

# Youth and Family Ministries

October 2018

## Ongoing Opportunities

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.

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. Classes begin at 6:15 and end at 7:30 unless otherwise noted on the syllabus. 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 meets once a month from September-May. They generally meet on Sunday evenings from 6-7:30pm.

Sticky Faith is a ministry for intergenerational faith formation and fellowship that happens 3 times during the program year. 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!**

A Learning Community for all ages meets on Sunday mornings at 10am in the church library. All are welcome!

For additional information about any youth and family ministries program or event, please contact Marsha Meyer at [marsha@salemuccplywi.org](mailto:marsha@salemuccplywi.org) or call the church office 892-7456.



Our Confirmation classes enjoyed the Confirmation Event at Lakeland University. We heard (and sang) about 'Faith that Matters' by Bryan Sirchio. It was such an uplifting evening with other UCC youth.

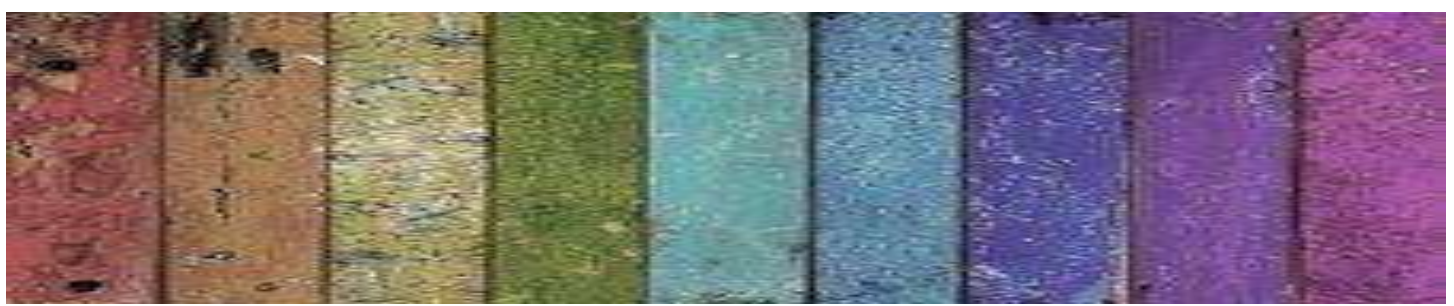
Please mark your calendars for the Confirmation Retreat @ Pilgrim Center March 1-3, 2019. Each Confirmand needs to attend at least one retreat before they are confirmed, but they are welcome to attend as many times as they wish. (Even after you are confirmed, too...☺) The Northeast Association offers a \$50 scholarship to each participant; Salem offers a \$50 scholarship (thanks to the church camp scholarship fund). The remaining balance is the responsibility of the families (\$98). Faith in Action Funds can be used and fundraisers are also an option to help cover the costs.

Parents, faith mentors, and friends, know that you are WELCOME to join us at any event or class.

### What's coming up in Confirmation?

Oct 3	Class (6:15-7:30pm)
Oct 10	Year 3 Mentor Meal (5:30-6:15pm) Class (6:15-7:30pm)
Oct 17	Class (6:15-7:30pm)
Oct 24	Class (6:15-7:30pm)
Oct 31	Year 3 Serving at the Gathering (2:45-7:30pm) Years 1&2 Class (6:15-7:30pm)
Nov 7	Class (6:15-7:30pm)
Nov 14	Class (6:15-7:30pm)
Nov 21	Thanksgiving Eve Worship (7pm)
Nov 28	Sticky Faith-Passionate Worship (5:30-7:30pm)

An additional opportunity for youth: Join us at the Youth Feed My Starving Children meal pack on Oct 12 from 5:30-9pm at St Paul's Lutheran in Sheboygan Falls. Permission slips and pledge forms are available on the youth fellowship bulletin board. They are expecting 150 youth from area churches. It should be a great time doing good for children around the world. If you'd like to help but are unable to join us, you're welcome to get pledges to help cover the cost of the meals we will pack.



**Acolyte Schedule for October:**

- 9/30 Hannah Velier
- 10/ Amber Ausloos
- 10/14 Bree Bunyea
- 10/21 Ethan Feldner
- 10/28 Josiah Gundersen
- 11/4 Haylen Odekirk
- 11/11 Magnus Blad

Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early for worship and see the head usher for assistance if you need help.

If you are unable to acolyte on the day you are on the schedule, please contact someone to switch and notify the office of any changes to the schedule as your name appears in the bulletin.

## Children's Bible Sponsorship



Thank you to those that contributed to the Children's Bible Fund. The children will put them to good use.



I invite you, yes, YOU, to be a part of our new Learning Community for ALL ages who will gather on Sunday mornings at 10am in the church library. It will be an informal class that will give the opportunity to visit scripture (that you may or may not have heard), ask questions (without judgement), listen to other people's perspectives (we can learn so much from one another), and try to figure out how these ancient stories relate to what is happening today.... in all of our lives.

A few rules:

1. No judgment. Some of us know a bit about the Bible, some of us do not. That's OK. There is value in all of our different perspectives.
2. We don't all have to agree.
3. It's OK to have questions.
4. It's OK to not have answers.
5. Come as you are.

