



# Youth

*community*  
**ministry**  
*joy*



Growing young Christian leaders who  
*passionately* live out their faith,  
*lovingly* share the good news, and  
*selflessly* make a significant difference  
in the lives of others.



*Lutheran Church*   
**OUR SAVIOURS**

# Our Saviour's Lutheran Church—Youth Ministries

## Youth Ministries:

*Growing young Christian leaders who passionately live out their faith, lovingly share the good news, and selflessly make a significant difference in the lives of others.*

## Knowing Jesus And Making Jesus Known.

*Lutheran Church*  
**OUR SAVIOURS**

815 S. Washington St.  
Naperville, IL 60540  
(630) 355-2522

*OUR SAVIOUR'S*  
**Celebration**  
COMMUNITY LIFE CENTER

919 S. Washington St.  
Naperville, IL 60540  
(630) 355-2522

[www.oursaviours.com](http://www.oursaviours.com)  
[www.oslc youthministries.com](http://www.oslc youthministries.com)

Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.

~ Psalm 119:105

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**OSLC Ignition!**

*Join our Senior High Group*



**Youth Ministries - Our  
Saviour's Lutheran Church**



**OSLC Youth Ministries**

@OSLCyouth



**Youth Blog**

[oslc youthministries.com](http://oslc youthministries.com)

*Our mission is to include everyone in the spirit of discipleship at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. If your child has a disability please do not hesitate to register for Sure or Ignition. We collaborate with families to meet the needs of all children and encourage everyone to be active in the life of our community.*





## Youth Ministry Team



**Bobbi Jo Cyr**

*Director of Youth Ministries*

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Bobbi was born in Aurora but having been raised in a Navy family she moved around quite a bit. Naperville is her 30th address! She loves to travel and see the world. Bobbi received her Bachelor's in Business Marketing in May of 2003 from California Lutheran University. During her time there she was very active in campus ministries and student government. She loved planning new and exciting events for the campus and interacting with fellow residents. In September of 2003, she left for Japan as a missionary through the ELCA Global Missions program. While learning Japanese, she taught English to 7-12 grades. After her time with the ELCA was complete she felt her calling in Japan was not finished and returned to teach at a different school until 2013. Little did she know that when she left for Japan she'd be there for nine years! Bobbi is very excited to be on board as the Director of Youth Ministries at Our Saviour's. She is looking forward to walking with the students in their faith!



**Sarah Swindall**

*Assistant Youth Director*

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Sarah is a Naperville native and has been a member of Our Saviour's for many years. She was a member of Eagle's Wings and the leadership team all through high school as well as a Children's Ministries summer intern for 2 years. She attended Augustana College where she continued to develop her leadership skills as a Community Advisor and a student organization president. She graduated with a degree in English Literature and Creative Writing in 2012 and then went to Slovakia where she worked with our partners in Martin at the Center for Christian Education. She taught conversational English and various course programs to students ranging from 5<sup>th</sup> grade all the way to college. She believes that all of these experiences have had a huge impact on the formation of her faith and have prepared her for the position of Assistant Youth Director. She is so excited to be coming back to her home church and, once again, be a part of the youth ministry community that has been such a huge part of her life.

## Communication

Youth Ministries has a central location where they communicate information about each of their ministries at: [oslc youthministries.com](http://oslc youthministries.com). You can find many things on the site for example: volunteer opportunities, registration for the program year and for different trips or events, announcements about upcoming events, and any changes in Surge or Ignition meeting times.

Please subscribe to the youth page so that you can be notified when new content is published. You can subscribe by going to the website <http://www.oslc youthministries.com> and clicking on the subscribe button. Ignition also has a group on Facebook: **OSLC Ignition!**

Information will be communicated in monthly connections, weekly connections, and e-connections.



# **SURGE** JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRIES

## Junior High School

The Junior High Ministry at Our Saviour's is focused on educating our youth to learn what it means to belong to a community of faith. Through a variety of lessons and weekly activities - from eating and praying together, to playing games with each other - we explore the foundations and expressions of our relationship with God and one another. Students not only grow in their faith through studying the Bible and the Catechism, but they also learn to find unique expressions of faith through an assortment of ministry opportunities including different music and drama groups. This journey of spiritual growth brings the students to their Confirmation at the end of their eighth grade year.

### Schedule

**When:** Sunday afternoons from 12:00 -1:30 pm

**Where:** Celebration! Campus

This time has proven to be most advantageous for this age group to retain information and stay engaged. Both Large Group and Small Group times are intentionally more brief so as to work within the realistic attention spans of our kids, and to foster a spirit of longing for church, instead of merely seek to "get through" Church.

#### 11:30-12:00 Open Gym

*This time of fellowship is offered, not required, to exert some energy and catch up with friends.*

#### 12:00-12:40 Opening Large Group

*We begin with prayer, announcements and lunch — so come hungry, not only for food but to also to be filled with the Spirit. Then we transition into our Introduction to the day's discussion through media, activity, or illustration before delving into small group time.*

#### 12:40-1:20 Small Group Discussion

*During this time students dive deeper into the day's discussion and close with prayer. Each small group is lead by an adult mentor and a high school student mentor.*

#### 1:20-1:30 Closing Large Group

*Students gather back in the gym to review the day's topic and close in prayer.*

### Curriculum

Surge is a three-year Confirmation program. Each year's material is a different "chunk" of Luther's Small Catechism, the piece of writing that we Lutherans the base of Confirmation. The study of the Catechism has been spread out over three years to make it more accessible and retainable for our students. We use life application, activities, and most of all, small group dialogue to dive into the topics of each week.

#### 2016-17: The Old Testament and the Sacraments

*Students will cover different stories throughout the old testament making them real to this current time. Students will also learn what the Sacraments, Baptism and Communion, not only mean to the church but also to themselves.*

#### 2017-18: The 10 Commandments and the Apostle's Creed

*Students dive into the Ten Commandments and the Apostles Creed, by taking it apart, looking at it in smaller sections helping them to relate it to their lives.*

#### 2018-19: The New Testament and the Lord's Prayer

*Students will cover different stories throughout the new testament making them real to this current time. Students will also break apart the Lord's Prayer helping them relate it to their lives.*





## Surge Expectations

In order to complete the confirmation program at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, each student needs to meet the expectations of *each* program year. If, for whatever reason, a certain expectation is not met, the student and parent are expected to speak with us regarding make up material.

