

# BRANCHES

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



## CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

**SUNDAY** Last month we celebrated the Affirmation of Baptism for Izzy, Jackson and Paige at St. Paul. May God continue to guide them in faith. The people of St. Paul give God thanks for our confirmands and will continue to support them in their lives of faith.



#### CONFIRMATION FALL DAY RETREAT:

On Sunday, September 26 the confirmation students attended a 1-day retreat at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) in Oregon, IL.



**TRI CHURCH CONFIRMATION**

#### TRI CHURCH 8-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FALL FUN NIGHT AT SELMI'S:

High schoolers enjoyed the corn maze, hayride, cider donuts and more at Selmi's in Rock Falls on October 26!

## EVENTS, ACTIVITIES & FAITH FORMATION

### FAITH FORMATION 2021-22:

#### PREK 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL/SUNDAY

**YOUTH GROUPS:** It has been fun meeting outdoors for Sunday school this fall. However, the colder weather is moving us indoors. For the safety of our families, all students and teachers are required to wear masks for all indoor activities and events. The PreK-K, 1st—3rd grade, 4th—6th grade Sunday school classes and the 7-8th grade youth group meet from 9-9:45am (we continue with our 10 am worship service). High schoolers are meeting after the 10 am worship service (times and location of high school youth group will vary each Sunday). Please see Sunday school/youth group calendar for monthly schedule. This month we are planning our children's Christmas worship, which is scheduled for December 12 (more details to come). No Sunday school classes November 28 – Thanksgiving Break.



#### Confirmation Class



#### TRI CHURCH CONFIRMATION CLASS:

Confirmation for 7 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade is meeting at St. Paul from 7 – 8:15 PM on Wednesdays. Last month we explored the Apostle's Creed and Martin Luther and the Reformation. This month our group will begin learning more about prayer and the Lord's prayer. And, we will be serving at Wesley United Methodist Church on Wed. November 10 from 7-8:15pm, assembling Buddy Bags

(meet at St. Paul).

#### YOUTH GATHERING IN MINNEAPOLIS 2022 – REGISTRATION!!!



Current 8<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students – we are currently in the process of registering for the 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 summer's event. Early **REGISTRATION** for the gathering ends **NOVEMBER 21**. A **\$100 DEPOSIT FROM**

**EACH STUDENT PARTICIPANT IS DUE BY NOVEMBER 21** (checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church), unless you have received a youth gathering scholarship. After November 21, participants will have an increase of \$50 out-of-pocket expense. We estimate the gathering will cost around \$1,000 per participant (based on the early reg. rate). We will continue to fundraise to offset the cost of this trip, and our goal is to have enough money in our youth fund to for the remaining cost (minus the \$100 deposit) for students. Scholarships through the ELCA are available to apply for (until they run out of funds). Ask Gerad about scholarships. Our next 'Getting-Ready' meeting is Sunday November 14, 11:15 AM – 12:45 PM at St.

**Paul. Lunch will be provided.** Get latest updates at [elca.org/YouthGathering](http://elca.org/YouthGathering) and at [facebook.com/youthgathering](https://facebook.com/youthgathering) and check your email.

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**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 servant companions opens 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. 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>



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**BUTCHER SHOP YOUTH FUNDRAISER FOR THE YOUTH**



**GATHERING:** Thank you to all who helped to sell or purchased meat bundles. NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> is pick up day. Eighth – twelfth graders, we need help distributing orders. You may deliver your orders after school on November 4<sup>th</sup>, or help hand them out at St. Paul, 3:00pm until 4:30pm. Orders that are left at St. Paul on November 4<sup>th</sup> after 4:30 pm will be kept in the freezer and available for customers to pick up on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Our youth made \$650 from the fundraiser!

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**VOLUNTEER YOUTH WORKERS UPDATING**

Sunday school teachers, VBS volunteers, all children and youth ministry volunteers: over the course of the last two months of 2021, we continue updating our volunteer applications for anyone who works closely with children and youth. This also includes updating background checks for volunteers who have not had a background check completed within the last 3 years. Thank you in advance for your patience as we work through this process together. Thank you to volunteers who have already turned in their updated forms! And, thank you for helping us to create and maintain safe spaces for our young people and volunteers.

