

SOV KID ZONE

PRE-K · 6TH GRADE

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY INFORMATION PACKET
2016-2017

Nursery (Birth - 48 months)

Nursery care is available each Sunday during worship, congregational events, congregational meetings, and the Sunday morning educational time. The Nursery is available for special church functions if approved by the Nursery Coordinator, and pending the availability of adequate staffing. Parents/Groups desiring Nursery care for such special functions shall request reservations from the Nursery Coordinator at least two weeks in advance.

Children's Bulletins (All Ages)

Each Sunday morning we prepare bulletins specifically for our young worshipers. They are available in the Narthex in the brightly colored baskets just outside the middle sanctuary doors. Please ask the ushers for one, if you can't find them.

Children's Message (All Ages)

Each Sunday before the sermon portion of worship our younger children are invited upfront in the sanctuary to hear a message designed just for them. After the children's message each week, kids are welcomed to join in children's church. Kids of any age are welcomed to come up for the children's message. Messages are delivered by the Pastor, the Youth Director, parents, grandparents, and other amazing volunteers.

Children's Church (Ages 3-7)

Each Sunday during the sermon portion of worship at both our 9AM and 11:15AM worship services, children age 3-7 are invited to activities designed just for them! After the children's message, kids are welcomed to join in children's church. Each week there are crafts, songs, Bible stories, and more. Our curriculum focuses on the Gospel lesson from the day, so your child will connect with the same scriptures as you. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to go alongside their child to children's church, the first time of attendance, to meet our volunteer staff and to know where your child will be. Volunteers are all background checked and have undergone safety training.

J-Team (Grades 3-6)

All students 3rd-6th grade and their friends are invited to join. Together we will eat lunch, play games, do themed activities, and learn Biblical stories together. We concentrate on the spiritual practices of play, community and story. Just as with all our groups we strive to create physically, emotionally, relationally and spiritually safe space for students to grow. We meet the second Sunday of the month during the school year to eat lunch, play games, do themed activities, and learn Old Testament stories together. We concentrate on the spiritual practices of play, community and storytelling. Just as with all our groups we strive to create physically, emotionally, relationally and spiritually safe space for students to grow.

Chess Club (All Ages)

This is open to any student who can sit quietly to play the game and take instruction. Friends are invited. 3:30-5pm on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays starting on September 13th. Bob Parish will be teaching everything from the basics to strategy. Any skill level is welcome.

Guitar Group (All Ages)

Youth Intro Guitar Classes are on the 1st & 3rd Sundays from 5:30-6:15pm. This group is open to students of any age. We will begin Sunday September 18th. You will need your own guitar. Adult players welcome to come and help out.

Sunday School (PreK - 6th Grade)

- *Pre-K Sunday School:* Sundays Sept 11th-October 30th and January 8th - May 7th from 10:15-11:05 our Preschool Sunday School will meet in Luke's room, located under the mezzanine. We will do crafts, games, and Bible stories together.
- *K-2nd Sunday School:* Sundays Sept 11th-October 30th and January 8th - May 7th from 10:15-11:05 our Kindergarten through 2nd grade class will meet in John's room, located under the youth room with the accordion door. We will do activities, games, and Bible stories together.
- *J-Team (3rd-6th) Sunday School:* Sundays Sept 11th-October 30th and January 8th - May 7th from 10:45-11:05 our J-Team will meet in the classroom on the mezzanine. We will connect together to work through the Bible and probably have some donuts on occasion.

Christmas Program (All Ages)

From 10:15-11:05 each Sunday in November and December the Children's Christmas Program practice takes the place of Sunday School. During this time students practice songs, learn lines, get costumes, and prepare for the Children's Christmas Program on December 24th at the 5pm service.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR 2016-2017

Special events are in bold.

September

- 11th - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am. J-Team Kickoff 12:30-3pm.
- 13th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 18th - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am. Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm.
- 20th - **Family Board Game Night.** 6:30-8pm.
- 25th - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am.
- 27th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.

Family Board Game Night (All Ages) September 20th 6:30-8pm

Everyone is invited to family board game night. Bring your favorite board game and a snack to share. Play fun games with other families. Come and go at any point in the evening.

October

- 2nd - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am. Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm.
- 9th - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am. J-Team: Pumpkin Decorating 12:30-3pm.
- 11th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 14th - **Parent Night Out** 6-10pm
- 16th - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am. Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm.
- 23rd - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am
- 25th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 26th - **Trunk or Treat** 5-7pm.
- 30th - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am.

Parent Night Out (Birth-6th Grade) October 14th 6pm-10pm

Students birth through 6th grade can be dropped off and picked up at any point during the evening. Cost is by donation. All donations go toward the youth summer mission trip. The evening will be just like Vacation Bible School or Day Camp with games, songs, crafts, snacks and more! Feel free to tell a friend.