### Attendance

Students need to attend Surge in order to benefit from the opportunities provided. Attendance is necessary in order to be confirmed.

If a student is unable to come on a Sunday afternoon we offer Wednesday night make-ups at the main campus from 5:00-5:45 pm. Either Sunday or Wednesday attendance is required.

If neither of the two days can be attended an absence will be incurred. **Up to six absences are allowed in one school year.** If more than six absences are incurred, steps will be taken with the pastors and youth leaders to make-up missed material.

Special cases are taken into consideration. Please contact the youth leaders.

### Service

Students are expected to fulfill three different service opportunities during the ministry year (September – May).

Service opportunities may include any of the following and are highlighted throughout this catalog:

Participating in Praise Express, Praise Bells, or Hearts in Puppetry.

Assisting in worship as a greeter, usher, acolyte, communion server, bible reader, or helping with tech support.

Volunteering at events like the Youth Auction, Bud Suds and Grub, Crop Walk, Feed My Starving Children and VBS.

Or community service like helping set-up for PADS, raking leaves for elderly or shoveling snow.

There are many opportunities at church, not limited to examples above; however, students are also encouraged to participate in other service opportunities outside of church.

### Sermon Notes

Students are expected to complete 15 sermon notes by the end of May.

Worship response forms to be used for the sermon notes are available near the entrances of the Sanctuary at both campuses.

Completed forms are to be placed in the appropriate bin labeled 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

A tally count of all of the forms completed for the Ministry year will be made available on the blog ([www.oslc youthministries.com](http://www.oslc youthministries.com)) once a month.

We welcome responses from other religious services or spiritual events as well, as long as there is a clear and genuine effort to reflect one's experience of God in the moment.



Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and truth.

~ 1 John 3:18

# Confirmation

## 8th grade

### Dates to Remember

January 15	Student-Parent Meeting
February 3-4	Confirmation Retreat
April 9	Faith Stories Due
April 19 & 22	Faith Interviews ( <i>sign up for times</i> )
May 6	Confirmation Rehearsal
May 7	Confirmation

### Student—Parent Meeting

Each year before confirmation we have a meeting in order to go over important information about attire, locations and times, faith interviews, and details about the rehearsal dinner and confirmation ceremony. We expect both the student and a parent to attend this meeting because we will cover necessary guidelines for the last part of the confirmation journey.

### Bonus Curriculum

During the second semester of the eighth grade year we provide a bonus curriculum for the students to go through as a class, beginning after the student-parent meeting. The eighth grade class will be meeting as a group in the gym each week during small group time. This is a great time for the class to bond as we mix up their groups, helping them to get to know each other. It is also a great time to reinforce what they have already learned throughout their three years in confirmation. It is an expectation that all confirmands will attend every Sunday during this important time before confirmation.

### Faith Stories

A part of the confirmation process at Our Saviour's includes the writing of one's *Faith Story*. This is an expression of faith... and just as one's experience of God differs, so too will one's expression of God differ. There is no required format, but there are minimal guidelines. This is intentional, so as to challenge the student to consider the most natural expression of *their* faith. This is not a school project; this is an opportunity to express their faith and what it means to them.

Faith Stories may take many shapes, including, but not limited to: *a written essay, a poem with an explanation or interpretation, a piece of art, sculpture, photography, painting, drawing, collage, or a scrap book with explanation or interpretation, a song or video, or even a project like a service idea with something written about the plan and experience.*

### Faith Interviews

Faith interviews are the times when the Youth Team, Pastors and Mentors meet one on one with the confirmands to go over their Faith Stories. This is a very important part of the confirmation process and is required for students to be confirmed. This is a really meaningful time, as we do not get many opportunities to speak one-on-one with your students about their faith and what it means to them to be confirmed.

### Confirmation Retreat

Attendance at the Confirmation Retreat in Lake Geneva is mandatory for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders who are wishing to be confirmed. The retreat will not only give the students a chance to build relationships within their community and give them a chance to begin to form their ideas for their faith stories, but it will also help each student to better understand what will be happening when they get confirmed.



I believe in God  
the Father Almighty  
Creator of Heaven and  
Earth...





# Confirmation thoughts

## What is Confirmation?

*Pastor Brian Wise*

According to the ELCA, They say “Confirmation ministry is a pastoral and education ministry of the church which helps the baptized person through Word and Sacrament to identify more deeply with the Christian community and participate more fully in it’s mission.” But really what does that mean? On the day you were baptized some promises were made. Parent’s and Sponsor’s promised to bring you to Church, teach you about Communion, teach you the Ten Commandments and the Creeds, and they also promised to raise you up to know God’s love.

Confirmation is more than just a class and it’s more than just a three year program. It’s a ministry that helps you to find the language to share your faith, to understand what it means to be Lutheran, and helps you to see all the ways that God is active in your life. It’s a time to take a closer look at the Bible, baptism, communion, and the teachings of Martin Luther. (He was a really cool guy) The goal is that at the end of all of these classes you will stand before the church, as an adult, and share your faith publicly. Confirmation is a springboard to greater learning and growing in life’s faith journey. It’s a big step...but it isn’t a graduation. Throughout our lives we continue to affirm these promises that were made at our baptism, and we continue to study and learn about God’s love, even after we’ve been confirmed.



