

January 6, 2017

Dear Parents of Trinity's Senior High Youth:

Welcome to Winter/Spring term for senior high ministry at Trinity Church!
Enclosed please find a schedule for what's coming up in the next five months. Senior high youth at Trinity meet on Sunday evenings (6:00 – 8:00 pm). What I propose for this next term is that we spend two Sundays per month at church (pizza, community building, discussion, Bible Study), the third Sunday of the month serving at First Nations' Kitchen, and the fourth Sunday on a fun outing.

Confirmation Class

It is my honor to lead this class for another year, and it runs the following Sundays, from 9-10:00 am in the lower level library: February 5, 12, 19, 26; March 5, 12, 19. The Confirmation Service is Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 10:00 am at St Mark's Cathedral. On Sunday, April 30 (the next day) we will celebrate the confirmands at Trinity with a special blessing and gift – and cake! ***Please let me know by Sunday, January 29*** if you or your young person would like to take Confirmation Class. I will need 4-5 people in order to offer the class.

Maundy Thursday Overnight: April 13th

Last year we almost didn't offer the overnight part of the Maundy Thursday program for youth. At the last minute, some youth stepped up to recruit adults who could spend the night, and some parents who could provide food. This year we would like to get Maundy Thursday organized by the end of January (parents to sign up to bring & prepare dinner, snacks, and grab-n-go breakfast) and identify the adults who can spend the night. Amanda Hultgren, one of the adults who plans the Middle School Youth Group, will assist in the organization of parent help and support.

White Earth Mission Trip or the Episcopal Youth Event? Or both?

We have two opportunities this summer for senior high youth. In early December 2016 I met with Mark Hurley, Julie Rohr, Chris Commers, and Kathy Ericson (adults who have chaperoned the **White Earth Mission Trip** in the past years) to discuss our summer options for youth. The White Earth Mission Trip is in a bit of flux. At the end of last summer's session, the trip's organizer, Valerie Red Horse, announced that she was retiring from organizing the White Earth Mission Trip. The folks from Epiphany, Plymouth have taken on some of the organizing for next summer, but many of the program's details and plans are still undetermined, and Epiphany is not sure how much it can take on. There is a week scheduled for the trip, and we are relatively confident there will be work projects. Our adult leaders met to discuss what kind of information we would need to make a good decision about the program's viability for this summer for Trinity. To buy us some time I have reserved the same youth hostel at Itasca State Park where our group stayed last

year. Anderson Cove is booked that week. The adult leaders will be meeting with me after 10:15 am services on January 8th to discuss what we learned, and I will be talking with the youth during youth group this week and the week after to hear their opinions. I have also reserved Sunday, May 7th as the day when we can fundraise for White Earth.

This summer is also the **Episcopal Youth Event** – an international event that happens every three years. Episcopal senior high youth come together for five days to learn, pray, have fun, hang out with the Presiding Bishop, and build relationships with peers. The youth participate as delegates from dioceses. For the Diocese of Minnesota, there will be four chaperones going: Bishop Prior and his wife Staci Prior (who is the Counselor for the Upper School at Breck), and Sarah Barnett (diocesan youth coordinator) and her husband Steve. Applications are due February 1st so the date is quickly approaching when we need to decide if Trinity youth want to apply.

White Earth and EYE do not conflict with each other as far as dates, and the sense of the adult leaders is that we should offer both and hope that youth attend both! If Trinity sends youth to EYE, we could do some fundraising to offset some of the costs, as it's a bit spendy.

I have a long love affair with EYE, as I served on the Design Team for the very first one, and was the keynote speakers when I was a senior in high school (1984). It was one of the highlights of my life – and one of the reasons I am an Episcopalian and still so invested in our church. The event is dynamic, uplifting, enlightening, and just plain fun. It will connect our young people with kids their age from across the Episcopal Church and I believe will be very impactful in energizing our own program here at Trinity. I have enclosed materials that explain more about the event (and also a link to a video), and the application materials.

Would you like to **meet** to discuss the summer options? I will be available in my office after Sunday services on **Sunday, January 15th**. Youth and parents invited.

Communications

Primary communication about youth program is through the “Friday Youth Update” which is sent via e-mail each week. This communication is augmented by the Sunday bulletin and announcements, through letters or e-mails from me. If you have questions about anything administrative (what time is that event again? can I get a ride? how do I register?) please contact Sarah, our parish administrator (office@trinityexcelsior.org). Sarah works every day from 9:30 am – 2:30 pm.

Thank you for sharing your wonderful, inspiring, smart, compassionate young adults with me and with Trinity. I love them deeply and feel lucky to be in relationship with them.

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