Feel free to grab some refreshments and join us at 10am on Sunday mornings. I can't wait!



Our intergenerational faith formation ministry is back this fall! Our next Sticky Faith night is:

**November 28 from 5:30-7:30pm**

As always there will be a meal to share, fellowship, learning opportunities, and a nontraditional worship experience.

We look forward to seeing you there!

All are welcome!



*A group for youth grades 3-6*

*JRYF met on September 9<sup>th</sup> and talked about goals for the school year. We made 3 categories of things we thought were important for us to have well-rounded activities in our group so that we all want to continue to participate. The categories were: Fun, Helping others, and learning opportunities. We recognized that some things would fall under more than 1 category, and others may only cover 1.*

**FUN:**

*Bowling (planned for Oct 14<sup>th</sup>)  
Helium Trampoline Park  
Nerf war*

**HELPING OTHERS:**

*Salvation Army food drive  
Hugs N Cookies  
Humane Society assistance  
Homeless Mat Project  
Teacher Appreciation*

**LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:**

*Rainforests  
Recycling & the Environment*

*As always, we gather, read a devotion and pray, share highs and lows, share ideas and discuss the 'business' at hand and have some fun before our meetings are over.*

*Join us, if you can!*

*We'd love to have you be a part of JR Youth!*



Salem is gathering a youth team (grades 6-12) of volunteers to serve at the mobile food pack at St Paul's Lutheran church in Falls on Friday, October 12 from 5:30-9pm .

Signup deadline is October 3<sup>rd</sup>

There are permission slips and pledge forms on the youth fellowship bulletin board in the Christian Ed wing at church.

Pick yours up today!

We'd love to have you on our team!



*A group for youth grades 7-12*

We met on September 9<sup>th</sup> and shared a devotion and prayer, and shared highs and lows.

We made plans for our first Meal Share Ministry Dinner (Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>) at Bridgeway House thanks to our Thrivent Action Team grant. We planned a Mexican themed meal and even got a piñata for the kids for after dinner. We hope to make this an ongoing ministry and relationship with Bridgeway House and the moms and children living there. We learned that about 6 people was the right number of volunteers, we all had something to work on and we weren't tripping over one another in their kitchen. We look forward to going again soon!

We talked about sharing our experience at Regional Youth Event as the message for Children's Sabbath on Oct 20 & 21. We will meet to gather our thoughts and to make a plan for presenting that in worship.

We talked about participating in General Synod in Milwaukee in June 2019. More on that when more details are available.

We are planning another Mystery Night on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. A signup sheet is posted on the Youth Fellowship bulletin board. Signup deadline is Oct 15 so the adults can plan activities that will work for our group's size.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

As we begin working into the new 'normal' that the beginning of the school year brings or really any transition that life throws at us. I'd invite you to consider this reflection that came up on my Facebook feed today by Shauna Niequist (one of my favorite authors)...

*"One of my best friends is a kindergarten teacher, & all through August, September & the beginning of October, this is her constant refrain. She reminds all of us parents who are having a hard time getting into the swing of things, forgetting things left & right, despairing that we'll never remember to write the sight words or wash the gym clothes or which day library books are due.*

*Six weeks, she says gently.*

*Six weeks.*

*It takes parents, teachers & kids six full weeks to get into a solid routine at the start of the year, & we all need to give & receive loads of grace, patience, & understanding in those first wobbly, exhausting, can't-get-it-right weeks.*

*I hope that's helpful for all of the parents & teachers & kids who are still in the fog of the first few weeks of school—we totally are.*

*And I think it applies to almost anything new in our lives—I think it takes about six weeks to get our sea legs in a new job or a new relationship, a new home or living situation.*

*If you're newly sober or newly single or newly just-about-anything, give yourself (& all parties involved) six weeks of extra grace, patience, & understanding as you weave your way—sometimes clumsily & sometimes beautifully—into whatever "new normal" looks like for you."*

Let us remember to give and receive loads of extra grace to one another and to be gentle with ourselves when we feel like we're not measuring up.

Parents of 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders, please be sure to take note of the updated acolyte schedule posted on the Sunday School bulletin board. Paper copies were sent home with students after the acolyte workshop on Sept 16<sup>th</sup>. If your son or daughter missed the acolyte workshop and/or would like to go over the responsibilities again, please contact me and we can set aside a time to walk through it so that they are confident when their turn comes.

Children's Sabbath is planned for October 21<sup>st</sup>. That is the first opportunity that the children will have to sing in worship and be a very important part of leading worship (they REALLY LOVE leading worship) A signup sheet will be posted on the Sunday School bulletin board for children/youth interested in participating in leading worship, feel free to add your son/daughter's name. ☺ Please mark your calendars, and plan to be a part of the experience!

-Marsha



**JR Youth Fellowship**  
**Bowling @ Odyssey lanes**  
**Oct 14 10:45-1:30pm**  
**\$10 per person (includes lunch)**  
**Signup by Oct 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Join us!**



**October 21**  
**Great Service**



All Church Christmas Program  
Dec 16 at 9am