

# The Glory of Zion

Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, School & Preschool

4550 Mt Rushmore Rd | Rapid City, SD 57701 | (605) 342-5749 | info@zionrc.org | zionrc.org

January 2025

## Newsletter Debut

We are proud to release the first issue of The Glory of Zion, a monthly newsletter that focuses on telling stories of the knowing, growing, and serving happening among our membership. Some of the features to look for each month include:

- Pastor's devotion
- Ministry focus
- Discipleship focus
- Random questions with...
- School focus
- Stewardship minute
- New member Spotlight
- Congregation member spotlight
- News & events

If you would like to contribute as a writer, or have suggestions and contributions, please contact Kate Meadows.

***And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." – Revelation 21:5a***

Happy New Year, and welcome to 2025! Our world is celebrating the beginning of a new year with the all the optimism of new opportunities and possibilities in front of us. Yet we in the church have already celebrated our new year. We have already said goodbye to the old and in with the new. We have travelled through the season of Advent and looked back at Christ's first coming while simultaneously looking forward to a world which will be on His return.

And therein lies the difference between the world of today and Christ's vision of a world of tomorrow. The world of today celebrates New Year with optimism of secular opportunities and possibilities. But it soon will become disillusioned by its own brokenness. The wars and rumors of wars, the violence, the hatred, the bloodshed, sin, and idolatry will soon enough tarnish that optimism. The opportunities which we create for peace between people will falter, and the possibilities of an ever-improving world will hit the cold hard wall of a world trying to live without God.

Yet, God has shown us through this past month of Advent and Christmas what a new year, a new world, really does look like. He has shown us through the birth of His Son what redemption and re-creation will look like. In Him we have true hope and optimism, a hope and optimism not in ourselves and what we can accomplish, but a sure and certain hope and optimism in what He *has* and *will* accomplish.

Through this revised, updated and brand-new Zion newsletter we are endeavoring to reflect that hope, His hope. We aim to share the story of hope which is Zion Lutheran Church, School, and Preschool. We want to show how that hope is reflected in the lives our brothers and sisters in Christ in this place. We want to show how that hope is reflected in the ministries and tasks which God has given us. And we want to show how that hope is reflected in our mission to Know Jesus, Grow in our Faith, and Serve in His love.



There is much to celebrate in this New Year to come. There is much for which to be optimistic. But our optimism does not come in the form of a ball dropping in New York or fireworks exploding over London. Our hope in this new year comes from the same source of hope as last year. Our hope now and always is in Jesus Christ, who will come to make all things new!

Your Servant in Christ,  
Pastor Bryan Meadows

## DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS: Helping Hands

By Jan Meadows

Galatians 6:10 reads, “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” (ESV)

This is the foundation of the Helping Hands Committee here at Zion Lutheran Church, School, and Preschool. Their goal is to bring us together as the family of God, showing love and support for one another. They do this by preparing and providing meals to families of our congregation on the joyous occasion of the birth of a child, or during a time of stress, such as following surgery or hospitalization. Caring through meals is a good way to bring family together, showing love and concern.

In order to carry out this ministry, the needs must be known. There’s an old joke about a gentleman who was angry at the pastor for not visiting him in the hospital, but he never told the pastor that he was there. He just assumed that his need was known. Don’t assume that your church family is aware of your need. Make it known by notifying your pastor. Mentioning it in passing on your way out of church on Sunday morning is seldom sufficient. Drop a note or make a call to the church office if you know that you will be in the hospital, or if you know of a member of our church family in the hospital.

We also need people to prepare and deliver meals. This isn’t an arduous task, but is a great way to help others in our church family. In so doing, you are giving the most valuable asset—your time, time that God has given you, allowing you to serve your brother or sister in Christ.

We are grateful to Wanda Moranti and Lindsay Reule for coordinating this ministry for our church family, and providing a way that we can help on another. Please contact Lindsay at the church office or Wanda (605-390-4826) to set up times for meals or to offer help to this ministry of Helping Hands in our family of faith.



---

## Stewardship Minute

By Kevin Aker

Stewardship isn’t all about giving of your time, talents and treasures. It is also about being thankful for what God has given you. This month we have more than a million reasons to be thankful! Author Connie Rowland reminds us that the Word of God has a lot to say about giving thanks to the Lord. There’s really no right way or wrong way to praise God and thank Him for everything He does.

