

# Children, Youth, & Family News

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*Youth and Education Board would like to thank  
Kim Helgeson, Rob & Tamara Harris, Alondra Harris, Kim Senn, & Aidan Senn  
for their service to the youth ministry and their leadership on the board.  
Next meeting: Sunday, January 14 @11:30am*

## Save the Date:

- \*Jan 2\* Timberwolves Game Tickets deadline
- \*Jan 9\* TACO Tuesday
- \*Jan 9\* Noodles & Co. Benefit Night (4-9pm)
- \*Jan 31\* Paddle Pilgrim Presentation
- \*Feb 1\* Theology on Tap with Central
- \*Feb 3\* Timberwolves game in Minneapolis
- \*Feb 4\* SuperBowl Sub Sale & NYG Mtg
- \*Feb 9-10\* HS Snow Trip
- \*Feb 12\* Parent's Night Out/NYG Babysitting
- \*Feb 13\* TACO Tuesday
- \*Feb 14\* Ash Wed.
- \*Feb 23-24\* MS Dells Overnight
- \*Mar 2-3\* Elem Recharge

## Midweek Schedule

3:45-5pm : Afterschool Program for MS & HS Youth

5-5:30pm: Dinner (\$3/meal)  
ALL ARE WELCOME

5:30-6:30pm: Program Hour  
Rotate Family, Learn, & Service

6:30-7:05pm: Worship

7:05-8:30pm: HS Youth Group

\*\*\*\*Announcements go out every Tuesday night! Talk to Shannon if you would like to be on the mailing list.\*\*\*\*

## New Year... New Everything!

Last month we heard the results from the CAT survey. At the beginning of the meeting, Pastor Kurt had made a comment that there are some difficult things ahead for us, and it might seem like not a lot of hope. But he reminded us that we are a people of hope! We have just celebrated the ultimate gift of hope that God sent to us in the birth of the Savior, the Son, Jesus!

So when I was reflecting on where do we go from here, I was spending some time listening to songs about new years, new beginnings, fresh starts, etc. And a song came on that caught my attention.

Before I talk about this song, I have to tell you about my friend Anna. I met Anna when she was still in high school and we were

on our way to the 2012 National Youth Gathering. We were listening to music one day when a love song came on. She paused for a moment in our conversation, and said something that has stayed with me ever since.

**"I like to think that whenever I hear a love song on the radio, that it is God singing those words to me."**

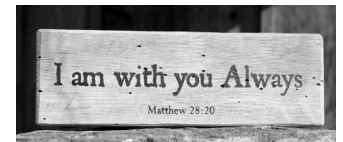
That's quite powerful. To believe that God is still speaking to us, through inspired words, and reaching out through music? I have a hard time hearing music the same way anymore, and there are times that I would agree with Anna.

When I heard Taylor Swift's song "New Year's Day", I believe I heard a message of hope for us as well, as if God was saying the words to us today. So here are

the words, that I heard as if God were speaking right to me.

**I can tell that it's going to be a long road. I'll be there if you're the toast of the town or if you strike out and you're crawling home. I stay when it's hard or it's wrong or you're making mistakes. I want your midnights. I'll be cleaning up with you on New Year's Day.**

We have a long road ahead of us, that is going to be hard. We might make some mistakes along the way. We might have some amazing "high" moments and we might have some crazy "low" moments. But through this whole process, through all the changes that are coming—known and unknown—God has promised to be with us ALWAYS!



## Educational Opportunities at #OSLCCF

**Sunday Morning** offers opportunities for people of all ages from 9:15-10am!

Youth in elementary are invited to the lower level for a lectionary-based study.

Middle school & older are invited to the Lounge for Film & Faith.

January Movie: Remember the Titans

Adults are encouraged to go to the Fellowship Hall for a middle hour discussion.

**Midweek** focuses on youth and family based education and adult/parent fellowship.

January 3: Family Night—Epiphany Festival

January 10: Learning Night

January 17: Service & Fellowship Night

January 24: Learning Night

January 31: Cross+Gen Night Paddle Pilgrim Presentation

Other opportunities for learning, study, and devotion include:

Tuesday morning Bible Study—9am

2nd Sunday of the Month: Friend in Faith (7pm)

3rd Sunday of the Month: Book Buddies

*Because of the CAT results, we will be looking at some new opportunities after the new year to add in.*

## Retreats & Overnights

### High School Snow Trip

The youth have spoken, so here we go! We will go to Christie Mtn for a day and a half of snow fun! Friday night will be snowtubing, Saturday will be a full 10am-10pm of skiing or snowboarding.

