

BRANCHES

Youth and Family Ministries of St. John's and St. Paul Lutheran Church



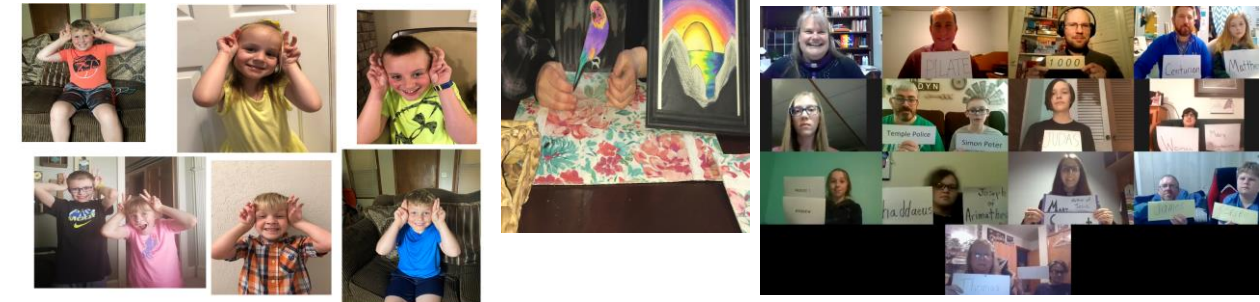
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY

HIGHLIGHTS

A YEAR OF FAITH FORMATION ONLINE:

Since March of 2020, our faith formation programming for children and youth has been almost exclusively done online. I have been amazed by the participation of our young people and their trusted adults during this pandemic. It has been a tasking year to gather in the name of Christ to grow in faith with our young people. And, it has been a joy and privilege to grow with our young people and families despite this challenge. Our students continue to worship God, hear God's Word and study God's Word, have fellowship with each other, express their faith through art, music and other talents. Thanks be to God for our young people, our patient volunteers, parent & guardians and for advances in communication technology which allows us to safely gather in the presence of Christ. As we begin planning more 'in-person' programming, we'll continue to use online youth ministry as a resource for our young people and adults. Thank you to all for your participation this school year!

God's blessings, Gerad Von Holten





CHILDREN'S OFFERING: The April-May Children's offering is going to Let's Feed Our Children of the United Way. Please bring or mail (St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1701 16th Ave., Sterling) offerings to St. Paul by May 31st. Children, remember to fill your empty Easter egg and bring it to church. Thank you for your ministry of giving!



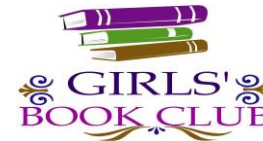
TRI CHURCH CONFIRMATION CLASS: Tri Church Confirmation classes are challenging young people to explore their faith! Young people are encountering God in fresh ways! May 5 we will gather for our final Zoom class from 7 p.m. until 8:15 p.m. On May 12 we have a special Tri Church in-person event, outside at St. Paul Lutheran (1701 16th Ave., Sterling) from 7-8 p.m. Please wear a mask and bring your own camp chair (if you do not have one, we will find one for your use). Water and a frozen treat will be provided. Parents/guardians are welcome.



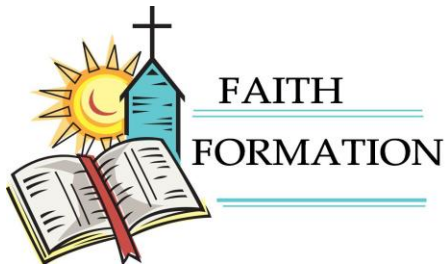
ST PAUL/ST JOHN'S JR HIGH AND SR HIGH FAITH FORMATION: We had our last Jr high and Sr high Zoom meeting for the school year on April 25. We are getting ready for UNITE service camp next month and planning for Tri Church high school & Jr high summer & fall activities and for the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next summer.



GIRLS BOOK CLUB FOR MAY continues to meet twice a month on Monday afternoons. Please contact Dawn Zeigler (cell 815.275.3775) or Gerad VonHolten for the ZOOM link!



EVENTS, ACTIVITIES & FAITH FORMATION



MAY FAITH FORMATION 2020-21: Our last online class for PreK – 6th grade Sunday school is May 2nd. Lesson video links will be emailed. The class had their last Zoom meeting on April 11. We will be celebrating our faith formation volunteers (Sunday school teachers, confirmation class leaders) this month during the online worship service on May 16 and at in-person worship at St. Paul on May 23. The PreK – 6th grade students are being asked to help with special music for the online service on May 16, praising God for our teachers!

HIGH SCHOOL TRI CHURCH GET-TOGETHER POSTPONED:

Due to a rise in Covid 19 cases and the need for quarantining last month, we are rescheduling the Tri Church high school gathering that had planned to meet at Parties on Pope. No date was selected at the time of the May newsletter deadline. Details will be shared with all high schoolers.





SAUK VALLEY UNITE 2021:

UNITE is happening on June 23-26! This year will not be an overnight event as it has been in the past. We will be painting at least 2 homes in the Rock Falls/Sterling communities. We kickoff this year's service event on Wednesday,

June 23 at Bethel Reformed Church in Sterling with worship led by Allison Eide. Painting days will be June 24-26. Thursday, June 24 we will have a concert/worship from this year's guest speaker and musician, Allison Eide. And, optional evening activities will be provided. Registration for participants is now closed. As we approach the event next month, UNITE may have need for ladders and a few other supplies. Please stay tuned to our weekly announcements for further details. If you'd like to support UNITE, but you're not sure how, please email saukvalleyunite@gmail.com. The theme for 2021 UNITE is BELOVED, "Therefore be

imitators of God, loved us and gave sacrifice to God."



2021 UNITE
 Unite welcomes
 leading our
 UNITE this
 music visit:

as **beloved** children, and live in love, as Christ himself up for us, a fragrant offering and {Ephesians 5:1-2}

SPEAKER AND MUSICIAN: Sauk Valley Allison Eide! We are excited to have Allison worship and sharing her musical gifts with summer! For more on Allison and to hear her www.allisoneide.com.

SUMMER COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE

SCHOOL: This summer CommUNITY VBS will be a one-day, outdoor event at First Christian Church (3400 6th Ave., Sterling). SATURDAY, JULY 11, 9:00 – 11:30 AM. We'll have tents set up for a variety of learning stations (music, arts and crafts, games...) This year's theme is "Fun Fair." All PreK – 3-year-olds through 5th grade students are encouraged to attend. And, 6th grade and older can volunteer to be leaders. More details will be coming soon!