## What does Confirmation mean?



*To me, confirmation means many things. It is a big step in a Christian’s life. It makes one an adult in the church. But the reason confirmation is truly important to me is because it affirms my belief in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. As a baby, God adopted me and promised to be with me forever. My parents and sponsors promised to bring me to church and teach me about the Christian belief. The congregation aslo promised to help encourage and teach me, as well. In confirmation, I agree to all these promises. This affirmation of baptism is about my promise to God and myself that I will have faith in Him throughout life.*

*~ Alexa Betjemann*

## What is Confirmation?

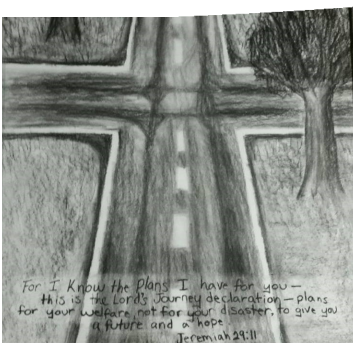


*My Christian journey is a very important and significant part of my life that I would like to nurture consistently throughout my adulthood and Confirmation will certainly help me to do that. To me, Confirmation is not just a ceremony that completes the promise my parents made to me when I was baptized; it is another promise that I am hereby making to myself: I, as an individual, will try as hard as I can to become a humble servant of God. I will do His will and help His people in any way I can.*

*~ Stephanie Patterson*

For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it.

*~ Ephesians 2:8*





## Senior High School

High School ministries at Our Saviour's ignites our students' faith into action. At Sunday night hang outs, we seek to challenge what the students know, what they believe, and what they question. The curriculum is developed by our Leadership Team, a group of 10-15 students who inform the adult leaders on issues relevant to their lives. Ignition is a time of application and practice, through numerous mission, musical, drama, and service opportunities. From our Sunday night small groups to our international destinations, we always seek to challenge ourselves to grow closer to God and one another, as we explore young adulthood as people of God.

### Schedule

**When:** Sunday Evenings from 6:00-8:00 pm

**Where:** Celebration! Campus

#### 6:00-6:30 Fellowship and Food

*This is a great time for students to reconnect after a long week while eating a light meal and hanging out together in the gym or the youth room.*

#### 6:30-6:45 Large Group

*Large group is designed to open the day's discussion through media, an activity, or illustration before delving into small group time.*

#### 6:45-7:45 Small Group Discussion

*During this time students dive deeper into the day's discussion. Each small group has about ten students and is lead by two adult mentors.*

#### 7:45-8:00 Prayer and Reflection

*An ongoing tradition has been to close in prayer by candlelight in the gym after small group. This is a great time to reflect on what the students have learned and to come together in community in prayer.*

### Curriculum

The topics and themes addressed throughout the year are planned and developed by a Leadership Team made up of about 10-15 of our most involved students, and we are in constant pursuit of new ways to challenge ourselves to reach out and explore what it really looks like to live out our faith in the lives we lead. Some topics in the past have included things from eschatology, relationships, and vocations to drugs and alcohol.

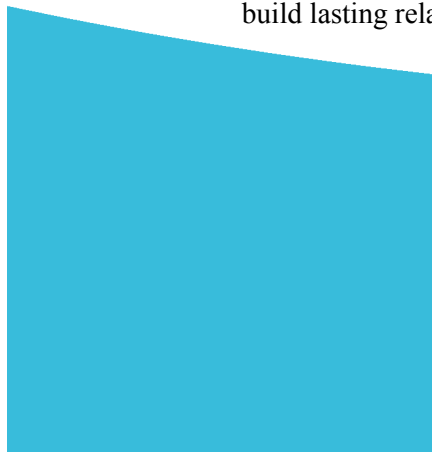
### Baccalaureate

Baccalaureate is a wonderful tradition where seniors in high school are honored and recognized for their achievements and value at church. During the 10:30 worship service, blankets for the graduates are blessed by the pastors and given to the seniors by their parents. After the service the seniors are served lunch followed by a program. This day helps bring together many memories for the graduating seniors and allows parents, friends, and staff to say how important these students were to the life of Our Saviour's.

**When:** May 21, 2017

### Service, Events, Trips, Missions and MORE!

There are many opportunities for students to get involved through events at the local bowling alley, missions trips both locally, and internationally, to choir trips and ski trips! All are wonderful opportunities to grow in faith and build lasting relationships with friends from all over!





### What makes the Youth Program special?



*The Youth Program at church is so incredible because it keeps youth involved in the church once they start junior high and high school. It provides opportunities for people with different interests to spend time together singing, going on trips, and growing in their faith. Through Surge, Ignition, Puppets, Choir and many other programs, you are accepted by everyone and have the chance to connect with other youth and create long lasting relationships. I've met some of my closest friends through these programs over the years, and I can only thank OSLC for bringing us together.*

~ Rachel Damge

### Why do you like coming?

*The reason why I kept coming to our Youth Programs is simply because church is my favorite place to be. I am able to be myself while being surrounded by my favorite people who support and love each other. This place is infectious - you have a bad week, and all you can think about is going to choir on Wednesday, church on Sunday morning, or Ignition Sunday night. This place is a home-away-from-home and there is nothing that will ever replace it. I can't be more thankful for having this community in my life.*

~ Emily Bauer



### How has the Youth Program impacted you?

*The Youth Program has impacted my life more than I ever imagined. It has given me my closest friends, the opportunity to travel, and brought me closer to God than I ever thought possible. I love coming to church because I'm with people who support and care for me. They give me strength and courage to take on a full week without fear. Our youth program is unique because of the people it's made up of. Everyone involved is dynamic and open hearted. It's really an amazing feeling to possess. My life without the youth program would be nowhere near as amazing as it is today. I don't know what I would do without my best friends, or my relationship with God.*

~ Zack Pradel



Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

~ 1 Timothy 4:12

## Events

### Haiti Missions Trip

#### Why Haiti

In 2011, we took our high school group to Haiti for the first time. We did not go, we do not go, and we will not go because the Haitians need our help. This has been a very important detail to emphasize from the beginning of this program as there are plenty of strong and resourceful Haitian people equipped to rebuild and move forward within their country. Our task, on the other hand, is to build relationships. Though we have moved many bricks and poured many buckets of concrete over the years, our time there has had less to do with the walls being built and much more to do with the relationships. If one of our students from Our Saviour's comes home with a joyfully teary-eyed story about a child and a name and a face that they've fallen in love with, then our trip was worth the investment. If one of our students comes home and, months later, sees a newspaper article about the "poor people" in Haiti and is moved to wonder "But, what about the hope I saw? This is not the Haiti I know..." then our trip was a success. If one of our brothers or sisters comes home and is motivated to live out a change in the world in their career or vocation, then our work was worth all the while. We go to Haiti to behold God and love in a new context, and to see how it shapes our lives in the decisions we make ahead.