We will stay up near the mountain on Friday night and be home late Saturday night.

When: Feb 9 @4pm—Feb 10

Cost: \$130 + rental costs

Sign-up deadline is Jan 31.

### Middle School WI Dells Trip

All middle school youth are invited for an overnight of fun at the Wilderness Resort in the Dells. We will eat together, play in the water parks & arcades, stay overnight at the lodge, and have an experience to remember!

When: Feb 23 @4pm-Feb 24

Cost: \$100 all-inclusive

Sign-up deadline is Feb 7

### Elementary Luther Park Recharge

All elementary youth in grades 3-5 are invited to experience Luther Park camp for a whole day. We will arrive on Friday night and play, learn, worship & more until we leave on Saturday night. *We also need 1 adult per 6 youth per gender.*

When: Mar 2 @5:30pm-Mar 3

All families welcome at camp at 6pm Saturday night

Cost: \$90 per youth

Sign-up deadline is Feb 14

## Youth Ministry Stuff

### TACO Tuesday

We will continue TACO Tuesday this winter and spring. If you are able to help make, serve, or clean-up please contact the youth & ed board. Tuesday Jan 9 will be Tacos!

### 2017-2018 Gear

We have some extra t-shirts, long-sleeve shirts, and hoodies available for purchase if you missed the order time. Sizes and quantities are limited. Talk to Jared or Shannon if you are interested!

### High School Hangout Night

We will have the youth room open and you can bring video games, we will have

board games, we have Netflix hooked up or you can bring your favorite PG-13 or lower rated movie. All are welcome! **Friday Jan 12**  
*\*We will also need adults to be present and hang out in the church!*

### Winter Cleaning

We did an awesome job during God's Work Our Hands in getting the church cleaned up. Join us on **Sunday, January 14 at 12pm** to do some more cleaning (especially in the youth areas). This can be used as service times for school requirements.

## Family Ministry Stuff

### Epiphany Party

Join us at **5:30pm on Wed, January 3rd** as we celebrate this special liturgical season. There will be fun, fellowship, some hand on learning, and a few special surprises! You won't want to miss this amazing evening!

### Paddle Pilgrim: Dave Ellingson

In 2012, Dave kayaked the Mississippi River from headwaters to New Orleans. In 2016, he kayaked the Erie Canal, the Hudson River to the Statue of Liberty. He will share about his experiences and how they have impacted his faith—even in his next 1/3 of life! **Wed, Jan 31 @5:30p**

### Timberwolves Game

We have tickets available! We are hoping to take a group of 40 people to the Cities for the game! For \$35 you get your ticket and a few unique fan experiences only available to groups! Get your spot soon! Game is **Sat Feb 3 @8pm**

### Parent's Night Out/Babysitting

The NYG youth will be hosting a few hours of babysitting at OSLC for parents on Monday, Feb 12 from 4-7pm. More information & sign up will be available at the youth table mid-January.

## 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering: Houston (June 24-July 2)

We have an amazing group of young people that are working hard to make Houston this summer a reality.

We are asking the congregation to start prayerfully considering how you will support these young people of the congregation. There are many ways you can help—Giving of your time, money, prayers, inviting friends, and more!



FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN  
SAVED THROUGH FAITH, NOT OF  
YOURSELF—IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD.  
EPHESIANS 2:8

### Important Dates:

Jan 7 @11:30am—Parent & Youth Mtg (Payment #1 due)  
Jan 9 @4-9pm—Benefit Night at Noodles & Company in Eau Claire  
Jan 17—Letters Sent out  
Feb 4—SuperBowl Sub Sale  
Feb 12—Parent's Night Out/Babysitting  
Mar 15—St. Patty's Day Dinner & Auction  
Apr 8—Spring Breakfast  
Apr—Flamingo Flocking  
May—Wall of Giving