

St. John Lutheran !Up Youth Page

Your source for youth happenings and information for grades 7 and up at St. John Lutheran Church.

Upcoming Events...

Junior High:

February 26-28 - Youth Quake in Billings MT
March 10 - Youth Group 6 p.m. in the youth room.

Senior High Bible Study

March 7 at 5:30 p.m. in the youth room
March 21 at 5:30 p.m. in the youth room

Senior High Youth Group

March 7 at 7 p.m. in the youth room
March 14 at 7 p.m. in the youth room - Pastor Lisa leads!
March 21 at 7 p.m. in the youth room
March 28 - No youth group - Selling concessions at the circus!

March Mission Trip Fundraisers:

- Thursday, March 4 - Hotdish Lenten Supper from 5:30 - 7 p.m.
Thursday, March 11 - Sloppy Joe Supper from 6 - 7:30 p.m.
NOTE THE TIME CHANGE!
Thursday, March 18 - Taco Supper from 5:30 - 7 p.m.
Thursday, March 25 - Potato Bar Supper from 5:30 - 7 p.m.
March 28 - 29 - Sell Concessions at the Shrine Circus!

Last Camp Fundraiser for This Summer!

Starting February 21, we will be selling our last round of Butter Braids. Order forms will be available on the bulletin board in the Commons Area. Money earned through this fundraiser will go towards your summer camp experience at Badlands Ministries! Butter Braid order forms and money are due to Jess Throlson at the church office no later than March 7. Orders will not be accepted after this date. Braids are scheduled to be delivered on March 24. Jess will call you with a time to pick them up at the church. It is not too early to sign up for camp this summer! Don't forget to stop by the church for your campership vouchers!

Mission Trippers!

Attention Youth Mission Trippers! If you are going to Birmingham this summer, your next \$100 is due March 1. Please turn it in to Jess!

Why Do Mission Trips?

As odd as it sounds, winter is a very exciting time for mission trips. As I spend time working on the family mission trip to Rapid City and the youth mission trip to Birmingham, I find myself reflecting on the purpose for these trips. As contrary as it sounds, the purpose of mission trips is not to help others. The purpose is to practice what we believe and to learn what it means to be a disciple; helping others is just a perk! These trips have long-term effects on the faith lives of those involved, and there are studies to prove it! A study from the Youth and Family Institute shows that youth who spend 30 hours a year doing service in Christ's name and who have 3-5 adults of active faith in their lives, are more likely to have active, vital faith lives as adults. These trips provide a variety of service work that is challenging, eye-opening and well over 30 hours! Our adult advisors are wonderful adults who live their faith and care enough about the youth of our congregation to spend quality time with them. Basically, mission trips allow us to hit the faith lives of those involved on multiple levels at once. These trips are enormously valuable to our congregation.

Ultimately, we are not called to just think about our faith and go through the motions. Jesus called us to live our faith. As Martin Luther said, "Faith without works is no faith". Acting on our beliefs is an important part of faith. The really moving part of mission trips is that the lessons learned carry over into our everyday lives. The youth and adults who participate are active leaders in the congregation, the community, and among their peers. They are able to put words to their faith and speak about it on a more personal level than they could prior to a trip. Faith is something that has become a verb, as opposed to just a noun.

In the next few months, you will see a number of opportunities to support the ministry of these mission trips and the youth and adults who participate in them. Remember that these excursions are not just week-long trips away from home. They are ministry opportunities that have a lasting effect on the participant, the congregation, and the people we come in contact with. Help us put our faith into action!

Jess Throlson