Information on this year's Haiti trip will be available early fall. Watch for sign-ups and attend the information meetings.

**When: March 24-30, 2017**

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Who shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "**Here am I, Send me!**"

~ Isaiah 6:8



#### What we do in Haiti

Our work is divided into two general areas: Construction and Community.

In the mornings, we will mostly clean rubble and debris. Depending on how much money is raised by the congregation for the construction, we will be doing some building in the area as well.

In the afternoons, we focus on community outreach. Most of this will take place at the church and/or orphanages. We spend time doing crafts, games, songs and sharing in fellowship with the kids.

#### How we fund the trip

This trip, unlike others, is funded by sponsorship. Not having to pay for the trip with their own money creates a certain level of responsibility that the students have toward the community that supports them. This is similar to what takes place during a fundraiser; students are expected to contribute to the fundraiser by washing cars, or soliciting donations. However, in a fundraiser, the end goal is funds. With this ministry model, students will work to foster a supporting relationship with a family in the congregation by attaining sponsors to offset the cost.





## Haiti

### Testimonies



*When we were first driving through Haiti, I was speechless. Garbage lined the streets and filled up open fields. Wild pigs and dogs were running around everywhere. All I wanted to do was sit and cry because I felt so bad for the conditions they were living in. Luckily one of the chaperones*

*with us saw how shocked I was and told me to look at it differently. She told me to watch how happy the Haitians are with what little they do have. She told me to watch and learn from their hope and faith, and to let it change me. I'm so glad she gave me this advice because I took in the week with a completely different attitude filled with positive thoughts.*

*The church of Mariani welcomed us like they had known us all for years. They let us sit in the front during the church service while others had to sit outside the tent due to lack of seats. All the kids greeted us with big smiles and welcoming hugs. I don't think I have ever given so many piggy back rides in one week. While we were working on the church, people from the neighborhood would come to watch, and many would step in and help us. We had so much fun while working that I can't even call it work. Getting to spend time with the kids from the community at the end of each day was a very eye opening experience as well. I learned that you don't need language to have a relationship with someone. I didn't exchange a single word with some of the people I met, but they impacted me in such a great way, I know I will never forget them.*

*When I got home, the first thing everyone asked me was, "Did you help the Haitians?" But what they didn't understand was that I did nothing to help the Haitians make their current situation better because they didn't need it. The life they live is simple and beautiful, and it makes me sad that people think they need to change that. They helped me see life in a whole new way. The faith they have in God and in each other is all they need and I am so glad I got to experience their faith. I think people have the wrong mentality of what we go to Haiti to do. We don't go to "fix" their country or to pity their situation. We go to learn from these people who are kind and loving to complete strangers. We go to build relationships and be taught what it truly means to be a Christian. The Haitians put their faith before anything and I really learned from that. We didn't need a language to worship the same God or to even talk to each other because our love for each other is bigger than words.*

~ Lindsay Wons



*I am a strong believer of the saying, "actions speak louder than words." I can't describe how true this is, especially when I'm in Haiti. One of the most different concepts to grasp when I'm in Haiti is that I can't communicate with the children because we speak a different language.*

*The funny thing is, it doesn't even matter. We all speak one language when we're together - love. The beautiful children of Haiti have so much love in their hearts it's contagious. The minute I see these children, I'm just instantly filled with joy. The best thing about the children is that they don't care if I'm different or if I can't talk to them. They still run up to me and jump into my arms. They're so trusting of everyone and all they want is love (and for me to give them piggy-back rides). Nothing makes me happier than being with the people of Haiti. Never have I met people with so much love, joy, and happiness in their heart! ~ Stephanie Robinson*

*Haiti has done nothing short of changing my life every time I have been. I believe that the people of Haiti have taught me something I would have never found anywhere else. They taught me how to love and praise the Lord no matter what the circumstances may be. The Haitians I have met have next to nothing, but they are the happiest people alive. They find joy in all the things we take for granted, and by seeing that, I truly realized how blessed I am to live where I do. Going into Haiti I thought I was going to be the one changing people's lives, but I was wrong. The Haitians I met have changed me and made me a better person, and for that I will be forever thankful. It is hard to put into words this experience, but I know God would want me to tell you to be thankful for all you have and be quick to love and slow to anger.*

*Haiti means the world to me and I would do anything for my brothers and sisters there.  
~ Meredith Siambekos*





## Events

### Back-to-School BBQ

The Back-to-School BBQ happens at the end of August as junior high and high school students are getting ready to go back to school. It's a great way to kick-off the new school year, reconnect with the church community and welcome the new 5th and 9th graders into our groups. Students and mentors look forward to this event every year!

**When: August 21, 2016**

### Workcamp

Workcamps are week long mission trips where the junior and senior high youth will work hard repairing homes for people in need, while experiencing the amazing power of community to accomplish God's work. We give a much-needed lift to people in the community that are still working hard to take care of themselves. Through projects that range from painting to building porches or wheel chair ramps, you'll be a real blessing to people in need. Workcamp mission trips take place every other summer at a new and exciting location every time!