Yet, when we pause to give thanks to the Lord, as Psalm 107:1 reminds us, we’re not just offering words; we’re acknowledging God’s hand at work in our lives. His goodness surrounds us every day, even in ways we can’t see right away. From the simplest blessings like the air we breathe to the incredible ways He provides for us in hard times, His hand is always with us. As we reflect on all He’s done, we can see how God’s hand gently leads us, protects us, and provides for us every step of the way. Giving thanks is our response to His faithful, unchanging goodness!

Today I encourage you to remember that God gives us these wonderful gifts each and every day. Let’s celebrate the blessings we have been given and to live our lives with unending gratitude to a God who loved us so much He gave us the gift of His Son!

*\*Adapted from, Give Thanks to the Lord For He is Good  
Psalm 107:1 Devotional By Connie Rowland September 10th, 2024*

---

## Random Question with...

Pastor Schulte, Associate Pastor

**What word do you want added to the dictionary, and what is the definition?**

*“AYulGMawkeNyum’*

I would like to add the word “AYulGMawkeNyum’ (ah-yül-guh-mawka-nyum) to the dictionary. It’s not exactly a word, but a delicious mouthful of a phrase. After more than 20 years since I regularly spoke Moba, the language of Northern Togo, I remember very little of it. So, one of the few phrases that has stuck after all these years (because my mind is a little bent) is a very creative insult. My new word proposal literally means, “Your head holds no water,” or “You’re not very intelligent.” It’s not a very Christian sentiment, but it cracks me up.



## MINISTRY FOCUS: Christ's Way Capital Campaign Committee

By Kate Meadows

It might be hard to believe, but two years have passed since Zion launched its Capital Campaign for Zion Lutheran Church, School and Preschool. Directed by the expert guidance of Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) representative Phill Andreasen, the campaign is organized into three phases, with an overall goal of responding to the needs of a growing Lutheran school and church congregation. As we enter the third and final year of the first phase of giving, here is an update of what the Capital Campaign committees are up to and what has been accomplished thus far:

According to Impact Phase Director Kevin Aker, Phase 1 of the campaign begins its final year celebrating a huge milestone. Thanks to Zion's incredible giving efforts, the campaign reached the million-dollar mark in October 2024.

"Through difficult times seeing prices for our daily goods rise out of control, your dedication to both the current ministry and Zion's future ministry has held fast," Kevin said. "We have not done this on our own, of course. We continue to trust in and thank God for maintaining our ability to do this."

Phase 1 of the campaign aims to raise enough money to support the building of additional classrooms and a gym at Zion. It is no secret that every inch of Zion Lutheran Church, School and Preschool is well utilized and, in some cases, over-utilized. The PE closet doubles as storage for music stands and speakers. The general educator (Becki Aker) works out of a former closet. Preschoolers take naps in the conference room. The narthex transforms into the school cafeteria midday during the weekdays. The sanctuary is also the school gym. Adding additional classroom space will allow Zion Lutheran School to increase its enrollment numbers. The addition of a gym will allow the current sanctuary/gym to become a dedicated worship space.

Bill Aker and Don Valenti are the Capital Campaign Committee's co-chairs. Their work was heavy leading up to the beginning of the campaign, as they met with Andreasen and other subcommittee leaders to discuss how to organize a capital campaign to raise money for a church and school expansion.

"When we started, we felt like the blind leading the blind," Bill said. "The campaign was an education for everyone."

Various Zion members took on various roles to get the monstrous campaign rolling. Ken Anderson assumed the role of prayer director. Lynette Epp agreed to head up communications. Amie Rose tracked pledges for initial commitments.

"There was a lot of coordinating to do," Bill said. "It was a lot to ask people to do. But everyone that we asked stepped up and did, I think, a really good job."

