



**SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
YOUTH MINISTRY INFORMATION PACKET
2016-2017**

Confirmation (Grades 7-8)

Confirmation meets each Wednesday at 6:30-8pm from September 7th - May 17th, with the noted exceptions. This class is preparation for the Confirmation Rite of Passage on Reformation Sunday during the students 9th grade year. Students should plan to be at the majority of classes, and let the Youth Director know if they plan to miss. Confirmation Students are asked to serve in two ways: 1.) In a Sunday morning ministry such as children's church, as an acolyte, or being a lector for example. 2.) There are service opportunities nearly each month such as the pie social, rake up Boise, parent night out, etc. Confirmands should plan to participate in 3 during the year but can do as many as they like. There are also exciting events like concerts, retreats, the mission trip and others in which Confirmation students can participate.

High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12)

Our students grades 9-12 are invited each Wednesday at 6:30-8pm from September 7th - May 17th to build friendships, experience God, play games, eat food, and grow in their faith. Students get a chance to fully be themselves, be heard, and to participate in a safe environment. As with Confirmation, there are also exciting events like concerts, retreats, the mission trip and others in which students can participate.

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 and 4th Tuesdays starting on September 13th. Bob Parrish 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.

Youth Band (Grades 7-12)

This group is open to students in Grades 7-12 that have some proficiency with an instrument. We will meet on the 2nd & 4th Sundays from 5:30-6:15pm, unless otherwise noted. Our first gathering will be Sunday September 25th. Join us as we learn to play praise and worship music together to lead at youth group and special events. More practice times may be scheduled closer to events.

Improv (Grades 7-12)

Improv starts Sunday September 18th and will continue each Sunday during the school year, with noted exceptions. Class runs from 6:30-8pm. Students will learn the basics of improv, improve communication skills, develop creativity, build confidence, play improv games, and share a ton of laughs.

Life Prep Class (Grades 7-12)

This class for 7th-12th graders will meet each Sunday at 10:15am starting September 11th. It will feature practical skill building opportunities for students. We will learn everything from how to sew on a button, to how to cook eggs, to budgeting. We will also talk about how faith plays a practical role in everyday life.

YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

2016-2017

Special events are in bold. Service events are marked in the explanation sections.

September

- 7th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 11th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am
- 13th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 14th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 18th - **National Youth Gathering Meeting** 10:15-11:05am.
Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm.
- 21st - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 25th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am Youth Band 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm.
Deadline for Fall Retreat at Luther Heights.
- 27th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.

National Youth Gathering Meeting September 18th

These quarterly meetings will focus on fundraising ideas, ownership of separate fundraisers, and planning for the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas.

Deadline for Fall Retreat at Luther Heights (Grades 7-12) September 25th

Registration and payment are due Sunday September 25th for the Fall Retreat at Luther Heights October 7th-9th.

October

- 2nd - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm.
- 5th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 7-9th - **Fall Youth Retreat to Luther Heights.**
- 9th - No Life Prep Class, Youth Band, Guitar Group or Improv due to retreat.
- 11th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 12th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 14th - **Parent Night Out** 6-10pm
- 16th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm
- 19th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 23rd - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am Youth Band 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm
- 25th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm. **Rend Collective Concert.**
- 26th - **Trunk or Treat** 5-7pm. No Confirmation. No High School Youth Group.
- 30th - **Confirmation Sunday** 11:15am. No Life Prep Class, Guitar, Band, or Improv.

Fall Youth Retreat to Luther Heights (Grades 7-12) October 7th-9th

This year our Confirmation & High School Youth Group Fall Retreat is October 7th-9th. The cost is \$35 per student. We will leave after school on Friday October 7th and return the afternoon of Sunday October 9th. Each student going will need to have a Parent Release Form and Code of Conduct on file. A packing list is available for those going.

Parent Night Out (Grades 7-12) October 14th 6pm-10pm - service event

Youth in 7-12 grades will be in charge of the evening as students birth through 6th grade can be dropped off and picked up at any point. 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! We will plan the event prior to the evening.