**When: July 30– August 5, 2017 (plus travel dates)**

**Where: Trenton, New Jersey**

*Workcamp is so hard to describe. In many ways it is difficult and exhausting and you can't believe how hot and tired you are. In other ways, it fills your spirit in a way other things cannot, awakening something in you. I truly believe that as much as you give to your resident, you take away even more in lessons that you learn or faith that you renew. If I had to pick one word to sum up this trip it would be joy. It is so simple to me, but that's what I felt the whole week. I felt filled, I felt happy, I felt useful, I felt that God was using me; I simply felt joyful. You should go to work camp because you will not come back as the same person who left for camp. You will learn things about yourself, becoming a better participant and also a better servant to God. You will grow unbelievably close with your crew and in turn with God. You will see a side of you that you didn't know you had. And, it can't hurt that it's loads of fun, too!! ~ Shannon Mevis*



### 6th and 7th grade Retreat

The retreat this year will be held at Timber-Lee camp in Wisconsin. The focus of the retreat is student and leader bonding together through team building, dynamic worship, great activities, and most importantly, Jesus. The weekend will include time to join together to set goals, make commitments, pray together, and focus your year on God.

**When: October 7-9, 2016**

### Sleep Out Saturday

Sleep Out Saturday is an event sponsored by Bridge Communities designed to raise funds and awareness of homelessness in DuPage County. Bridge Communities represent many people who live within our communities by helping them get back on their feet. High School students will spend the night outside in boxes at Celebration along with over 1,500 other students. We are not only raising awareness for homelessness and money to help the families in the Bridge Communities Transitional Living Program, but we are also going for the homeless experience ourselves. We will experience what it's like to be cold, hungry, and tired and then have to wake up with little to eat and find work. All you need is a sleeping bag, warm clothes, and a box!

**When: November 5, 2016**





## Events

*The experience I had while attending the New Orleans Youth Gathering was nothing short of amazing. I was able to take so much away from the trip. Not only did I grow in my faith, but I also grew in my relationships with my church family. The large gatherings in the Superdome were a blast! It was astounding how an event so massive with literally thousands of people could still be so inspiring and faithful while keeping everyone involved and entertained. To this day I still remember the power of some of the speakers' words. We were also able to bring our faith out into the community through volunteer work, which involved painting a school that had been damaged during Hurricane Katrina. It reminded me of one of the main purposes of Christianity-to spread the love of God, not only through spoken word but through actions as well. Overall I would highly recommend attending the Youth Gathering to anyone who loves having a great time with great people! Those that organize the Youth Gathering do an amazing job of reminding youth how fun and exciting Christianity can truly be. 2018 Houston-don't miss out!*

~ Rachel Harvey

### ELCA National Youth Gathering

The ELCA National Youth Gathering is the largest event for high school-aged youth in the world. Over the course of the five day event, students will grow in their faith not only through worshipping with over 30,000 youth led by prominent leaders and musicians, but also through huge community outreach projects. Youth will also have the opportunity to get-to-know each other through awesome fellowship in sports and other exciting activities. This year we are called to Detroit to not only grow in our faith but to also revitalize a community that has long needed the help of it's neighbors.

**Location: Houston, TX**

**When: Summer 2018**

For more information visit:

<http://www.elca.org/youthgathering>

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

~ Luke 18:16

### Youth Quake

Youth Quake is a unique event for junior high school students. Youth from all around have the opportunity to gather and worship in large group environment. With high energy music and speakers, Youth Quake is an event that students will remember for a lifetime. And to help dive deeper into their faith, there will be special workshops and devotion times led throughout the day. This event happens once every three years so that each student will have the opportunity to attend once!

**Location: Chicago, IL**

**When: March 2017**

### Ski Trip

Our Junior High and High School Ski Trip is a big hit every year. Taking place at Chestnut Mountain Ski Resort in Galena, IL students have a chance to ski or snowboard while having fun and building relationships. The trip is one night, leaving Friday and returning Saturday after a full day of skiing. Don't miss out on this opportunity, it's a blast!

**When: January 27-28, 2017**

*It's so great to know that anyone who will be there to help you recover from a major wipe-out while skiing will also be there help you with any emotional struggles you encounter throughout the course of the year. The trip has such an amazing faith component because while looking at the majestic hills you have this sensation that God created that for us. The trip is a great combination of laughter, friendship and faith and should not be missed by anyone.*

~ Tracy Gutzke and Molly Mevis



## Music & Fine Arts

### Eagle's Wings High School Choir

This high school choir offers students of all singing abilities to come together on a weekly basis to experience fellowship while growing in their faith through music. Eagle's Wings is for students in grades 9-12. It meets on Wednesday nights at Our Saviour's Campus during the school year at 7:00 pm and serves in the 10:30 am worship service, culminating in a ministry tour in June!

### Ministry Tour

The Eagle's Wings High School Choir and the Hearts in Puppetry Team take their ministry out every summer for a week long Ministry Tour. Past trips have included travels to Colorado, New York, Hilton Head-SC, Minnesota, Nashville-TN, Boston-MA, North Carolina, California, Texas, Slovakia, and Canada. This past summer, 51 members of the choir and puppet ministry spent 10 days in Slovakia. A typical Ministry Tour includes concerts at churches, prisons, youth centers, assisted living centers, and much more. The worship concert includes a mix of traditional sacred, gospel, spirituals, and contemporary songs with the purpose of witnessing, and giving praise and thanks to our Lord and Savior.

**When: June 2017**

**Where: TBD**

### Sounds Like Love Festival

Sounds Like Love is the first trip of the year for Eagle's Wings. Sponsored by Youth Encounters, this event is held at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi, MN and includes about 500 students from all over the Midwest. This is an incredible weekend full of relationship building for all involved in the weekend with great singing and choreography experiences with John Jacobsen and the guest artists. During the weekend, students rehearse, have small group Bible study, stay in host homes, and present two phenomenal worship concerts at the close of the weekend. Sign-ups will happen in September.

**When: November 11-13, 2016**



*Being a part of Eagle's Wings at Our Saviour's is a great privilege that I have, and one of the perks of being in this awesome group is going on Ministry Tour every summer. What we do on this trip is focus on one specific state (sometimes a country!) to try and spread the word of God through song and music in that area. Yes, the main idea of this trip is to sing, but so many beautiful things are created from these days spent together. We bond closer to each other, create a stronger faith, grow as musicians and disciples for God, and overall just have crazy fun together seeing the wonderful places we sight-see and travel to. Music is a gift that a lot of people overlook, but it is powerful. It brings happiness, hope, and faith to those who listen to our music. It's beautiful to see from our performances how touched they are from our sound. Spiritually, I have grown from these trips around the country and world, and along these journeys I just happened to be lucky enough to experience it with my favorite people, doing my favorite thing, worshiping my favorite savior.*

*~Emily Bauer*



Sing praises to the Lord,  
for he has done glorious-  
ly; let this be made  
known in all the earth.