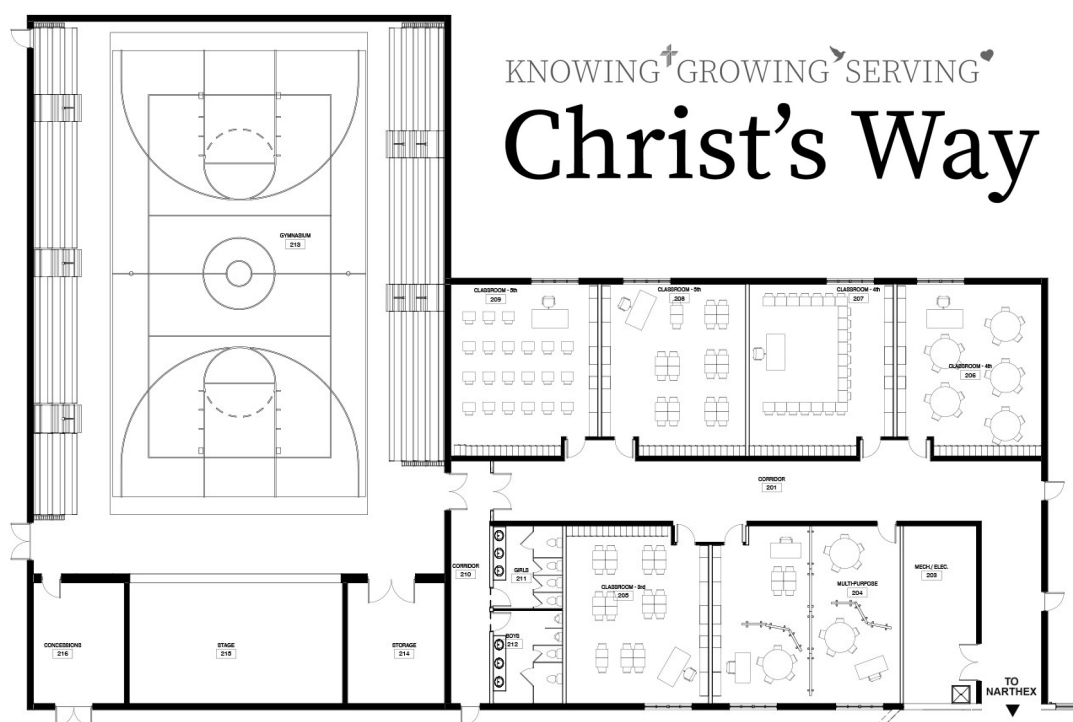
Now, as Zion praises God for reaching the million-dollar mark, a building committee is meeting regularly to determine the most practical layout of the new addition and draft expansion plans. Contractors will break ground on the project once 55% of the total project cost is attained. God willing, Zion could see a ground-breaking ceremony in the spring of 2026.

As Campaign co-chairs, Bill Aker and Don Valenti continue to maintain a regular presence within the congregation, introducing themselves to new members and keeping the Capital Campaign front-and-center.

"New members [often] don't know anything about the history of Zion," Bill said.

Kevin Aker of the Impact Phase Team says to be on the lookout for more Capital Campaign events in the coming months.

Thank you for your tremendous dedication to Zion Lutheran Church, School and Preschool through Christ's Way Capital Campaign!



# SCHOOL FOCUS: FIRST GRADE

---

## **First Grade Faith, Fun and Learning**

*By Krystol Frerking*

First grade has been a year filled with blessings, growth, and discovery in God's love! We kicked off the school year by welcoming our class pet, a betta fish, who taught us about the beauty of God's creation and the importance of responsibility. In October, students created Pumpkin Book Reports, and our "Pumpkin Jack" experiment—previously displayed outside our classroom—illustrates the life cycle of a pumpkin. We're also hosting a nationwide postcard exchange, which you're welcome to stop by and check out! In November, students led chapel and shared heartfelt messages of thankfulness. Then, in December, we celebrated the Christmas season by presenting a Christmas Reader's Theater for parents during our class party. We also joined the preschoolers and kindergarteners in sharing the joyful news of Jesus' birth through our Christmas service. Thank you for supporting our faith-filled learning journey!

## **Meet Krystol Frerking**

*By Jan Meadows*

Perhaps many of you know Krystol Frerking, and have known her and her family for many years. I enjoyed interviewing her for this article because, until now, all I knew was that she is the first grade teacher here at Zion Lutheran School. So, it was with great pleasure that I sat with her while the kids were in gym class and asked a few questions.

Krystol grew up right here in Rapid City, and was a student at Zion Lutheran School. Many of you may know her mom, Karen Longhenry, a member at Peace Lutheran Church. Krystol has two younger siblings, a brother who lives in Pukwana, SD and a sister who lives in Virginia.

Krystol has been married to her husband, Scott, for 24 years and their son, Ben, is now a senior at Central High School. Krystol met Scott in college at a 7:30 AM Communications Class. Despite the earliness of the hour, they obviously learned to communicate well. Scott also came from strong Lutheran roots, growing up in Concordia, MO.

