

We had a great kickoff last week! Thank you so much for sending your students and encouraging them to invite friends. We saw several students in attendance who we had never met. The Lord is Good and we are excited about Him moving in the lives of students! This week we will separate Jr. and Sr. High as we did last year. Junior High will run from 6:00-7:30 pm and Senior High from 7:15-8:45 pm. Please help your students to arrive on time. Also, please remind them to not only invite a friend this week but to keep praying for the three people God has laid on their heart.



This mission trip has only just begun, but we are firing on all cylinders. This week we are talking about planning our mission trip. It is not going to just happen on its own, it's something that we need to actively think through and prepare for each day. Last week, we encouraged students to come up with three peers to be praying for in their sphere of influence and one person that they would commit to inviting this week. This week, and every week, we will keep encouraging them to pray for these three people. Even if those people start coming to youth group, accept Jesus into their life, and are sanctified by the Holy Spirit this year, we will keep asking them to pray for them. We believe in the power and necessity of prayer and want students to engage the Lord regularly. This week we will also ask students to identify issues at their school. It may be anxiety, bullying, depression, lack of respect among students, lack of care for academics, or any other issue they see at their school. We also want to remind them to write down issues they are experiencing. What we are talking about is not just what other people are dealing with but there are students here in the youth group now that deal with these things. So if you struggle with something, write it down so we can talk about it. By writing the issue down and handing it in we will see what they deem as important issues to discuss and try to incorporate it into our teaching schedule. We will also be reaching out to principals of schools asking them the same question. This will give us insight to perceived issues and definite, known issues. We also want to remind students that this whole thing is about the Gospel. So we are going to share the gospel with them. We are going to ask them to pay attention: If they know it, how can they teach it? If they don't know it and have never pursued Jesus, do they want to (We had a number of unbelievers at youth group last week, please pray for their salvation!)? We want students to be familiar with the Gospel and to have the focus of running every one of the issues we come up with through the lens of the Gospel. We desire for students to not only be familiar with the Gospel but also start to think about: When do I have this conversation with someone? How do I know when to include Jesus in a conversation? How do I talk about Him? Where do I start? We want students to consider now how they will reach out to their friends and be an influence for the kingdom of God this year!

Conversation for you and your student(s):

- Have often have you been praying for the three people you wrote down?
- What is something new you learned about the Gospel tonight?
- How can I help you influence your friends for Christ?



This Sunday at 1:30 we will host a flag football game for students in 6-12th grade. Students who want to participate can meet us on the field at the middle school in Gladstone, next to the tennis courts. We will play for about an hour each week until the weather gets too cold or students lose interest in playing. Please encourage any student you know who likes to throw a football around to join us!



We have a Parent Meeting Sunday, September 20, right after the second service (12:30 pm) in the Youth Room (112). We as a Student Ministry team really want to connect with you for several reasons. We want you to know that we are here for you! That we pray for you and your students. We are well aware that scripture calls for parents to be the primary spiritual influencers of their children. Our goal is not to *take* that role but rather to be a resource *to* you. Please join us as we share about how we can be a resource, how we hope to help your student(s) grow this year, and how you can continue to be in the loop as well as be prepared to have meaningful conversations with your students. We will have coffee and snacks available.



This year SEE YOU AT THE POLE is Wednesday, September 23. We are inviting all of our students to meet at the flag pole of their school 30 minutes before the first bell. We will spend time together with snacks and in prayer over the school. Here is a list of schools and what time to be there: Gladstone Jr. 7:40, Gladstone Sr. High 7:30, Rapid River 7:30, Escanaba Sr. High 7:00am. Encourage your students to come join us in prayer!

Sincerely,
Student Ministry Team