

BRANCHES

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

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY

HIGHLIGHTS



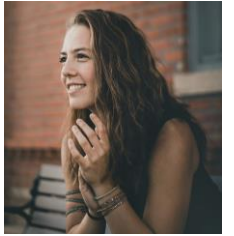
TRI CHURCH CONFIRMATION CLASS AND HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER GATHERINGS: Sunday, June 13th at Joshua Park in Rock Falls our Jr. high and Sr. High gathered with students and adults from St. John's and Immanuel for food, fun games, Bible study and time for fellowship. We plan to meet at Joshua Park again July 18 (high school meets from 12 – 1:30, lunch provided. Jr high meets from 1:30 – 2:30 snacks and drinks provided). We will continue to meet monthly on the 3rd Sunday of the month.



SAUK VALLEY UNITE 2021:



UNITE was June 23-26! The theme for 2021 UNITE was BELOVED, "Live in Love" 1 John 4:7-12. Check out the August newsletter and facebook.com/saukvalleyUNITE for full highlights from this year's event. Thank you to all youth participants, adult volunteers and for support from our congregations!



EVENTS, ACTIVITIES & FAITH FORMATION



SUMMER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: This summer CommUNITY VBS will be a one-day, outdoor event [FUN FAIR!!!] at First Christian Church (3400 6th Ave., Sterling). SATURDAY, JULY 10, 9:00 – 11:30 AM. We'll have tents set up with a variety of learning stations (music, arts and crafts, games, BOUNCY SLIDE!...) This year's theme is "Fun Fair." All PreK – 4-year-olds through 5th grade students are encouraged to attend. And, 6th grade and older can volunteer to be leaders. Students AND volunteers can register online by scanning this QR code or going to: <https://tinyurl.com/CommunityVBS2021> **VOLUNTEERS WANTED!**



reUNITE! Calling all 2021 UNITE participants and friends... On Monday, July 26 at 8:00 PM, we are re-UNITE-ing for a high school movie night at St. Paul. Free refreshments will be served! Bring a friend! Movie: TBA. Follow facebook.com/saukvalleyUNITE for updates and details.

OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT 7pm July 9: SOUL

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, finger food, and film. We will be watching Disney's SOUL. Let Sue or Gerad know if you would like to help with set-up/tear down or snacks.



FAITH FORMATION 2021-22: We are planning to return to 'in-person' Sunday school and confirmation classes in September. Families, we want your input and feedback as we prepare to safely return for classes and children and youth programming at church.

YOUTH GATHERING IN MINNEAPOLIS 2022

Current 8th grade through 12th grade students – you are invited to the next ELCA Youth Gathering July 24 – 28, 2022. **Please email, text or message Gerad or the church office if you are interested in participating in next year’s event.** We need to know who will be attending and how many soon to help with our planning for this event. Early registration for the gathering begins September 22, 2021. We anticipate the gathering will cost around \$1,000 per participant (Registration - \$350 - \$390, food, group t-shirts, snacks... - \$200, housing - \$225 - \$250, transportation - \$150). The more fundraising our students do, the less out-of-pocket expense you will have. Also, scholarships through the ELCA are available to apply for (opens July 22). Sign up for the gathering e-newsletter (g-news) and get latest updates at elca.org/YouthGathering and at facebook.com/youthgathering. Gerad will be emailing the g-news to all 8th – 12th grade households. We will also be meeting in August to begin our planning for the trip.



YOUTH GATHERING 2022 YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS APPLY

If you are a senior in high school this year or older and will be at least 19 years-old at the time of the gathering July 22, 2022, applications **for the gathering volunteer corps started May 22, 2021 (closes July 22)** and for servant companions on November 22, 2021. Please contact Gerad if you are interested in sharing a week of your time to help at the youth gathering. Your travel, room and board expenses will be covered b. This is a great opportunity to serve and learn and grow in your faith. Our young adults who have volunteered for the gathering in the past have had life-giving experiences. For full details and to apply go to: <https://elca.org/YouthGathering/Attend/Volunteer>

YOUTH GATHERING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS IS AVAILABLE

- Applications open **July 22, 2021**, and close when all funds have been disbursed.
- Adult leaders should apply on behalf of youth participants, using the same five-digit congregational ID number used to register for the Gathering.
- Financial assistance is available to youth participants only in the form of registration-fee credits.
- Assistance is offered based on the financial need of youth participants and their families, not the financial status of their congregations or local communities.
- Up to **\$300** per youth participant may be provided to cover registration fees. Financial assistance will appear as a credit on the congregational account.
- Congregations may receive assistance for up to 10 youth.



- Youth participants must be registered within 30 days of receiving financial assistance. After 30 days, assistance for unregistered youths is returned to the fund and awarded to the next person on the waiting list.

Contact Gerad at the church office if you are interested in applying for youth gathering financial assistance. If you receive ELCA financial assistance, this will offset your out-of-pocket expense for the gathering.

ST. JOHN’S/ST. PAUL YOUTH FUND

With larger youth events returning to the calendar, like the ELCA Youth gathering next July and potentially youth Quakes and retreats at LOMC, our youth account is becoming more active. First, a special thank you to all who purchased coffee cakes this Spring from St. John’s and St. Paul students. The coffee cakes fundraiser, which netted almost \$1,000, will help to support 8th – 12th grade students from St. John’s and St. Paul to attend the ELCA youth gathering in Minneapolis next summer. Like the coffee cakes fundraiser, St. Paul and St. John’s students and families participate in a variety of fundraisers that support larger youth events like the ELCA Youth gathering that happens every 3 years, the Youth Quake and Fall youth retreat at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) which happen each year. Sometimes our youth fundraise for specific events like a Quake event or the youth gathering, and sometimes youth fundraisers are held to support all larger youth events. In addition to youth fundraisers like Palm Sunday breakfasts, doughnut sales and coffee cake sales, the St. John’s/St. Paul youth fund benefits from generous donations from members or both St. Paul and St. John’s Lutheran Churches. Finally, both St. Paul and St. John’s equally contribute an annual budgeted amount of money to support larger youth events. Depending on how successful youth fundraisers do each year, the joint-youth fund has supported young people and their adult leaders attending large youth events ranging from paying a small portion of fees for an event, half of the expense and even fully funding participants to attend events. Due to the generous support of St. Paul and St. John’s members and friends of each congregation and the hard work of our young people and their families, the joint youth ministries fund continues to support the faith formation of our young people. Currently the fund stands at \$12,500. These funds are accumulated over a longer period and mostly support the ELCA Youth Gathering. Our next large event officially on the calendar is the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next July. We are estimating the cost per participant to be around \$1,000 and I project St. Paul and St. John’s will have around 10 – 12 participants. If you would like to know more about how the joint youth ministries fund works, please contact Gerad or the St. John’s or St. Paul church offices to request a copy of the Joint Youth Account Resolution or to speak with Gerad. Students and families, thank you in advance for your participation in future fundraisers which help to make these amazing events affordable to you. And, to the people of St. John’s and St. Paul, thank you for your generosity for the sake of fostering faith of our younger generations.