Krystol told me that she enjoys music, and played in her high school marching band. She played clarinet and base clarinet, and was privileged to accompany the band on a band tour of Europe, visiting Prague, Paris, London, and other places. One memorable place was Castle Neuschwanstein in Bavaria. This castle was the inspiration for Disney's Cinderella Castle. Krystol's son, Ben, is now also in marching band, also playing clarinet and bass clarinet at Central High School. She enjoys seeing this musical tradition carry on in her son.

Busy as her teaching keeps her, she does have other interests. She said she likes to read, but doesn't find a lot of time for that when she has her husband, son, and her two dogs to keep her occupied. She enjoys spending time with her 12 year old Corgi, Patches, and 2 year old Bichon Shih Tzu, Kodie.

Krystol began teaching in 2001, and has been a Lutheran School Teacher ever since. She taught her first 7 years at Immanuel Lutheran School in Waterloo, Iowa before coming home to Zion Lutheran, where she has taught since 2008.

Krystol loves dogs, and said one of her earliest and happiest memories is when she got her first dog when she was about 6 years old. It was a border collie/lab mix named, Cindy, and they enjoyed many happy adventures together.

Krystol loves working with her first graders and all the kids here at Zion, but when I asked "What is the most important thing that you hope your first graders learn each year in your classroom?", she didn't hesitate to tell me, "I want them to know Jesus loves them, and they can always trust Him." This is what she endeavors to model for her students, and a worthwhile payer we can all offer for each of our students here at Zion Lutheran School.



*Krystol grew up right here in Rapid City, and was a student at Zion Lutheran School.*

## Student Insights: First Grade

### You have two cups of hot cocoa. Who do you share one with and why?

**Teagan**—I would share with Lola. She likes humongous marshmallows.

**Hudson**—I would share with Brixton. He is nice and I would put regular marshmallows in it.

**Gage**—I would give both cups to share with Ellen and Ramona. It will be on a cold winter day.

**Juliet**—I would share it with my mommy. She loves hot cocoa. I don't know if she likes it with marshmallows or not, but I sure don't!

**Penny**—My mom gets chocolate. She puts marshmallows in it. We drink hot chocolate with mom and dad.

**Marigold**—I would share with my mom because she is my mom.

**Jayden**—I would share with Hollace because he loves hot chocolate with marshmallows. He has been my friend since kindergarten.

**Jameson**—I would share with my cousin, Elliot. He likes mini marshmallows.



**Ellen**—I would share with Rively. She is nice and my friend.

**Ramona**—I would share with Gage because he is funny.

**Josiah**—I would share with my friend, Hollace.

**Hollace**—I would share with my friend, Wyatt. He likes hot cocoa with marshmallows.

**Leo**—I would share with my dad because he loves it.

**Emmett**—I would share with my mom. I love her!

**Lola**—I would share with Teagan. She loves humongous marshmallows.

**Wyatt**—I would share with Hollace. It would be good.

**Rively**—I would share with my friend, Ramona. She is really nice to me and helps me when I need it.

**Evelyn**—I would share with my friend, Hailey. She is my cousin.

**Brixton**—I would share with my sister. She likes chocolate.

**Ryker**—I would share with everyone who needs cocoa because of the snow and it is hot and it feels good.

## School News

### NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

National Lutheran Schools Week is a time for students, parents, and teachers to celebrate Lutheran education and serve others. It serves as an opportunity to proclaim God's great blessings within the communities we serve. Lutheran schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness of God's love for us through Christ by teachers and students alike.

Zion Lutheran School celebrates its 67th year being a mission of Zion Lutheran Church. We will celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week January 26-31! We have so much to be thankful for, and so much to look forward to, as we walk through this New Year with our Lord!

Look for special events and activities in future bulletin announcements!

### BINGO

Zion Lutheran School with Christ's Way Capital Campaign will be hosting the third annual Bingo Night on Friday, January 31st! There will be food, fun, and prizes! All the church and school families are invited to come and bring a friend! Plan for a fun night of fellowship!



## **NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: The Abbott Family**

*By Azure Summers*

Friendly. Comfortable. Accessible. These are just a few of the sentiments Dallas and Sarah Abbott use to describe to their first impressions and ongoing experience at Zion, since first attending a service in August 2024.

