

Youth Newsletter

Fall, 2021



Parents, we have not had many youth ministry activities since the pandemic started and so we didn't see a reason to put out a youth newsletter. But things are starting to get going again and we have news of some activities to share with you. All of these events are being planned with a eye on the pandemic conditions. We will be sure to communicate with you about safety procedures and if any plans need to be adapted in response to the pandemic.

Car Wash

Saturday, September 11. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. @ Zion. This a fundraiser and the cost to have a car washed is a freewill donation. Proceeds will be put into the youth's fundraising accounts to help pay for events like the LCMS Youth Gathering.

Help Build Hope

Saturday, September 18. 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. We will be building walls to be used in homes for Habitat for Humanity. This event will be held at Nagel Middle School. All ages are welcome!

Youth Fall Event

Saturday, October 9. 4:00-10:00 p.m. We will engage in Bible study with videos from popular youth speakers like Micah Parker, Bob Lenz, and Bill Yonker. Then we will go to the Mt Healthy Haunted House. Cost is \$10/person plus food money (we will eat at a fastfood place on the way to the haunted house). Bring a can of food to donate for \$2 off your haunted house ticket. We are doing this event with youth from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Florence.

Ohio District Senior High Youth Gathering

Saturday, November 13. Times TBA. \$50/person. There will be a live gathering speaker and band, followed by a service project, games, and dinner. Join youth from other LCMS churches around Cincinnati. Registrations are due October 31.

Valentine's Day Dinner

Saturday, February 12. 4:00-9:00 p.m. We will prepare and serve a delicious Italian dinner to our guests. This is a fundraiser. Money will be put into youth's fundraising accounts to be used for events like the LCMS Youth Gathering.

National Youth Gathering

July 9-13, 2022, in Houston, TX. This event is held every three years and is for high school youth. More than 20,000 youth from around the world will be there! Deadline to register is September 26. Check out the gathering website (lcmsgathering.com) for more information about the gathering. Watch for information from Zion's youth ministry about our specific trip to the gathering!

Youth Bible class

Sundays, 9:45 a.m. Starts on September 12. For grades 7-12. Led by Halle and Alex Raicevich. We will discuss possible topics on September 12. Please join us! Sometimes we have food!!

Zion Youth Ministry 101

It's been awhile since our youth ministry has done our "normal" activities and some people are new to Zion's youth ministry since the pandemic started, so we thought it would be good to share a few things you might not know.

Zion's youth ministry is called "**Grounded**" — grounded in Christ, grounded in faith, grounded in God's Word! The logo on the front of this newsletter was designed by Don Hoffmann, a Zion member whose sons were active in our youth ministry.

"Youth" is currently defined as grades 7-12. A youth is eligible to participate in youth ministry activities beginning the summer before they start 7th grade and throughout the summer after they graduate from high school.

Zion has a full-time staff person who works with youth ministry: Chris Graves is a certified Director of Christian Education (DCE) and also works with children's ministry and family ministry.

Zion has an elected chairperson for the Board of Youth Ministry (actually co-chairs at present): Alex and Halle Raicevich. They are completing their first two-year term and have recently agreed to serve a second term! The Raicevichs are the youth ministry's representation at church council.

Alex and Halle lead the Zion Youth Ministry Team which includes Chris and two youth — Ava Blankenship and Jack Hoerth. This team plans and leads most of our youth ministry activities. If any youth or parents would like to join this team, please let us know. We would love to have you!

Typical activities include Sunday morning Bible class, service projects, youth gatherings (both LCMS and Ohio District), activities with other nearby churches, fundraisers, and occasional fellowship activities. Many of these things have not happened during the pandemic, but we are planning once again!

We publish a newsletter about quarterly to keep you informed about youth ministry activities. This is the first newsletter we have published since the pandemic started.

The confirmation program is a two-year program that is typically for youth in middle school. In the past, most kids entered confirmation instruction in 6th grade and were confirmed in 7th grade. With this next group of kids, we are taking a cohort approach and most of the participants in the next class will be in grades 5-7.

Each youth has a fundraising account that is designated for their use to participate in the more expensive activities of our youth ministry. When a youth participates in a fundraiser, the money that is raised is divided proportionally among those who worked and placed in their account. To use the money, let Chris know when you are paying for a youth activity that you want to use fundraising money. From time to time we will update you on how much money is available to you, or you can contact Alex if you would like an update.

We have a scholarship fund available to help youth participate. The purpose of this money is to help youth participate who cannot afford the cost and would likely not participate if they didn't receive additional help. 10% of all funds raised through fundraisers goes into the scholarship fund. If you would like to apply for a scholarship, contact Chris.

To make secure payments for youth events, there is a drop box in the hallway upstairs outside the church office. Please don't hand us checks or cash! Put payments in the drop box.

Friends are always welcome to participate! Feel free to share information about our youth ministry activities. Invite friends to come with you to church, Bible class, or to one of the activities in this newsletter.

The "youth room" is number 4-5 and is located downstairs. That is where the Sunday morning Bible study and some of the other activities are held.

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