

Youth Ministry: 2009 - 2010

TORCH

IGNITE

shine

Elevate

Parent/Student Information Packet

Atonement Lutheran Church

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Atonement Youth Ministry Mission and Vision

The mission of Atonement Lutheran Church is to offer Jesus Christ, a life of discipleship and a faith community to all people. Within the Youth Ministry Team, we have expanded on this mission, by emphasizing the importance of building a faith community in which all youth feel welcome and inspired to grow in faith.

Our vision is a comprehensive program, focused on our Wednesday night teaching session. We will continue our mission of building community through service activities, events, and programs which encourage a life of discipleship and faith in Jesus Christ. It is our goal to offer a variety of programs that reach out to all students, their friends and their families. We will partner with and encourage families in their faith and life, and help adult leaders and mentors guide students in growing their faith.

Finally, we will offer a ministry focused on living a life of service to our world and community in the name of Christ, offering His love to those around us.

Youth Ministry Contact Information

Atonement Lutheran Church:
Fax Number:

(701) 237 – 9651
(701) 237 – 5820

Youth Ministry Team



Andrea Paulson
Director of Youth Ministry and Confirmation
apaulson@atonementfargo.org

ext. 136



Brandon Foster
Director of Youth/Young Adult Ministry
bfoster@atonementfargo.org

ext. 115



Josh Svaleson
Youth Ministry Assistant
jsvaleson@atonementfargo.org

ext. 134

Youth Room

ext. 122

Connect Online

Our team is proud to offer numerous contact opportunities online, providing lots of information!

We invite you to bookmark the web page: www.atonementfargo.org/youth/default.aspx

Follow us on our Blog: www.atonementfargoyouth.blogspot.com

Twitter: www.twitter.com/atonementfargo ; www.twitter.com/bfoster

Facebook Groups:

Atonement Youth (for kids)

Atonement Parent Connect

About Our Program

Torch (6 – 7 Grade)

Meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Nights

During 6th and 7th grade, students study the Old and New Testaments to seek out God. As we travel through and learn His story, we discover themes proving that God is the Light of the World - the TORCH leading people to His truth. It is this truth that sets our hearts on fire for Him!

Ignite (8th Grade)

Meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Nights

Once our students have learned about God and His story, it is time for Him to IGNITE their souls! During 8th grade, we focus on life application topics, and how we can radiate the light of Jesus Christ in the world. Themes during these years include: witnessing for Jesus, living as a Christian, peer pressure, relationships with friends and family, dating and responding to struggles during the high school years.

Shine (9th Grade)

Meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Nights

After three great years of learning all about the Bible and life application, it's time to delve into why we believe what we do as Christians. We study the Reformation, who Luther was and the key tenets of our faith (Baptism, Communion, Trinity and more). We explore what it means to be a Christian and the importance of a public affirmation of faith. At the end of this year, we ask the kids and challenge them to think about if they are ready to be Confirmed.

Elevate (10 – 12 Grade Senior High Ministry) **Meets at 7:50 p.m. Wednesday Nights**

This is our teaching and learning time for senior high students. As part of Elevate, we challenge students to ask questions and develop a personal relationship with Christ. In Elevate, we focus on tough issues and real situations, encouraging youth to come to their own understanding of Christianity in the world and in their lives. 9th graders are ALWAYS welcome to stick around for Elevate – and take their faith to the next level!

Program Requirements

Sermon Notes:

As part of our Confirmation program, we require church attendance. Part of growing in your relationship with Jesus includes growing and participating in your faith community. To help our youth learn about the Church, we require Sermon Notes. Sermon Notes can be picked up at the Connection Center in the ARK or Narthex. If you like, the forms are also available as a download at www.atonementfargo.org.

During 6th and 7th Grade, we require **14 sermon notes** (6 before December 31, 8 before May 9th) Sermon notes during these years are very basic, introducing youth to the parts of the service.

During 8th and 9th Grade, we require **16 sermon notes** (7 before December 31, 9 before May 9th). Sermon notes during 8th and 9th grade require students to think about the lesson and sermon and share their thoughts about what they learned.

Attendance:

We require attendance on Wednesday nights. While we understand and appreciate that families are busy, faith formation and a relationship with Jesus has a life long impact on your child. When a child is baptized, a promise is made by you – the parents – to bring the child up in the church. If your child misses more than **6** Wednesdays per year, they will not be confirmed with their class in October of the Sophomore year. Instead, they will be given the opportunity to make up missed classes and confirm at a later time.

Retreats:

We require students to attend the Fall retreat. This is a great opportunity for them to get to know their small group leader, reconnect with their group after a long summer and be immersed in God and Faith.

Confirmation Requirements

The service of Confirmation is held in October of the 10th Grade Year. Prior to being confirmed, the following requirements must be met:

- Attend Elevate each Wednesday during September and October
- Choose a Bible Verse that is meaningful to you
- Write a 2 - 3 page Faith Paper in which you answer the following questions:

What you learned in Confirmation.

Why faith is important.

Why you chose your verse.

How will you continue your relationship with Jesus?

How can you grow my faith in the coming years?