Meet Dallas, Sarah, and their children, Lauren (3 years) and Luke (4 months). Dallas, who grew up in Oregon, came to Rapid City in 2017 to attend Hot Rod Institute. Ultimately, he found his passion in upholstery. For the past 4 years, he has been providing that service through his business, Abbott Upholstery. Outside of his business, Dallas's favorite thing to do is fishing. He works as a fly-fishing guide for Dakota Angler & Outfitter and enjoys fishing whenever possible. Dallas is a 4-year veteran of the US Army.

Sarah is a Rapid City native and works as a CAT Scan Technologist. Growing up around home construction, Sarah has developed an eye for interior design. She designed their dream home, which was built last year. Prior to becoming a busy mom, she started a business named The Wood Stack, where she made home and holiday wood art and did custom orders. She is hoping to return to it someday when she has the time again.

As a family, the Abbotts enjoy traveling and snowboarding. They love being outside, hiking, and taking Lauren to the bike park. Lauren recently competed in a Strider race and plans to take up BMX biking when she is a bit older!

The couple's journey to Zion unfolded quite recently and somewhat unexpectedly. Dallas was raised in the Catholic church, but he didn't have much involvement in church once he graduated high school. Sarah had never really attended church. But, over the past year, Sarah felt a continual nudging toward church. Dallas agreed that attending church was a good idea. They each noticed Zion as they drove by regularly, and Sarah had been hearing frequent positive references to Zion by word of mouth. But it was through Sarah's work as a CAT scan tech that one Zion member convinced her that Zion may be the place for them.

Upon walking into the church that first Sunday, their young family was warmly greeted by one of Zion's pastors and welcomed by numerous friendly congregation members. Since that day, the couple and their two young children have regularly attended service and completed the new member classes. What's more, Sarah, Lauren and Luke were baptized in October!

"We look forward to coming to church. It's like a special family outing," Sarah said. Dallas agreed.

The Abbotts' story is a beautiful testimony of the loving church family you, as members of the body of Zion, are creating. Abbott family, we count you as a blessing! Welcome to Zion!



## **Want to Join Our Zion Family?**

We offer new member classes yearly in October. We welcome you to worship with us: Saturdays at 5:30pm or Sundays at 8am or 10:45am. If you have any questions about joining our family or about Zion in general, please contact one of our pastors or the front office at [info@zionrc.org](mailto:info@zionrc.org).

Pastor Meadows: [bryan.meadows@zionrc.org](mailto:bryan.meadows@zionrc.org)

Pastor Schulte: [gary.schulte@zionrc.org](mailto:gary.schulte@zionrc.org)

## CONGREGATION MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Kathie Wold

*By Kate Meadows*

Asking Kathie Wold how long she has been a member of Zion Lutheran Church is like asking how long she has been a member of her family. The easy answer: since she was born.

But here is the more interesting answer: Kathie Wold was baptized in the parsonage on Quincy Street while Zion Lutheran Church was being built on 5th and Quincy – the corner that Security First Bank now occupies. Less than a year after her baptism, the church building was completed. Her father, the late Erwin Kirschenmann, was among the church leaders instrumental in starting Zion Lutheran School in the 1950s.

When the school opened in 1957, it served grades 1-4, with each grade taking up one row of the classroom and one teacher overseeing all the students. Kathie was in first grade and therefore sat in the first row. Her brother, Rick, was in the third grade and sat in the third row.

The family's legacy at Zion continues strong today.

Now, Kathie and her husband, Richard Wold, attend Zion with daughter Hanne Burke and her family – husband Devon and children, Haley, Jenson and Holland – and Devon's parents, John and Nancy Burke. Hanne and her sister, Kirre, attended Zion Lutheran School, and Hanne now teaches Spanish at Zion. Haley finished 5th grade at Zion, and Jenson and Holland currently attend school at Zion. Kirre lives in Iowa with husband Chris.

Jane Kirschenmann, widow of Kathie's brother, Rick, still attends Zion faithfully.

Aside from four years of what Kathie calls "penance" in New Jersey, where Richard worked as an engineer and where both Hanne and Kirre were born, she and Richard have spent their married lives in Rapid City. Kathie taught English at Dakota Middle School for more than 20 years, working in the same brick building where, years earlier, she graduated from the original Rapid City High School. (Rapid City Alternative High School occupies the space today.) She was on the middle school team that introduced online grading to the Rapid City School system in the early 2000s. She retired from teaching in 2011.