*~ Isaiah 12:5*





## Music & Fine Arts

### Ministry Tour: Slovakia

In June of 1999, Eagle's Wings made its first Ministry Tour trip to Slovakia in Eastern Europe as part of the mission partnership begun by Our Saviour's and the Center for Christian Education in Martin, Slovakia and Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Nitra, Slovakia. Since then, Eagle's Wings has gone to Slovakia every four years, partnering with our friends. During that time, the Center for Christian Education has opened an elementary school, a pre-school and we were part of the recruiting to open a High School this fall, which is happening! The first High School class in Martin will have 51 students! We continue to be part of their vision of growth and will be offering new opportunities for student exchanges/host families; specialized opportunities to teach English, sports and music at the High School as well as hopefully returning in the summer of 2020. Watch for visits from our friends from Slovakia and ways that we can stay involved in this exciting ministry.

**When: June 2020**



*Until our trip to Slovakia, my faith was very unclear to me. I knew it existed, but it definitely was not strong. Going into our trip to Slovakia, I was ready for a vacation rather than an opportunity to expand my faith and share the love of Christ. However, it wasn't too long before my eyes were opened to the true purpose of our trip. I quickly began noticing Christ in the simplest of details-aspects that I would have overlooked if it were not for our tour to Slovakia. One day we visited Auschwitz. Though I saw many things that I can only wish to forget, I also noticed a large cross with the sun shining on it as we were exiting the camp. Again, in the most gruesome of places, I was reminded of Christ. If I took one thing from Slovakia, it's that Christ's love is surrounding us at all times. Our trip to Slovakia undoubtedly clarified my understanding of my faith and the power of Christ.*

~ Sydney Heckes



### Hearts in Puppetry

Hearts in Puppetry is a fun and creative way for high school students to share God's word through the ministry of puppets. The only thing you need to be able to do before you join puppets is be silly and laugh. Come try out puppets, no commitment necessary. Give some time to God and watch it come back to you ten fold!

### Percussion Ensemble

The Percussion Ensemble is a group that musically leads Sunday worship monthly as well as plays for special occasions such as Christmas, Easter, and other concerts. We play a wide variety of percussion instruments from classical percussion to world drumming. Some instruments include xylophones, glockenspiels, metallophones, tambourines, frame drums, African hand drums and many more. This ensemble gives life and rhythm to the music program at Out Saviour's. Any middle school and high school youth may join. No musical experience is required, just a willingness to try new things!



Shout to the Lord, all the earth; break out in praise and sing for joy!

~ Psalm 98:4



## Music & Fine Arts

### Praise Express

The Praise Express Choir is open to all junior high school students. The ensemble meets weekly during the school year and serves at one church service monthly. The choir provides a unique and rewarding opportunity for students to grow in their faith while growing relationships with peers. All are welcomed to praise God with the choir. Praise Express sings once a month at the 10:30 service.



*Joining all of the music programs our church has to offer is one of the best decisions I've ever made in my life. At first I was very shy, and hesitant to join anything. Finally coming around and joining Praise Express and Praise Bells a few years ago is something I never regret. I wasn't ever the most talented musician, and I was afraid I might not fit in. That was completely wrong. I really became part of a family through all of the groups I joined. It didn't matter that I didn't have the perfect voice or the perfect music reading skills. I was in a family, and the relationships I built there are ones I've never lost. I've met my best friends through Praise Bells and Praise Express and I'm so grateful for that. I couldn't imagine a better music program that our church could provide. Everyone should try and take advantage of all the opportunities we have to participate in at church. Moving on and being in Eagle's Wings has been one of the most exciting parts of my life. Music now means the world to me and I couldn't imagine life without the friends I've been blessed to meet!*

~ Stephanie Robinson

### Praise Percussion

Praise Percussion is a group of enthusiastic youth who play percussion instruments and handbells in Sunday worship once a month. Any middle school or high school student may join this performance group. Note-reading experience is helpful, but not necessary! There are a unique set of percussion instruments that allow for every player a different experience. The music we play ranges from praise songs to more classical literature. This ensemble really shines once a month at 10:30 services!

### Fine Arts Camp

The Fine Arts Camp is a week long summer camp where students are able to engage in small group classes of several fine arts. The classes are taught by professionals in their field and are familiar faces of the Our Saviour's Arts Ministry Team. Classes provide hands on opportunities to create, learn, and grow while remaining centered in Christ and focused on nurturing students' talents and interests to praise and glorify the Lord.



### Music Theater Camp

It is a week long summer camp for junior high students to come together to work on a musical from start to finish. This is an excellent opportunity for incoming 6th graders to meet and build relationships with other Jr. High students. High school and college students are recruited to serve as "counselors." The program is run by highly gifted teachers and adult role models for this age group.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

~ 1Peter 4:10





## Service Opportunities

### Worship

Volunteering during worship is a great way to serve your community. There are several different ways that you can be involved:

#### Ushers

Ushers meet and distribute worship bulletins as they enter the sanctuary for worship, collect and present the offering and assist with communion.

#### Greeters

Greeters are the first smiling faces that our families see as they enter the building. The role of a greeter is to smile and greet each person and provide any directions that they may need.

#### Acolytes

Acolytes serve at Christmas, Easter and other special services throughout the year by carrying the processional cross and candles during the services. Acolytes also may be called upon to assist the pastors in various roles during the services.

#### Communion Servers

Communion servers are used to distribute communion to the families at each service. Training will be provided to those interested in serving.

#### Tech Team

The Tech Team is a great way to get involved if you love to work with technology. There are many opportunities on a weekly basis and at special events to work the sound board, create videos, or even help with set up on the stage. If you love to be creative then this is the team to be involved in.

