

# St. John's Lutheran Church

## Youth Ministry 2011-2012 Information Packet

Dear St. John's Families,

Welcome to the 2011 - 2012 school year at St. John's! This Information & Registration Packet provides information for Confirmation, Sunday School, Choir, Service events, Youth programming, and other opportunities.

**Registration packets are due on August 1, 2011.** Thank you for returning your completed registration and health forms promptly!

Also, please consider how you can help partner in faith with St. John's and other parents by looking over the volunteer opportunities listed in this packet.

We are looking forward to another great year at St. John's. Feel free to give us a call if you have any questions!

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#### Insert

- St. John's Health form
- Youth Registration form
- Adult Volunteer form

### Pastors and Youth Staff:

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# St. John's Youth Mission Statement



## Mission Statement:



Every youth at St. John's has an active, living faith in Jesus Christ.

We understand as Lutheran Christians that it is God who is the giver of faith. We are called as parents and congregations to nurture this gift of faith and to teach and encourage our children to live in the promise of their baptism. At St. John's we do this in the following ways:

**Prayer** – We will teach our youth how to pray (6<sup>th</sup> Grade CAT, Sunday School) and encourage our families to pray at home. We will also give our youth opportunities to pray whenever we are gathered.

**Active Worship** – Faith is nurtured as we hear God's word, receive the gifts of Holy Communion, and share in Christian fellowship. Therefore we will encourage youth to participate in Sunday worship. Participation includes regular attendance, acolyting, completing worship notes, reading, ushering, A/V Team, choir, and other opportunities. In addition, we will also have youth worship during summer trips, Romans & Christians night, retreats, etc.

**Fellowship and Healthy Relationships** – We will help our youth to establish healthy, safe, loving relationships with their parents, caring adults in the congregation, and other youth. Examples: M&M Nights, Sunday School Teachers, Worship Note parent questions, monthly fellowship events, etc.

**Service** – We will provide our youth and families with opportunities to serve and to share God's love with our neighbors, teaching them to live out their faith. Our youth will serve in the church (acolyting, Sunday school teachers, etc.) and also in the greater community (Hands & Feet projects, special confirmation and Sunday school lessons, Summer trips, etc.)

**Education** – Learning about God's Word and seeking to understand who God is and God's will for us and the Church is a basic part of life as a Christian. The focus of learning for youth will be on the Bible and Catechism – in CAT and Confirmation classes. In Sunday School, the Ninth Grade Mentor program and other events the focus of learning will be on connecting faith and life and answering questions like, "What does it mean to be a Christian in my life?" and "What does it mean to be a Christian in today's world?"

# Youth Ministry Programs Overview

## Sunday School

<i>High School Sunday School</i>		
Grades 9 – 12	When does it meet?	
	Day	Time
	Sunday	9:45 a.m.
High School Sunday School consists of Bible Studies based on topics that are important and relevant to our high school students. We'll have a team of teachers teaching different topics throughout the year. A schedule will be available in August.		

<i>Middle School Sunday School</i>		
Grades 6 – 8	When does it meet?	
	Day	Time
	Sunday	9:45 a.m.
Nobody has everything figured out, especially when it comes to God. Sunday School helps our knowledge of God grow. It gives us the opportunity to voice our thoughts about faith and share them with our friends. Sunday School is taught by members of St. John's. A schedule will be available in August.		

## Middle School Choir, Hand Bells

<i>Jubilate Choir</i>		
Grades 6 – 8	When does it meet?	
	Day	Time
	Wednesday	4:45 – 5:15 p.m.
Middle school students meet weekly for rehearsals with director, Cathy Rodland.		

<i>Hand Bell Choir</i>		
Grades 6 – 8	When does it meet?	
	November and December to play for Christmas and Advent	
Schedule TBA with students and director, Zack Pelletier		

## High School Choir

<i>Laudate Choir</i>		
Grades 9 – 12	When does it meet?	
	Day	Time
	Wednesday	7:15 – 8:15 p.m.
High School students meet weekly for rehearsals with director, Ruth Legvold.		

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Catechism

6 <sup>th</sup> Grade CAT		
Grade 6	When does it meet?	
	Day	Time
	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesdays	5:45 – 6:30 p.m.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade CAT: The Lord's Prayer

**Welcome** to our CAT program for 2011-2012. CAT is short for Catechism, the handbook of instruction in the basics of Christian faith that Martin Luther prepared for parents to teach their children. At St. Johns, we assist parents by providing classes on key parts of the Catechism as a part of our overall Christian education program.

CAT is a lot of fun, but we also learn a great deal. The schedule below indicates the topics to be covered.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade CAT Schedule

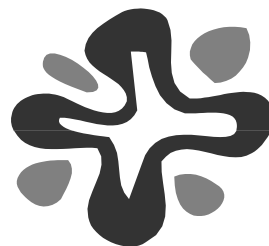
**6<sup>th</sup> grade CAT is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays, from 5:45 – 6:30pm., in the Fireside Room. Supper is included!**

October 5:	Intro to Prayer
November 2:	1 <sup>st</sup> Petition
December 7:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Petition
January 4:	3 <sup>rd</sup> Petition
February 1:	7 <sup>th</sup> Petition
March 7:	Personal Prayers
*April 11:	Lenten Worship
May 2:	Class Prayers

\*In April, CAT is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday (Holy Week is the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April)

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade CAT Winter Retreat Monday, January 16: 8:30 – 4:00**

We combine learning and fun as we head down to Owatonna's Water Park for the day!  
*A letter will be sent out at a later date, including permission forms and details about the trip.*



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation

7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation		
Grade 7	When does it meet?	
	Day	Time
	Wednesday	6:15 – 7:45 p.m.