- Have a faith talk with one of the staff or pastors
- Attend the Elevate retreat (October 22 - 23, 2009)

Youth Ministry Expectations

Staff, Small Group Leaders and Volunteers:

- Provide a safe, welcoming environment for students to question, challenge, wrestle with and ultimately develop their faith in Christ.
- Live a personal life that reflects a devotion to Christ, knowing that our lifestyles are a model for students.
- Regularly and actively participate in worship at Atonement Lutheran Church.
- Nurture and develop our own faith lives through reading of scripture, prayer, meditation and attendance of events that enhance our faith and ability to reach and teach our students.

Parents:

- Be an active partner in helping your child develop their relationship with God.
- Regularly attend worship with your family.
- Maintain open communication with the Youth Ministry Staff, and address them directly with concerns, issues or suggestions.
- Contact the Youth Ministry Team if you or your student is in need of alternative programming or resources.

Students:

- Question, challenge and wrestle with and formulate a relationship with Christ.
- Attend Church on a regular basis.
- Read the Bible and Pray on a regular basis.
- Participate actively in Large Group and Small Group, asking and answering questions in an appropriate and respectful manner.
- Participate in service events.
- Respect yourself, one another, your parents, leaders and volunteers.
- Come with an open heart and mind to discover God's plan for you!

Youth Ministry Calendar

Please note: Other events (concerts, service activities, etc.) announced as planned.

FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

September

9 Orientation
16 **First night of Confirmation**
25 Hayride/Bonfire @ Hoglund Farm – 7:00 pm (6 – 8)
26 Hayride/Bonfire @ Hoglund Farm – 7:00 pm (9 – 12)

October

10 – 11 Junior High Retreat, PRBC. Depart @ 9:00 a.m.
21 **No Confirmation – NDEA/MEA**
22 – 23 Elevate Retreat – Inspiration Point. Depart @ 9:00 a.m.
24 Confirmation Brunch – 10:00 a.m.
25 Confirmation Service – 2:00 p.m.

November

11 **No Confirmation – Veterans Day**
20 Galactic Bowling @ Bowler – 7:00 pm (6 – 8)
21 Pizza and a Movie ... (9 – 12) – Meet at 6:30 p.m.

December

9 Ringing for Salvation Army – All Small Groups
16 Meatball and Sundae's Fellowship Night with Small Groups
18 Operation: Christmas (Elevate) – Meet at 6:30 p.m.
23 **No Confirmation – Christmas Break**
31 Fall SERMON NOTES DUE!

January

6 **Confirmation Resumes**
15 Roller Derby Skating Night (6 – 8)
20 **Fellowship Night**
22 – 23 Far Above Rubies

February

TBA Jr. High Youth Convention
17 **No Confirmation – Ash Wednesday**

March

5 – 6 30 Hour Famine – Jr. and Sr. High
31 **No Confirmation – Holy Week**

April

TBA Sr. High Service Event
18 9th Grade Banquet

May

9 Spring SERMON NOTES DUE!
12 "Confirmania!" Bonfire
14 "Elevate(d)" Bonfire

Ways to Get Involved

The Youth Ministry team needs you - great parent volunteers - to help us meet our goal of building a faith community where students live a life of discipleship and faith in Christ!

- Small Group Substitute: Substitute for Small Group Leaders as needed.
- Special Event Team: Help as needed in planning events, service opportunities, trips and retreats, including finding volunteers.
- Trip Leaders: Help as needed on trips and retreats.
- Small Group Leaders: Become a consistent small group leader for our youth on Wednesday nights.
- Wednesday Night Team: Help on Wednesday nights by coordinating snacks, food, transportation, etc. when needed. This is a great option if you are not able to be a Small Group Leader but want to help!
- 30 Hour Famine Team: Help plan and coordinate the 30 Hour Famine.
- Force Team: Plan and coordinate Force game booth.
- Family Advisory Team: Speak with parents to assess needs and act as a liaison between staff and parents. Keep staff up to date on students /families in need.
- Prayer Team: Pray for the Youth Ministry Program, our volunteers and our students.
- Gifts and Talents: Please record any gifts or talents you would like to use to help our team: _____

If you are interested in these opportunities, or know someone who is, contact Andrea to learn more! Thank you!



Registration Form 2009 - 2010

“Let the Torch of Jesus Christ Ignite Your Soul!”

Please complete and mail in/drop off this registration prior to Orientation Night on September 9, 2009.

NAME: _____ Date of Birth _____

Primary Address: _____

Secondary Address: _____

If you have two addresses, would you like mailings sent to both? (Please circle) Y N

Home Phone: _____ 2009/2010 Grade _____

Age: _____ Parent(s) Names _____

Family Email Address (es) _____

Would you like youth news emailed? Y N

Would you like to receive texts regarding youth news? Y N

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Donation to Confirmation Program: _____

*** In addition to registration, please complete a new Medical Release Form ***

When In Rome...

6th – 9th Grade Retreat: October 10 – 11, 2009

We'll leave Atonement at 9 a.m. Saturday and return about 2 p.m. Sunday.
Transportation is provided!