### Vacation Bible School (VBS)

If you have a passion to work with children, sing, dance, and love high energy, then VBS is perfect for you! Every summer, the children's ministry is in need of enthusiastic and responsible leaders to volunteer for Vacation Bible School. The time commitment is about 3 hours from 8:50 am until noon Monday through Friday.

### Children's Ministry

You can make a difference in the life of a child! Assistant Shepherds give a child a constant connection to their faith community. They build relationships and nurture friendships. Shepherds and Teachers are confirmed high school students who love Jesus and love kids! Lessons, materials, and training are provided. This is where you can live out your life of faith and be the disciple God created you to be.

If you prefer to help with the younger kids, maybe the nursery is for you. We encourage either junior or senior high youth to help out in the nursery on Sundays during either the 9:00 or 10:30 services. There are always two staff present to show you the ropes!

#### Why do you volunteer?

*I do it because it's fun. The kids are hilarious. I got experience working with preschool kids - and then took the preschool class in high school, too. I got service hours for doing something awesome - and because of those service hours I received a nice scholarship for college. I also think that I grew in my faith since I had to know the stories in order to teach them.*

~ Sam Norgaard



## Service Opportunities

### CROP Walk

Junior high and High school students are encouraged to participate in the Our Saviour's CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk. This walk is a community-wide event sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. The CROP Walk is unique in that it is a wonderful service opportunity but it's also a fantastic fundraiser. Our goal for the Our Saviour's team is \$10,000. It's a lot of fun walking together and teaching our youth about helping others! Hope you can join us!

**When: October 16, 2016**

### Feed My Starving Children

Feed My Starving Children is a non-profit Christian organization committed to feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children, and we ship the meals to nearly 70 countries around the world. Our Saviour's and churches from around the area get together to have a mobile packing event every year that allows our congregations to pack life-giving meals. In 2012, more than 177,000 MobilePack volunteers packed over 41 million meals, with 204 events in over 30+ states.

**When: February 19, 2017**



And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is known to be my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly be rewarded.

~Matthew 10:42

### PADS

Over the past 27 years, DuPage Pads has moved from just managing homelessness to actually treating the whole person and providing a solution to end homelessness. Everyone, including the youth, can all do something incredible by working together to offer these people hope and possibility. Volunteer to walk beside and care for those in our community that are homeless. On Friday nights in July and August we host our PADS guest at the Celebration! Campus. You can help these people by making their stay with us enjoyable and friendly. The junior high school students can come in early to help set-up the beds and they can serve food with a parent. High school students are able to serve food and help with clean-up. This is a great service opportunity that we encourage youth to help with.

### Crosswalk

The Crosswalk is an interactive journey to Jerusalem with Jesus and his friends. The event is for families and children of all ages. Those participating in the Crosswalk are getting to "tell" part of the greatest story ever told by acting out events from the Easter story! They get to share the story of Jesus and his friends from Jesus' journey to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the day he was crucified. They equip the parents to tell the rest of the story – and encourage everyone to celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday!

**When: April 14, 2017**





## Service Opportunities

### Baby Care Ministry

Baby Care at Our Saviour's is both a global and local mission that serves the youngest in need by collecting and distributing gently used clothing and other essentials to under resourced babies. Last year we shared over 3,000 baby items with agencies right here in DuPage County and assembled 550 Baby Care Kits to be distributed through Lutheran World Relief (LWR). These kits are used for refugee relief and as part of prenatal health care initiatives aimed at reducing infant mortality. Students can help throughout the year in many ways and at flexible times. Join us to shop resale, find great bargains, and sort clothing. We wash all of our gently used clothing before sharing it with our families. Help us cut pieces out of flannel sheets to make baby diapers. Finally, we always need help on the last weekend of September to move boxes out of storage and to set up clothing for our Baby Care Kit assembly parties at both campuses.

**When:** September 25, 2016 and throughout the year

### The Mega Garage Sale

The Mega Garage Sale is a multi-generational, church-wide event taking place in late May to early June each year at Celebration! Donations from the congregation are dropped-off, sorted, priced and sold during this time. The Garage Sale has thousands of items for sale - everything from furniture to baby clothes, garden equipment to kitchen supplies, and much much more! Not only is this a huge garage sale, full of treasures and bargains, but it is also an important fundraising event for Our Saviour's. Throughout the years, items collected and funds raised through the Garage Sale have benefited missions and ministries beyond the scope of the church itself - many groups within the larger community will benefit from this event. There is so much to see and accomplish together!! Youth and their families are encouraged to volunteer to help for this massive church-wide event and to come and bring their friends to check out all the hot items for sale!!

**When:** June 9-10, 2017

### Welcome a Refugee to America

Many refugees from many countries are arriving in the US and settling in nearby Wheaton, and Glen Ellyn. Why did they have to flee their home countries? Why did they spend 10+ years in a refugee camp? What is life like in a refugee camp? What is it like to be born in a refugee camp and then come to the US as a teenager? Working with the Refugee Mission at Our Saviour's, you can help welcome a newly arrived refugee family by providing a few basic household items like dishes, glasses, sheets and towels. You can help collect 50 items to be delivered to a family. Or better yet, you can deliver the items and meet the family. Meet a family and learn what they have been through...probably nothing like anything we have been through in this country. Learn the answer to these questions. Imagine that you are put in a country where you don't know the language, or the customs or a single person. What do you need most? A friend. You or your small group could be one.



# Fundraisers

## Youth Auction

The Youth Auction is an annual event where the Eagle's Wings Choir and Hearts in Puppetry perform while Junior High students serve during an evening of live entertainment, dinner, and a silent and live auction. This evening celebrates the ministries that take place during the year to raise money for Ministry Tour, a mission to Haiti, a designated tithe picked by the students, and scholarships for trips.