In seventh grade, students study the Old Testament stories of creation, God's covenants with the people including the ten commandments; and the stories of the Exodus, the judges, the kings, the prophets, and the exile. In the Spring the seventh graders will have a lesson on Judaism and visit a synagogue in the Twin Cities.

7<sup>th</sup> graders begin class with the 8<sup>th</sup> graders, downstairs in Fellowship Hall. The majority of their class will take place in the Youth Room. A schedule will be available in August.

7<sup>th</sup> graders – you will receive a new Bible that you'll use throughout Confirmation. These Bibles cost \$30. We ask for you to contribute \$10 towards the cost of your new Bible.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation

8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation		
Grade 8	When does it meet?	
	Day	Time
	Wednesday	6:15 – 7:45 p.m.

In eighth grade students study the Gospels and the Letters of Paul. The focus of the year is learning about Jesus - his life, teachings, miracles, parables, and finally his death and resurrection. What's key for us is to get to know how God has come to us in the Son, and what that means for our lives and our faith.

8<sup>th</sup> graders begin class with the 7<sup>th</sup> graders, down in the Fellowship Hall. The majority of their class will take place in the Room 09. A schedule will be available in August.

## 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Retreat

Confirmation Retreat		
Grades 7 – 9	When does it meet?	
	Grades 7-9	January 6, 7
	Grade 9	January 7, 8

This is a once a year tradition where our confirmands gather together for worship, learning, teambuilding, and fellowship. It's also a time for them to get away, relax, have some fun, and to experience confirmation outside of the traditional setting. The Confirmation Retreat takes place at Good Earth Village, a Bible Camp located near Spring Valley, MN.

# 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation		
Grade 9	When does it meet?	
	Day	Time
	Wednesday	6:15 – 7:15 p.m.

We change gears a bit when students make it into their last year of Confirmation. In ninth grade the focus is on living our lives as Christians. We hear faith stories from elder members of the congregation, meet with Mentors, and have small group discussion time.

9<sup>th</sup> graders will meet in the Fireside Room. A schedule will be available in August.



## Fellowship and Fun

Monthly Youth Fellowship Events	
Grades 6 – 8 & 9– 12	When does it meet?
Dates and times will be announced at the beginning of each month	

There will be a fellowship event for middle and high school students each month. These events are a great opportunity for our youth to come together, build relationships with one another, and also to have lots of fun in a safe environment. Examples of past events are: Romans & Christians, skiing at Welch Village, movie nights, and a trip to Valley Fair.

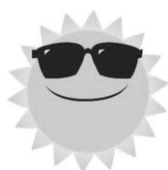
High School Club	
Grades 9 – 12	When does it meet?
Dates and times will be announced at the beginning of each month	

Every now and then Peggy Hanson hosts a gathering for high school students at her house. You'll have cookies and tea, learn to quilt and knit, chat, and talk about the big life questions. All High Schoolers are welcome. Watch for announcements in the bulletin and Voice for dates.

# Service

## Hands & Feet Projects

Grades ALL AGES (parents too!)	When does it meet?	
	Dates and times will be announced at the beginning of each month	
<p>This is an opportunity to participate in intergenerational service projects. We'll gather for projects such as: CropWalk, Adopt-a-Highway, Saturday Noon Meal in Rochester, Giving Tree at Christmas, etc. Read <i>The Voice</i> for further Hands &amp; Feet Projects!</p> <p>Helping others in service is a way for us to fulfill one of the great commandments, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Helping others in need is what we are about as Christians. It is a way not only for us to help our neighbor in a tangible way, but it's also a way in which we grow in faith and show God's love for others.</p>		



## Summer Opportunities

### Summer Trips

Grades 6 – 8 & 9 – 12	When does it meet?	
	Dates:	TBA
<p><b>Green Lake Bible Camp (grades 6 – 8):</b> Did you have fun at Shores of St. Andrew? Wait until you spend a week at Green Lake! Have never been to camp? Green Lake near Spicer, MN is a great place to find out what camp is about! Come for a week of games, campfires, crafts, worship, Bible studies and swimming!</p> <p><b>Students are expected to attend Confirmation Camp at least once during their 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. Camp Scholarships are available.</b></p> <p><b>Magical Mystery Tours (grades 6 – 8):</b> Join us and other Northfield area churches for a mystery event once a month. In the past we've gone to Valley Fair, Mall of America Water Park, Grand Slam and Feed My Starving Children. Who knows what will happen!?! </p> <p><b>ELCA National Youth Gathering (grades 9-12):</b> July 18-22, 2012 in New Orleans! More details will be coming in the fall.</p>		

### Get Involved!

Grades 6 – 12

There are lots of events and programs at St. John's that aren't explicitly "youth" programs. There are loads of small groups, ministry teams, boards, forums and other church wide events that you can take part in. This is your church, so get involved and make it a great place!

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**500 West Third Street**  
**Northfield, MN 55057**