Rend Collective Concert (Grades 9-12) October 25th 5:30pm

Our High School students are invited to this concert. This Christian band from Ireland is one of the best shows you ever might hope to see! Cost is \$20. We will meet at SOV at 5:30pm and return to church after the show.

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

Confirmation and High School students are invited to the Trunk or Treat to help lead games, serve food, and hand out candy. The event is from 5pm-7pm. Everyone of all ages is invited. Parents/guardians can come decorate their trunks to hand out candy, bring younger siblings, or volunteer to help as well.

Confirmation Sunday October 30th 11:15am

Those students who have participated in Confirmation for two full years will experience the Rite of Confirmation during the 11:15am worship service. Students will stand before the congregation to share about their faith and proclaim their commitment to God and the church. A banquet to honor the Confirmands will follow the worship service.

November

- 2nd - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 6th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm.
- 8th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 9th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 12th - **Rake Up Boise** 9am-12pm.
- 13th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. Youth Band 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm
- 16th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 20th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm
- 22nd - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 23rd - **Family Pie Social** 7-8:30pm.
- 27th - No Life Prep, Guitar Group, Youth Band, or Improv. Thanksgiving Break.
- 30th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.

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

Open to all youth 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 7-8:30pm - service event

All high school and confirmation youth are invited to come to worship at 7pm on November 23rd. Afterward we will serve pie to the congregation with our spiffy ties and vests. All donations will benefit the youth summer mission trip.

December

- 2nd - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 4th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm.
- 6th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 7th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 9th - **Parent Night Out** 6-10pm.
- 11th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. Youth Band 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm
- 14th - **Youth Christmas Caroling and Party** 6-8:30pm.
- 18th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm
- 20th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 21st - No Confirmation. No Youth Group. Christmas Break.
- 25th - No Life Prep Class, Guitar Group, Youth Band, or Improv. Christmas Break.
- 28th - No Confirmation. No Youth Group. Christmas Break

Parent Night Out (Grades 7-12) December 9th 6pm-10pm - service event

Youth in 7-12 grades will be in charge of the evening as students birth through 6th grade can be dropped off and picked up at any point. 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! We will plan the event prior to the evening.

Youth Christmas Caroling and Party (Grades 7-12) December 14th 6-8:30pm

Each year the youth head out to carol for the shut-ins of Shepherd of the Valley. Afterward we join together in a meal and some Christmas themed games. Wear an ugly Christmas sweater if you have one!

January

- 1st - No Life Prep Class, Guitar Group, Youth Band, or Improv. Christmas Break.
- 4th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 8th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. Youth Band 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm.
- 10th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 11th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 15th - **National Youth Gathering Meeting** 10:15-11:05am.
Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm
- 18th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 22nd - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. Youth Band 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm
- 24th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 25th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 29th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. No Guitar Group, Youth Band or Improv.

National Youth Gathering Meeting

These quarterly meetings will focus on fundraising ideas, ownership of separate fundraisers, and planning for the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas.

February

- 1st - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 3rd - **Parent Night Out** 6-10pm.
- 5th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm.
- 8th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 12th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. Youth Band 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm
- 14th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 15th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 17th-19th - **Youth Winter Retreat**
- 19th - No Life Prep Class, Guitar Group, Youth Band, or Improv.
- 22nd - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 26th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. Youth Band 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm.
- 28th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.

Parent Night Out (Grades 7-12) February 3rd 6pm-10pm - service event

Youth in 7-12 grades will be in charge of the evening as students birth through 6th grade can be dropped off and picked up at any point. 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! We will plan the event prior to the evening.

Youth Winter Retreat (Grades 7-12)

Our annual Confirmation & High School Winter retreat is February 17th-19th. This retreat will be open to all students who are in 7th-12th grade. In order to attend this retreat, a student must complete three service events. These can include Parent Night Out, the Pie Social, helping with Children's Church, assisting in Sunday School, Rake up Boise, Youth Caroling, and other youth service events as scheduled. This retreat is planned over President's Day weekend to give students a day to recover and finish homework before school begins again. Cost is only \$25!

