power of God brought to our life by the Spirit, desiring to receive forgiveness, grace, and righteousness. If *being at* a concert or football game is much more than just hearing the music or watching the action, how much more *being at church* is than just hearing and watching it on TV?

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, **not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another**—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* Hebrews 10:24-25 / New International Version / emphasis added

Jesus longs to gather us together with himself (see Matthew 23:37), and He promises "...where two or three **gather in my name**, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20 / New International Version / emphasis added

*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.* (Romans 15:5-6)



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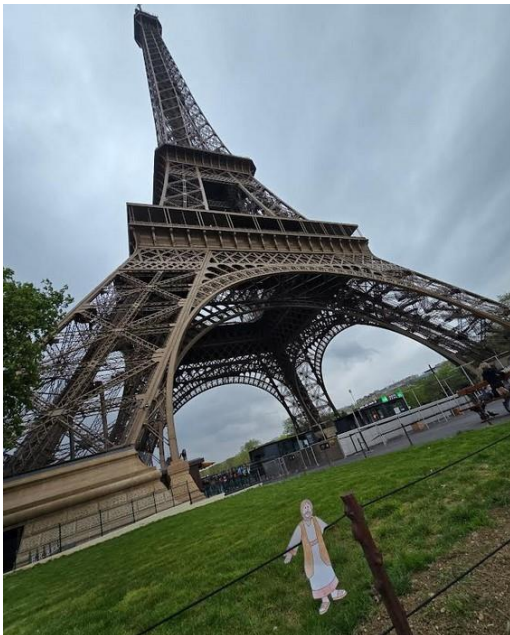
## Zion Family Adventures with Flat Jesus



Flat Jesus in Seward, Alaska with Edy, Lauren, Tyler & Lenny  
March 2025



Flat Jesus with youth group at YouthX Youth Gathering  
March 29, 2025



Flat Jesus in Paris with the Imes April 2025



Circle of Friends celebrating Easter together April 18, 2025

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## Last Day of School Service

Johanna Allen

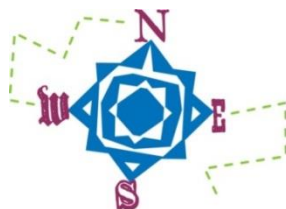
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Sharing Life in Christ

is

**ZLYF**

Tristina Rodriguez

## MEETINGS:

*Every Sunday during Sunday School*

## ACTIVITIES:

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

*July 2025 – LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA*



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Learn more at **[lcef.org/IRA](https://lcef.org/IRA)**.

*LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts.*

### **Contributors:**

Pastor Lewis Busch  
Johanna Allen  
Geoffrey Bottom  
Linda Bowers  
Don Hays  
Chuck Knapp  
Charlene Perry  
Tristina Rodriguez  
Lani Sanders  
Jeff Sievers

**Glad Tidings** is a monthly publication. Suitable articles are welcome, and will be printed as space permits. Type in plain Times New Roman 12pt. 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.