

# Youth & Family Ministries

March 2017



The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. The church exists to share God's love for all people. The five practices capture the core process by which God uses congregations to make disciples- congregations offer gracious invitation, welcome and hospitality of Christ so that people experience a sense of belonging; God shapes souls and changes minds through worship, creating a desire to grow closer to God, God's spirit nurtures people and matures faith through learning in community, with increased spiritual maturity, people discern God's call to help others through mission and service; and God inspires people to give generously of themselves so that others can receive the grace that they have known.

That is the church that we want to become. So we begin by asking the question:

## **What is God calling the church to do and how can I be a part of it?**

This is our focus. We turn our attention and energies to seeking God's plan for us and for our church. Often, we've asked the wrong question and lost sight of how we live into God's plan. This is a question that each of us need to ask for our church and for ourselves.

Our first session focused on radical hospitality. We were reminded of things that we've probably always known, but cannot be repeated enough:

- Hospitality expresses God's invitation, not our own.
- The church exists to draw people into relationship with God and how God changes lives.
- The church is the presence of Christ by which God knits us into community in order to transform our lives and the lives of those around us.

People need to know that God loves them, that they are valuable and that they are not alone, that they can be forgiven and they can forgive. The church is a school for love. God intends for us to live our lives interlaced by the grace of God with others.

Hospitality is the practice of an active and genuine love, sharing who we are and how we will love others. We will do it joyfully because we know our invitation is the invitation of Christ. We aim to become the church that is not just another social club, but the body of Christ seeking to fulfill the mission of Christ.

Our church is at a pivotal point. Please prayerfully consider moving from the mindset of 'they should' to 'I will' and commit your prayers and support to this effort for the health and vitality of our church. It will take all of us. We look forward to the possibilities and trust that wherever we go, God will lead us.

## Quick Reference

We welcome God's children of all ages to join us in worship on Saturday afternoons at 4:30 or on Sunday mornings at 8:30.

Confirmation Classes meet on Wednesday nights. Classes begin at 6:15 and end at 7:30 unless otherwise noted on the syllabus.

Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45. Except when otherwise noted on the Sunday School calendar. Children beginning 4K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade from our church and community are welcome to participate in Sunday School.

Confirmation classes meet on Wednesday nights beginning at 6:15pm. Students are welcome to enroll as early as 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Our Confirmation program is a 3 year program that combines study of scripture, faith application, prayer, worship, discipleship, and fellowship.

JR Youth Fellowship is open to children from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade. JR Youth meets once a month from September-May. They generally meet after Sunday School until noon, except when they have special activities or events planned.

SR Youth Fellowship welcomes youth from 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

SR Youth Fellowship meets once a month from September-May. They generally meet on Sunday evenings at 6:30pm, except when they have special activities or events planned.

Sticky Faith is an intergenerational faith formation and fellowship opportunity that happens on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month Sept-April. Sticky Faith is open to all. Children may attend without parents when they are in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade-12<sup>th</sup> grade. ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

# youth FELLOWSHIP

## JR Youth Fellowship NEWS

JR Youth (3-6 grade) will meet in the youth room on March 12 from 10:45-noon. We'll be making plans for how to use our Hugs N Cookies proceeds as well as looking at dates for our JRYF sleepover.

If you have any questions please contact the advisors for JRYF:

Annette Bunyea (627-6621) or Marsha Meyer (892-0115)

### What's coming Up for JR Youth?

March 12 JRYF meeting

March 15 Sticky Faith

March 18 Serving at the Gathering  
(Kids 10&up are welcome to serve with a parent)

April 9 JRYF meeting

April 15 Easter Egg Hunt

April 19 Sticky Faith

April 24-28 Rummage Sale Help

April 29 Lemonade Stand

May 21 Youth Sunday

JRYF meeting

## SR Youth Fellowship NEWS

SR Youth (7-12 grades) will meet in the youth room on March 12 at 6:30-8pm. At our last meeting we talked about planning for Youth Sunday, a movie night at the Meyer's is planned for March 24 at from 7-10pm, our Scrapbook Workshop on April 8, serving at the Gathering on March 18. There has been interest in going on a weekend mission experience to pack meals for Feed My Starving Children in Minneapolis, MN.... More on that to come.

