



Youth Ministry Updates

"Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature." ~ Romans 12:2

A church family at its best is one that helps us become who we were fully created to be. It's a process of transformation, renewal, and maturation. It takes friends and mentors and a lot of time spent together. This year, I am proud to share with all of you that we have a wonderful year of programming lined up for students to grow in their faith, do all the good they can, and make new friends. Our Wednesday and Sunday programs have been strategically updated and realigned to welcome friends, adjust to modern schedules, and deepen faith. This year I am excited to be the lead teacher for our Wednesday Middle School program and eager to announce my small group leader team soon. I am also honored to welcome JoAn Baker as our new Wednesday Nigh Senior High Program Leader. In addition, we have the privilege of welcoming a great music and arts team – Ali Lundin, Cindy Bailey, and Chuck Mann to our Sunday morning worship arts program for youth. Plus, we have three parents ready to lead a 2024 Senior High Mission Trip – Karmyn Nelson, Alyssa Honmyhr, and Cindy Bailey. Your leadership, commitment, and generosity are amazing. I know it is going to bless our students and will be a blessing to our leaders. So, for all those parents out there, be sure to let folks know that we have a strong community of amazing adults ready to welcome them into ministry!

Second Harvest Trip Highlights

Our students worked hard and showed us what it means to do all the good you can when we went to Second Harvest Heartland in Brooklyn Park last month. Together, with students from White Bear Lake UMC, they packed about 6 tons of potatoes, which is equivalent to packing almost 10,000 meals for Minnesota food shelves. Thank you students!





Fall Programming Preview and Registration

The new information about fall youth programming (grades 6-12) is ready! This year, we are expanding Wednesday evening programming to include weekly meals and group opportunities for all ages starting September 20th. We also are offering a Sunday morning music program at the 9am hour beginning in September. Information & registration about fall programming is available online - <https://crosswindslife.org/engage/youth/>

Three Ways to Learn About Fall Youth Programming

- **Sept 10th (11am)** - Parent meeting (social time and check in with Pastor after worship)
- **Sept 20th (5:30pm dinner, 6:30pm program)** - Wednesday Evening Fall Kick Off
- **Contact Pastor Stina** (stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org)



2024 Senior High Mission Trip (Benton Harbor, MI) July 6-13, 2024

Students in grades 8-12 (during the 2023-2024 school year)

Plans are underway for a 2024 Senior High Mission Trip through Youth Works. We have three parent chaperones ready to lead the trip and a core group of students interested in participating. Adult chaperones include Alyssa Honmyhr, Cindy Bailey, and Karmyn Nelson. Contact Pastor Stina for more information or attend the Sunday, Sept 10th or Wednesday, Sept 20th parent information sessions about youth programming to learn more.

Cost – approximately \$600 (includes travel, food, lodging, and activities. We're still working on final plans)

Destination – Benton Harbor, MI

Service Projects - Partner with local organizations to meet ongoing needs in the community. Students may serve all or part of the week at a food shelf, clothing distribution center, or by assisting with painting, cleaning or simple repair projects.

During a week in Benton Harbor, our group will partner with local organizations to serve the city across age and racial divides. In the evenings, we will tour the community and learn about the fine arts revitalization in Benton Harbor from a community friend. We'll also have the opportunity to experience local BBQ, visit a Lake Michigan beach, and explore Benton Harbor's sister city, St. Joseph. YouthWorks has partnered with this community since 2000.

RSVP – Contact Pastor Stina to reserve a spot, learn more, and stay in the loop about the trip. (Stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org)