Teaching may have been her bread-and-butter job, but she says she always wanted to be a coach. Having earned a degree in PE from Valparaiso University, she played women's fast-pitch softball for 15 years, played on the Pierre women's softball team for two years and coached middle school basketball and volleyball for 20-plus years.

Kathie met Richard in the early 1980s. She was impressed with Richard's vocabulary, and after their first meeting, she says she thought to herself, "That's someone I could marry."

They were married in 1982.

In their decades at Zion, Kathie and Richard and the extended Kirschenmann family have made incredible contributions to support church music, worship and the school. Kathie's parents purchased the handbells and, for school and Sunday school children, the colored chimes. They also ensured that the handbells were cleaned regularly. Keyboards for Zion's praise team and special music were purchased with funds from the Kirschenmann family memorial. Kathie and Richard purchased banners to hang on either side of the altar. Kathie served on the long-range planning committee at Zion in the early 1990s under Pastor Duley, which saw the initial formation of Zion's Praise Team. She also chaired the worship committee and introduced CCLI to support the use of music not found in hymnals. Richard has served as Zion's Vice President and on the former Board of Outreach (now Board of Discipleship). For the Christ's Way Capital Campaign, the Wolds served on the Inspire Committee, connecting and communicating with Zion members over Zion's fundraising efforts.

Zion wouldn't be the same without Kathie and Richard Wold. We give thanks to God for their decades of serving Zion in love!



## LWML Meeting

The LWML will meet Saturday, January 11, 2025, at 10:00am at Zion. Theme: Cornerstone Women's & Children's Shelter. The ingathering: Coffee, eggs, milk, cereal, sandwich bread, butter, sugar, laundry soap, dish soap, Kleenex, Clorox wipes, and personal hygiene items. We invite the girls who are now in the confirmation classes and their moms to join us. Refreshments will be served. All women of Zion are invited to join us.

## Altar Guild Help Needed

Altar guild wants to invite you to join us as we serve Zion's congregation and our Lord through the preparation and clean-up of the Lord's Supper elements and also the altar and banner adornments. Volunteers are scheduled on a per month basis and always work with a partner or two.

If you would like to use your time and talents in this very important service, please contact Hope Genzlinger at 342-5749 or [hope.genzlinger@zionrc.org](mailto:hope.genzlinger@zionrc.org).

## Offering Counters Needed

We still need a few counters for next year. Please prayerfully consider volunteering as a counter. Teams consist of two to three individuals and require one to two hours after the late service on Sunday four to five times a year. Training is provided so if you are not currently counting and are interested in volunteering, please contact Camron Ottenbacher or the church office.

## WICKS

The Women In Christ Know Salvation group will meet on Sunday, January 19, at 12:30 pm. Bring a main dish, salad, or dessert to share. Any questions, please contact Sylvia Stoltz 605-431-3595 or Priscilla Sayles 605-341-0505. Location: Cindy Purtell's place at 4810 Shelby Ave Apt #A105. See you there!

## January Youth Events

- 1: No Youth Wednesday: Happy New Year!
- 3: Youth Late Nighter & Christmas Party: Bring your friends and a snack to share. We'll start at 7pm and end at midnight. Sign up on the youth board so we know who will need a ride home!
- 5: Youth Coffee Hour: Bring treats before 9am and help serve! LCMS Gathering Group Meeting: Right after late service, lunch provided.
- 8: Regular Youth Wednesday schedule resumes: 6-7:30pm weekly. Youth Board: 7:30pm: come and share your input for what we do in Youth Ministry!!
- 11: Catechism Girls invited to join LWML Prayer Partners: LWML will meet at 10am at Zion for cookies, cocoa and a fun service project.

## DONATE BLOOD

vitalant 

Let's come together and save lives. Did you know that only 3% of the population donates blood, yet most people are eligible. Make a difference in someone's life for a short hour of yours!

 January 7, 2025

 2:00pm - 5:45pm

We have more slots available this time. Give Roxi Withee a text or call at (605)786-4237 to secure a spot! You can also go directly to Vitalant.

This is an opportunity to show our thankfulness for God's many blessings!



ZION YOUTH MINISTRY

# LATE NIGHTER

Friday, January 3rd  
7pm-12am

Bring a \$10 gift card and "white elephant" type gift for our annual Christmas Party gift exchange!

Sign up on the Youth Board to let us know you're coming and if you need a ride home!