Trunk or Treat (Any Age) October 26th 5-7pm

This fun family event is an annual tradition at SOV. Everyone is invited to this community outreach. Parents/guardians can come decorate their trunks to hand out candy or just bring kids for games and candy. We serve dinner for all those who attend.

November

- 6th - **3rd Grade Bible Presentation** during both 9am and 11:15am worship services.
Christmas Program Practice 10:15-11:05am. Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm.
- 8th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 12th - **Rake Up Boise** 9am-12pm.
- 13th - Christmas Program Practice 10:15-11:05am. J-Team: Painting with T 12:30-3pm.
- 20th - Christmas Program Practice 10:15-11:05am Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm.
- 22nd - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 23rd - **Family Pie Social** 7-8:30pm
- 27th - No Christmas Program Practice or Sunday School. Thanksgiving Break.

3rd Grade Bible Presentation (3rd Grade and above) November 6th 9am & 11:15am

In keeping with our values, we want to place God's word in the hands of every student. Once a year, we give Bibles to all students in 3rd grade (or those above 3rd grade who have not yet received a Bible from Shepherd of the Valley). If your student would like to receive a Bible this year, please let the Director of Youth, Family and Education know. Bibles will be presented at both services so students may attend early or late service.

Rake Up Boise (Any Age) November 12th 9am-12pm

Open to all students and families. We will meet at Shepherd of the Valley at 9am and head to the mission sites. Please wear appropriate clothing and bring gloves with you. We will return to SOV by noon. Bring the family and join in helping all of Boise help those in need.

Family Pie Social (Any Age) November 23rd 7-8:30pm

Everyone is invited to come to worship at 7pm on November 23rd. Afterward the youth will serve pie! All donations will benefit the youth summer mission trip.

December

- 4th - Christmas Program Practice 10:15-11:05am. Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm.
- 6th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 9th - Parent Night Out. 6-10pm.
- 11th - Christmas Program Practice 10:15-11:05am. J-Team: Cookie Party 12:30-3pm.
- 18th - Christmas Program Practice 10:15-11:05am. Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm.
- 20th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 24th - **Christmas Program** 5pm.
- 25th - No Sunday School.
- 28th - No Confirmation. No Youth Group. Christmas Break.

Christmas Program (All Ages) December 24th 5pm

Those students who have practiced for the program will present their hard work on Christmas Eve during the 5pm worship service. We ask that students arrive at 4pm to get ready with costumes and vocal warm ups.

January

- 1st - No Sunday School or Guitar Group. Christmas Break.
- 8th - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am. J-Team: Crazy Game Day 12:30-3pm.
- 10th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 15th - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am. Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm.
- 22nd - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am
- 24th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 29th - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am.

February

- 3rd - **Parent Night Out** 6-10pm.
- 5th - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am. Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm.
- 9th - **1st Communion Class** 6-7pm.
- 12th - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am. J-Team: Bring a Friend 12:30-3pm.
- 14th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 16th - **1st Communion Class** 6-7pm.
- 19th - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am. Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm.
- 23rd - **1st Communion Class** 6-7pm.
- 26th - **First Communion Sunday** 9am & 11:15am. Sunday School 10:15-11:05am.
- 28th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.

Parent Night Out (Birth-6th Grade) February 3rd 6pm-10pm

Students birth through 6th grade can be dropped off and picked up at any point during the evening. Cost is by donation. All donations go toward the youth summer mission trip. The evening will be just like Vacation Bible School or Day Camp with games, songs, crafts, snacks and more! Feel free to tell a friend.

1st Communion Class (All Ages) February 9th, 16th and 23rd 6-7pm

1st Communion Class is for students of any age that would like to take communion for the first time or for those students who have begun taking communion but would like to learn about its meaning. We gather together as a class for three weeks to do crafts, songs, activities, and lessons that will prepare students for their 1st Communion. Parents attend classes with students. Please plan to attend all three classes.

First Communion Sunday (All Ages) February 26th 9am & 11:15am

For all students that complete the 1st Communion Class, we recognize and bless them during both worship services. Students and families can plan to attend either worship service, as we will have the recognition and blessing during each service.

March

- 5th - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am. Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm.
- 12th - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am. J-Team: Superheroes 12:30-3pm
- 14th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 19th - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am. Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm.
- 21st - **Family Board Game Night** 6:30-8pm.
- 26th - No Sunday School. Spring Break.
- 28th - No Chess Club. Spring Break.

Family Board Game Night (All Ages) March 21st 6:30-8pm

Everyone is invited to family board game night. Bring your favorite board game and a snack to share. Play fun games with other families. Come and go at any point in the evening.

April

- 2nd - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am. Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm.
- 9th - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am. J-Team: Blessing of the Pets 12:30-3pm.
- 11th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 16th - **Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt.**
No Sunday School or Guitar Group. Easter Break.
- 23rd - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am.
- 25th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 30th - Sunday School 10:15-11:05am.

Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt. April 16th

Each year the youth of Shepherd of the Valley provide a pancake breakfast for the community. Donations from the breakfast go toward the summer youth mission trip and 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston. Breakfast is served from 8-11am. An Easter Egg Hunt for children PreK-6th Grade is held at 10:30am.

May

- 5th - **Parent Night Out** 6-10pm.
- 7th - Last Sunday School until fall 10:15-11:05am.
Last Guitar Group until summer 5:30-6:15pm.
- 9th - Last Chess Club until fall 3:30-5pm.
- 13th - **J-Team Bowl-A-Rama** 1-4pm.

Parent Night Out (Birth-6th Grade) May 5th 6pm-10pm

Students birth through 6th grade can be dropped off and picked up at any point during the evening. Cost is by donation. All donations go toward the youth summer mission trip. The evening will be just like Vacation Bible School or Day Camp with games, songs, crafts, snacks and more! Feel free to tell a friend.

J-Team Bowl-A-Rama (Grades 3-6) May 13th 1-4pm

We will meet at church at 1pm and return by 4pm for this bowling outing. Be sure to wear socks and a funny hat if you have one.

Summer 2017

All dates for summer activities are TBA

Preschool VBS

Our annual June Preschool VBS is open to all students entering preschool the following year. Students play games, have snacks, sing songs, do crafts, and learn Bible lessons. Please see the church calendar for exact dates.

Roaring Springs Family Night

Everyone is invited to join in the annual Roaring Springs Family Night. We will gather at the water park, have a great time and enjoy dinner together.

Luther Heights Day Camp

Every summer we are pleased to welcome Luther Heights Day Camp. This week long camp takes place at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church and is open to students entering grades 1-5. The week is like a taste of camp in our own back yard. Lots of games, crafts, Bible lessons, songs, prayers and activities fill each day of day camp.

J-Team Water Games Day

This end of summer bash is for those entering Grades 3-6. We will have lunch together and play water games. Be sure to wear something that can get wet and bring a towel with you. Friends are welcome.

Helpful Information

Cell Phones

Students can bring their phones with them but remain the responsibility of the student. During activity times, students will be asked to silence and put away their phones.

Driving

Students may drive themselves to and from an event. However, during the event itself (while students are under our care) only adults will be allowed to drive.

Drugs/Alcohol

Obviously drug and alcohol use will not be tolerated. If your student is found to have drugs or alcohol or to be under the influence, he or she will have the opportunity to let you know personally before I follow up with you. Our goal will always be to help and minister to, not embarrass or ostracize, a student who is struggling with drugs or alcohol.

Calendar

The youth events are on the church Google calendar and can be accessed from the website. It's posted in the hall at church as well. The calendar you receive today may change, but you will receive plenty of notice.

Communication

Youth events and information will be available on the youth Facebook page, the church website, the monthly church newsletter, pre-event text messages, the weekly church bulletin, and the weekly youth ministry email update.

Facebook

Please like us on Facebook. We post pictures of events, issue reminders, and communicate through the page.

<http://www.facebook.com/SOVYouth>

Food

Lots of our events will involve food. If your child has allergies, please let us know. We will do our best to offer healthy options at each event.

Games

More often than not, we will play games. Be sure your student dresses appropriately. Our games will never involve dare-type games, unsafe situations, or food.

Lutheranism

We are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Our tradition is centered in Christ who shared a theology of love, grace, welcome, acceptance, joy and hope. We may choose not to participate in some community events as a group if we feel the ethos is not aligned with God's desire to love all those we encounter.

Parents/Guardians

We would love to see every parent/guardian be involved in some way. There are plenty of opportunities to help with regular meetings, events, and beyond. We are your partners in this ministry. Without you, it just won't happen. Thank you for all you do and all your support.

Paying for Events

Some events will require payment in advance. You will be made aware of deadlines and costs as soon as they are known. If your child would like to participate in an event but finances present a problem, please talk to Zach about your need. Cost should never be a reason for a student not to participate.

School/Club Activities

If your student has an upcoming football game, band competition, choir performance, play, volleyball match, or another activity they are involved with please let me know and I will try to be there to be in the cheering section.

Volunteers

Volunteer leaders must be members or regular participants at SOV, complete safety training, and undergo a background check. This includes chaperones for retreats and overnight activities. Please note that a background check takes about two weeks to complete. Unfortunately, we cannot make exceptions, as we take seriously our commitment of consistency to all parents and students to keep youth safe. This is not a reflection of any one person or situation, but rather a policy we have agreed upon with everyone's best interests in mind.

Youth Room & Mezzanine

The youth room and mezzanine are common spaces for all our students. Students are welcome to hang out there any time it is free. There are video games and foosball and a hoop shoot among other activities just for them! We ask all students to turn off electronics, put away items, clean up trash, and turn off lights when finished.