We REQUIRE all 6 – 9th grade students to attend!

The retreat begins our year of ministry, including time for small groups,
teaching, fun, and team building.

Cost is \$70.00. Please call to discuss campership possibilities.

What to Bring:

Bible, sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries, tennis shoes, clothes for warm days and a cool night,
towel and a great attitude. Want to Bring a Friend? They are ALWAYS welcome!

High Ropes Course: 8-9 graders will have the opportunity to do the High Ropes Course.
Please fill out the release form on the back of this registration. Fill it out even if you're not
sure you want to do the course. That way at least you'll have the option!

Name: _____ Male/Female (please circle)

Address: _____

Phone # _____ 2009/10 Grade in School: _____ Age: _____

Parent(s) Names: _____

Home Phone # _____ Work/cell Phone _____

I give my son/daughter permission to participate in the Atonement Confirmation Retreat:

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Down With The Old

Elevate Retreat: October 22 – 23, 2009

We'll leave Atonement at 9 a.m. Thursday and return about 2 p.m. Friday.
Transportation is provided!

We REQUIRE 10th Grade students to attend.

9th Grade students are welcome to attend both retreats!

The retreat begins our year of ministry, including time for small groups,
teaching, fun, and team building.

Cost is \$90.00. Please call to discuss campership possibilities.

What to Bring:

Bible, sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries, tennis shoes, clothes for warm days and a cool night,
towel and a great attitude. Want to bring a friend? Friends are ALWAYS welcome!

Name: _____ Male/Female (please circle)

Address: _____

Phone # _____ 2009/10 Grade in School: _____ Age: _____

Parent(s) Names: _____

Home Phone # _____ Work/cell Phone _____

I give my son/daughter permission to participate in the Atonement Confirmation Retreat:

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

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Atonement Lutheran Church Youth Commitment Covenant

Because I want my experience as a Youth Member to be full of joy, growth and fellowship, I commit to the following:

1. I commit to learning, questioning, growing and developing my relationship with God.
2. I will read my Bible and Pray.
3. I will make every attempt to attend worship.
4. I will make wise choices while participating in any Atonement trip or event. This includes abstaining from the use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco.
5. I will respect myself and other students, the leaders, volunteers and my parents.
6. I will keep confidentiality within my Small Group. I will not talk with others about issues that are meant to be kept within my group.
7. I will reach out to all youth and work to build community within the Youth Group.
8. I understand that the staff and volunteers are here for me at times of crisis and I will seek them out if needed.
9. I ask to be held accountable by the staff, volunteers, my parents and my peers for my commitment to Atonement Youth Ministry.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Atonement Lutheran Church Parent Commitment Statement

- I am committed to being actively involved in my child's growing faith life, including attending worship and helping my student to participate in worship.
- I am committed to be in conversation with the Youth Ministry Team about how they can assist me as a parent and my family.
- I am committed to be in open communication with the Youth Ministry Team and address them directly with any issues, concerns or suggestions I may have.
- I am committed to supporting the Youth Ministry Team in upholding the rules they have set to keep my child safe and encourage a positive learning environment. I agree to honor those rules and hold my student accountable if issues arise.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
4601 South University Drive
Fargo, ND 58104

2008-2009 School Year & Summer Information

**YOUTH AND CHILD'S MEDICAL INFORMATION
FORM FOR MINOR PARTICIPANTS**

Minor Participant _____

Date of Birth (day) _____ (month) _____ (year) _____ Grade in school _____

Address _____

Father: _____ Mother: _____

Telephone- Home: _____ Telephone-Home: _____

Work _____ Work _____

Cell: _____ Cell: _____

If either parent/guardian is not available, in case of emergency, contact:

Name _____

Telephone: Home _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Relationship to Minor Participant _____

Family Physician:

Name _____

Telephone _____

Address _____

Health Insurance:

Company Name _____

Policy No. _____

Address _____

Date of last Tetanus shot: _____

Please note any medical problems or special needs: _____

Taking any medications? If yes, list: _____

List allergies: Hay fever _____ Insect Bites/bee stings _____ Peanuts _____ Other _____

Allergies to drugs: _____

Any Food Allergies? _____

Consent to treatment of Minor Participant

The undersigned parent or legal guardian of the minor participant consents to any x-ray, anesthetic, medical, surgical, or dental diagnosis or treatment that may be deemed necessary for my minor child. I understand that all efforts will be made to contact me prior to treatment. In the event I cannot be reached in an emergency, I give permission to the activity leader to make the decisions necessary for treatment. Should there be no activity leader available, I give permission to the attending physician to treat my minor child.

Waiver of Rights

In consideration of the minor participant's opportunity to participate in youth and children's events, the undersigned parent or legal guardian hereby knowingly, freely, and voluntarily waives any claims by the undersigned and the minor participant for negligence against Atonement Lutheran Church and its agents, arising as a result of such participation, provided that such claims are hereby waived only to the extent that the amount of any such claim exceeds the amount of insurance available to Atonement Lutheran Church and its agents to pay such claim.

Date _____

Parent or Legal Guardian of Minor Participant

