

## Youth Group 2021-2022 Information Meeting Handout

### Youth Director:

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### Youth Group Adult Leaders:

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## How can students get involved?

### Church Times

English pre-service music: 9:30

English service 9:45

New Spanish service time: 12:15 p.m.

All students are encouraged to regularly participate in worship leadership. Opportunities include greeting people at the door, ushering, lighting the candles, making announcements, reading, leading a children's sermon, distributing communion/collecting cups, helping with the technology, and more!

Program*	Age Group	Meeting Time	Meeting Location
HS Sunday School	9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades	Sundays, 11- noon	In person; Fellowship Hall
Confirmation Class	Typically, 7-8 <sup>th</sup> grades	Sundays, 11-noon	Hybrid: In person in Room 217 or Zoom option
Youth Group	7-12 <sup>th</sup> grades	Sundays, 4:15 - 6:15 p.m.	In person; Youth Room (215)
Spiritual Direction	7-12 <sup>th</sup> grades	Individually scheduled	Zoom

\*All programs are for both students who worship in English and those who worship in Spanish, as well as their friends. Students are strongly encouraged to invite others!

## Do students need to complete a one-time registration for YG?

It is helpful, yes. Please register using this link: <https://forms.gle/HoGiAsgNn1mbQQME7>  
 Students and their friends can attend youth group without registering, but registering helps the church keep up to date records and get important contact info.

## **What is Spiritual Direction?**

Spiritual Direction is a time to talk individually with Youth Director Grace Casola over Zoom. These meetings are a time for Grace and the student to get to know each other better and to think together about how what they learn and experience in church/youth group can apply to their everyday lives.

It's called Spiritual Direction so that students know this type of conversation is something that they can engage in after they graduate from school (anyone can Google "spiritual direction" and set up a meeting with a spiritual director).

Confirmation students should set up a spiritual direction meeting once a month, and high school students are encouraged to meet with Grace monthly as well.

## **What will the students be doing?**

**HS Sunday School** – These students will participate in Christian Family Faith Formation (CF3) alongside the adults. The schedule will be broken down into 5 Units: Discipleship, Lutheran History and Doctrine, Old Testament, New Testament, and the Covenants. They will spend the first seven weeks learning to identify and share how God is working in their lives.

**Youth Group** – Students who attend youth group will participate in a mix of games, Bible Study, service, and preparation for the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering. Please refer to the schedule for the first semester that is attached.

**Confirmation Class** – Refer to the confirmation handbook

## **The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering: "Boundless"**

**Event dates: July 24-28, 2022** (delayed one year due to Covid-19)

**Event location: Minneapolis, MN**

### **Who is eligible?**

Students who are in 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades in the 2021-2022 school year.

### **Daily Themes of the Gathering:**

-Sunday: boundless love

-Monday: boundless creation

- Tuesday: boundless forgiveness
- Wednesday: boundless invitation
- Thursday: boundless promise

**What to expect at the Gathering:**

- Interactive Learning (booths about ELCA ministries and outreach as well as games in a large civic center)
- Service learning
- Synod Day
- Mass Gatherings

**St. Mark's Plan**

- gauge who is potentially interested in attending on the youth group registration form
- dedicate one youth group per month to exploring the themes of the Gathering
- monitor Covid numbers to determine safety (this would determine whether we participate in early, regular, or late registration, if it's safe to go)
- Hold a parent's meeting specially dedicated to the Gathering on **September 26 at 1 p.m. by Zoom** to discuss Covid safety, possible travel plans, and finances
- Sight-see in Minneapolis for a few days before the event

**Next Gathering:**

The next gathering won't be until in 2024.

**Next Steps Checklist:**

- Complete the online youth group registration  
<https://forms.gle/HoGiAsgNn1mbQQME7>
- Schedule your student's monthly spiritual direction through December now using Grace Casola's online scheduling program: <https://calendly.com/gracecasola>
- Put the next parents' meeting to discuss the Youth Gathering on your calendar:  
**September 26 at 1 p.m. by Zoom**