If you have questions about SR Youth you can contact one of our advisors Susan Clarke (627-0875) or Marsha Meyer (892-0115)

### What's coming up for SR Youth?

March 3-5 Faith Formation Retreat

March 10 Help at the Sweetheart Dinner

March 12 SRYF meeting

March 15 Sticky Faith

March 18 Serving at the Gathering

March 24 Movie Night @ The Meyer's

April 8 Scrapbooking workshop

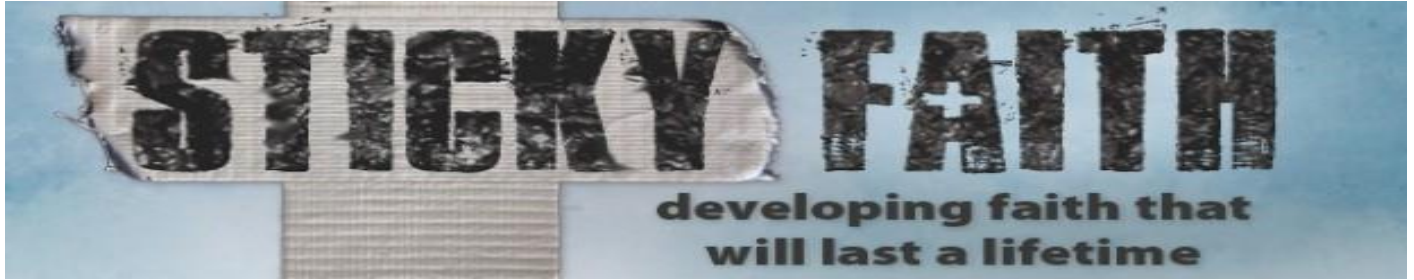
April 9 SRYF meeting

April 14 Easter Egg Dying 10am

April 19 Sticky Faith

April 29 Rummage Sale Brat Fry

What is God calling us to do?  
And how will I be a part of it?



**Sticky Faith, our intergenerational, midweek faith formation ministry meets next on March 15<sup>th</sup>!**



We are about to begin our journey through Lent. Midweek worship services are offered on Wednesday night's beginning on March 8. Join us for a time of fellowship and for a simple meal of soup and sandwich at 5:30. Worship begins at 7pm.

The children will be singing in worship on Palm Sunday (April 9) and processing in with palms. It's a special day; we hope you can join us for worship.

It's also that time of year when we ask our church family to think about paring down the stuff that we have that we no longer use to donate to our church's rummage sale. Toys or books that your children have out grown, clothes, household items, anything you no longer are using that may still have some life in it. Donations will begin to be accepted on April 25. If you have some time and a gift for organization or displays, I'm sure they could use extra hands that week as well. They'll be working during the day all week and evening volunteers will also be needed.

Our Sunday School children can also participate by working a shift with a parent/or other adult at the lemonade stand. Watch the Sunday School bulletin board for a signup sheet.

I'm planning a large group learning experience for Sunday School on April 30. We will gather in the sanctuary to begin on that day, since the Sunday School rooms will not be available to us due to the rummage sale occurring the day before.

Sticky Faith is another great opportunity for your family to do this faith formation thing together. Remember that growing in our faith is a lifelong thing, why not connect with others? It's not just for the kids. :) Sticky Faith meets next on March 15 from 5:30-7:30pm. Join us!

We have the opportunity to serve at the Gathering on March 18. The Gathering is a meal program for the homeless and poor in Milwaukee. We will be serving at the St James site downtown. Bring your family and serve together! There is a signup sheet in the Gathering area.



March 1 (Ash Wednesday)

March 3-5 Confirmation Retreat @ Pilgrim Center

March 10 Church Connection Opportunity

Help serve and clean up after the Sweetheart Dinner

March 18 Community Service Opportunity

Join us at the Gathering in Milwaukee March 18

**\*SEE SR YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES TO GET MORE INVOLVED IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH\***



# Fat Tuesday Dinner

## Feb 28 at 6pm

*Jambalaya & Dirty Rice*

### Advance tickets only

**Adults \$10 each, kids 5-10 \$5, under 5 are free**

**Proceeds will go to the Back Bay Mission trip fund**



## Serving at the Gathering

*Saturday, March 18 8:30am-2:30pm*

*The Gathering is a meal program that has a longstanding presence in Milwaukee. Salem was recently recognized for our partnership with them for more than 5 years of service. This time we will be serving at the St James site downtown. This is their busiest location, be prepared to serve more than 200 people in a short amount of time.*

*Make sure to wear closed toed shoes  
and bring a baseball hat to wear.*

*Sign up in the Gathering area so we know we can rely on you.*

*We are committed to sending 15-20 volunteers.*

*We'll plan to stop for a late lunch on the way back.*

*Families are encouraged to serve together ☺*



# Sweetheart Dinner & Dance

## March 10

### Dinner served at 6 o'clock

### Dancing to follow

The sweetheart dinner & dance is an event for adults. Dinner will be served at 6pm (advance tickets required) the dance will follow with all of your favorite love songs. Get dressed up and come with your sweetheart or come with friends. A limited number of dinner tickets will be available. Tickets can be purchased through the church office (892-7456) or after worship on Sundays.

**Advance Tickets Required**

**Dinner tickets are \$8 per person**