March

- 1st - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 5th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm.
- 8th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 11th - Parent Night Out 6pm-10pm
- 12th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. Youth Band 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm
- 14th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 15th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 19th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. No Guitar Group or Improv.
Silent Auction and Youth Talent Show Fundraiser 5-7pm.
- 22nd - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 26th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. Youth Band 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm.
- 28th - No Chess Club. Spring Break.
- 29th - No Life Prep Class, Guitar Group, Youth Band, or Improv. Spring Break

Silent Auction and Youth Talent Show Fundraiser March 19th 5pm-7pm - service event

Everyone is welcome to come for dinner, entertainment, and an auction. The youth will be raising funds for the summer mission trip and the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. There will be dinner with an accompanying talent show put on by students. A note for students: talent show entries will be limited, so please think about doing a duet or group performance. Dinner will be served through a freewill offering. Along with the talent show, there will be a silent auction. We are looking for donations of gifts or skills such as athletic tickets, use of a cabin, golf lessons, tax preparation, or whatever you might be able to offer! It will be an amazing night!

April

- 2nd - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. Guitar Group 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm.
- 5th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 9th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. Youth Band 5:30-6:15pm. Improv 6:30-8pm.
- 11th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 12th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 16th - **Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt 7-11am.**
No Life Prep Class, Guitar Group, Youth Band, or Improv. Easter
- 19th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 23rd - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. Last Youth Band until fall 5:30-6:15pm.
Improv 6:30-8pm.
- 25th - Chess Club 3:30-5pm.
- 26th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 30th - Life Prep Class 10:15-11:05am. No Guitar, Youth Band, or Improv.

Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt (Grades 7-12) April 16th

Calling All Confirmation and High School Youth. This year's Easter Breakfast fundraiser is on April 16th. There are two shifts that you can sign up for. If you plan on the mission trip this summer, your presence is needed. 1st shift is from 7am - 9am for prep and serving. 2nd shift is 9am - 11am for serving and cleanup. Students will also help setup for and help guide the Easter Egg Hunt for younger kids.

May

- 3rd - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 5th - **Parent Night Out** 6-10pm.
- 7th - Last Life Prep Class until fall 10:15-11:05am.
Last Guitar Group until summer 5:30-6:15pm.
Last Improv until summer 6:30-8pm.
- 10th - Confirmation 6:30-8pm. High School Youth Group 6:30-8pm.
- 14th - No Life Prep Class, Guitar Group, Youth Band, or Improv. Mother's Day
- 17th - Confirmation and High School Youth Christmas in May Party. 6-8:30pm
- 21st - **National Youth Gathering Meeting** 10:15-11:05am

Parent Night Out (Grades 7-12) May 5th 6pm-10pm - service event

Youth in 7-12 grades will be in charge of the evening as students birth through 6th grade can be dropped off and picked up at any point. 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! We will plan the event prior to the evening.

National Youth Gathering Meeting May 21st 10:15-11:05am

These quarterly meetings will focus on fundraising ideas, ownership of separate fundraisers, and planning for the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas.

Summer 2017

All dates for summer activities are TBA

Roaring Springs Family Night (All Ages)

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 - service event

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. Confirmation and High School students are invited to be junior counselors for the week. The week is like a taste of camp in our own backyard. Lots of games, crafts, Bible lessons, songs, prayers and activities fill each day of day camp.

Parents vs Youth Olympics

All youth and parents/guardians of J-Team, Confirmation and High School age are invited to compete against one another for bragging rights for the year. We will have a BBQ together and then the games will begin!

Mt. Angel Mission Trip (Grades 7-12)

Approximate total cost per participant: \$275. Cost per student family contribution: \$50. This is open to all students that will be in Confirmation and High School Youth Group for the 2016-2017 school year. Students going on the trip must help with at least 1 Parent Night Out, the Annual Talent Show/Auction, and either the Pie Social or Easter Breakfast.

National Youth Gathering 2018 – Houston, Texas

We will meet once a quarter until the trip to discuss fundraising and planning details.

Approximate cost per participant: \$1,250. There is significant fundraising involved for this event. Our meetings will focus on fundraising ideas, ownership of separate fundraisers, and planning for the trip. This is an event that occurs every 3 years for the ELCA

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.