



September 5, 2019

Dear Trinity Senior High Families:

Whoo-hooo! It's time to launch a new year of senior high youth ministry at Trinity Church! My intention is to allow the trials, tribulations, and excitement of beginning a new year at school to calm a bit and begin our program later in the month.

We are welcoming into the fold *six* 9th graders this year: Elizabeth Alexander, Yvonne Frerichs, John Hultgren, Henry Reesor, Rhys Willoughby, and Riley Wright.

To that end, the year will commence with a dinner at my home for all senior high youth and their parents (siblings invited as well) on **Sunday, September 22 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm.** This date and time avoid a late evening (for last-minute homework doers) and also Minnetonka Homecoming, which is the next weekend. My address: 4644 Upton Avenue, S. Minneapolis 55410. My cell: 612-655-0314. We'll gather for appetizers and get-to-know-you games, then a short meeting, then dinner at 6:00 pm.

For the meeting I'd like to discuss the upcoming year, and in particular, my proposal that the senior high youth go on a holy pilgrimage next summer in June. Trinity uses the "Journey to Adulthood" curriculum for both middle and senior high youth, and the crown jewel of that curriculum is a holy pilgrimage. I have launched this curriculum and the pilgrimage in every, single congregation I have ever served. It builds capacity, relationships, and youth programs. Every. Time. I am proposing that we walk part of the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain – a route that pilgrims have been walking for 600 years. It's extremely cost-efficient, safe, and I have personally walked the Camino in addition to preparing and sending 5 youth groups on the trip. I have already met with a travel agent who specializes in groups walking the Camino who has outlined for us a recommended route along the coast. I will bring material to the meeting.

In addition to the pilgrimage preparation (spiritual, fundraising, logistics) senior high youth group will be about having fun, growing our faith through learning and Bible Study, and service. We typically meet three Sundays of every month from 6:00 – 8:00 pm in the lower level youth room at Trinity.

Please let me know whether or not you can attend the organizational (and fun!!) dinner at my home on September 22 – by contacting Sarah Kimmelman at: office@trinityexcelsior.org.

Can't wait for another year!!

Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Devon".

Coming up on September

White butterflies, with single
black fingerpaint eyes on their wings
dart and settle, eddy and mate
over the green tangle of vines
in Labor Day morning steam.

The year grinds into ripeness
and rot, grapes darkening,
pears yellowing, the first
Virginia creeper twining crimson,
the grasses, dry straw to burn.

The New Year rises, beckoning
across the umbrellas on the sand.
I begin to reconsider my life.
What is the yield of my impatience?
What is the fruit of my resolve?

I turn from my frantic white dance
over the jungle of productivity
and slowly a niggun slides,
cold water down my throat.
I rest on a leaf spotted red.

Now is the time to let the mind
search backwards like the raven loosed
to see what can feed us. Now,
the time to cast the mind forward
to chart an aerial map of the months.

The New Year is a great door
that stands across the evening and Yom
Kippur is the second door. Between them
are song and silence, stone and clay pot
to be filled from within myself.

I will find there both ripeness and rot,
what I have done and undone,
what I must let go with the waning days
and what I must take in. With the last
tomatoes, we harvest the fruit of our lives.

-Marge Piercy, *Tikkun*, Sept-Oct 1993