

BRANCHES

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



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY

HIGHLIGHTS

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JESUS Thanks be to God for the St Paul children, youth and adult leaders who brought us the story of our savior Jesus's birth through word, song and artwork. The St Paul Christmas program was also featured as part of a Tri Church youth Christmas worship online December 26.



EVENTS, ACTIVITIES & FAITH FORMATION

FAITH FORMATION 2021-22:

PREK 6TH GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL/SUNDAY YOUTH GROUPS:

We will continue to meet in person for faith formation groups at St. Paul. 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 High schoolers are meeting after the 10 am worship service (times and location of high school youth group will vary each Sunday). **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL or YOUTH GROUPS JANUARY 2 – CHRISTMAS BREAK.** Sunday school resumes January 9th. Thank you to the St. Paul Sunday school children, youth and adults for your hard work on this year's youth worship/Christmas program.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH:

Sundays...

Jan. 2 – NOT MEETING – CHRISTMAS BREAK

Jan. 9, 11am – noon – youth group at St Paul

Jan. 16, 11am – noon – youth group at St John's

Jan. 23, noon – 1:30pm @ Immanuel Lutheran, Rock Falls

Youth gathering getting ready meeting w/ lunch

Jan. 30, 11am – noon – youth group at St Paul

Confirmation Class



TRI CHURCH CONFIRMATION CLASS: The 7-8th graders are currently meeting at Immanuel Lutheran in Rock Falls, 7:00 – 8:15pm. Classes resume January 5. NOTE: The class has written their own version of the Lord's Prayer, which was used for Tri Church online worship on December 26 and will be used during upcoming worship services. REMINDER: if your student's school is cancelled or dismissed early due to weather, they will not need to attend confirmation class that evening.

YOUTH GATHERING IN MINNEAPOLIS 2022

For current 8th grade through 12th grade students. We have officially registered for the gathering next summer. However, if you would still like to go, standard registration continues to **January 21, 2022** (standard registration deposit = \$140 due at the time of registering). Students who have registered already, please make sure you pay the \$100 deposit (checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church). If you have received a youth gathering scholarship, the deposit is waived. 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. 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 January 23, noon – 1:30pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rock Falls; free lunch is included.** Get latest updates at elca.org/YouthGathering and at facebook.com/youthgathering and check your email.

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 are being accepted. 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>



ST PAUL VOLUNTEER YOUTH WORKERS UPDATING



Sunday school teachers, VBS volunteers, all children and youth ministry volunteers: 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.

JANUARY CHILDREN’S OFFERING: This month our offering goes

to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). We especially remember the people who have recently fled Afghanistan seeking safety. “Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) is the largest faith-based nonprofit dedicated to serving vulnerable immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the U.S. Simply put,



we resettle refugees, reunite children and parents, and rekindle the American Dream.” (*LIRS.org*) Thank you for your ministry of giving.