**When: March 12, 2017**



### How to be involved:

#### Advertising

- Help come up with advertising
- Promote the event through media

#### Solicitation

- Get students signed up
- Put folders together,
- Follow up with students on fundraising efforts

#### Decorations

- Come up with creative ideas for decorations
- Make decorations
- Decorate on the day of the event

#### Organize Baskets

- Put together baskets with auction items that are donated

#### Kitchen

- Help the chef prepare food
- Clean-up kitchen after dinner

#### Hospitality

- Greet guests as they arrive
- Work coat check
- Serve guests pre-show
- Serve guests during the show

#### Clean-Up/Breakdown

- Clean-up after the event
- Put away reusable items into storage

#### Finance

- Count money from auction winners





## Fundraisers

### Buds, Suds, and Grub

Buds, Suds, & Grub is an annual fundraiser on Mother's Day weekend to raise money to support Eagle's Wings Choir and Hearts in Puppetry by selling food, flowers of many kinds and having a car wash!

This fundraiser gives families the chance...

- To purchase fabulous plants for their Spring gardening
- Get outside and work together
- Get a gift for Mother's Day
- Eat great food and beverages together
- Get their car washed by students

For years, Buds Suds & Grub has been a time of family and fellowship, and a wonderful means of supporting the ministries of our youth at Our Saviour's.

Help will be needed in the following areas :

- Team leaders are needed to organize the event
- Setting up the pre-order flower forms (before the event)
- On that Saturday: shifts from 6:30 am-2:00 pm
- Unloading flowers
- Filling flower orders (pre-ordered)
- Working the Cash and Carry tent (plants)
- Working the food tent
- Organizing the car wash

**When: May 13, 2017**

### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Shrove Tuesday, also known as Mardi Gras or "Fat Tuesday" is the day before Ash Wednesday. The youth will make and serve pancakes and sausage to help raise money for trips and events like the Youth Gathering and Workcamp. Come and fatten-up while supporting the Youth before Lent begins.

**When: February 28, 2017**

### Ribfest Parking

Yes! Our Saviour's Lutheran Church offers parking for the crazy but fun annual event of Ribfest. We as a congregation and family come together to work shifts with parking cars. Choosing a morning, afternoon, or evening shift involves taking money, directing cars, and working for Jesus! All the money made goes towards a mission trip to Haiti, scholarships for trips, and a tithe to the church. It's a great chance to give back to your church and have fun while doing it!

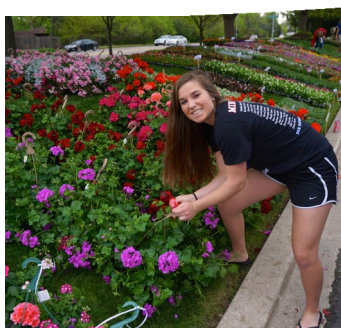
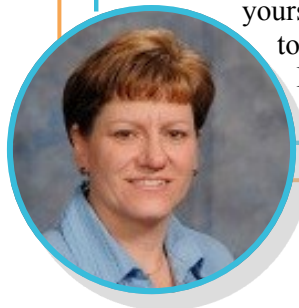
**When: July 1- 4, 2017**

### [ The "Fun" in Fundraising ]

Do you like to have fun, fun and more fun? Do you like to get to know other parents? Would you like to help with events but not spend a ton of your time doing so? Well, then you should help with our four big fundraisers. All of which have availability to match any busy schedule. I've been doing these events for years and have enjoyed every minute of them. Sign up to help and see what I'm talking about for yourself. I would love a chance to work with you.

Hope to see you soon!!!!

~ Jennifer Sevaton



Never be lacking in zeal,  
but keep your spiritual fervor  
serving the Lord.

~Romans 12:11



# Leadership Opportunities

## Leadership Team

Leadership Team is exactly what it sounds like; it is a group of students that meet weekly and have a small group setting where discussions that involve decision making in the church community are made. It is a great way to be a leader and have your voices heard. Making decisions that involve the different trips and activities that should or should not be put into action really teach the students that they can make a difference in the lives of their peers. Students can also give feedback about what is going on in Ignition and help decide what topics we discuss on Sunday evenings.

Leadership Team meets on Wednesday evenings from 5:45 to 6:45 pm. Our first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday, August 17. If you are interested in joining the team this year, contact Bobbi.

## Surge Mentors

Being a mentor of Surge is a unique opportunity for confirmed high school students to share their faith with eager junior high school students. Student mentors are paired with an adult mentor and join a group of students. Both adult mentors and student mentors walk along side the students as we learn about and discuss the confirmation curriculum. Being a mentor to Surge is an important job and takes commitment, but it is highly rewarding. Surge meets on Sundays from 12:00-1:30 pm.

## Leadership Lab

Leadership Lab is designed to assist youth acquire skills that will be useful in congregational, synod, and national youth ministry settings and in their local communities and the world. Each level of Lab is structured to help participants progress in their ability to be responsible youth ministry leaders and help them grow in their awareness of God, self, and others. The camp is held at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois.

Participants must have completed the 8th grade before going. Participants must complete the previous lab level before moving to the next level (i.e. must complete Basic before Advanced, Advanced before Phase 3). However, no previous lab experience is necessary to attend Phase 3 for those who are entering their junior or senior year of high school.

Leadership Lab is an intense week of study, worship, and building relationships. The participants spend from 8:30 am-11:00 pm each day in small and large group gatherings, planning, learning, prayer, and discovering where they are in their faith journey.

While very spiritually rewarding, the week can be stressful and difficult. Participants need to know this ahead of time so that they can prepare themselves for this type of an experience.

Leadership Lab is offered as a resource for the students but, it is not considered an Our Saviour's "youth trip." However, it is highly encouraged for the students to attend.



*Part of what I love about being a Surge Mentor is when I am able to get through to the kids and help them grow in their faith. It is really cool to watch them learn more, because I know that we, as mentors, are making a difference. Since we've already been through it, we can relate to exactly what the kids are going through. I like seeing the progress that the kids make, because I know they are learning more and more about their faith every week.*

*~ Hannah Dulski*





## Ministries Contact Information

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An intelligent heart  
acquires  
knowledge, and  
the ear of the wise  
seeks knowledge.  
~ Proverbs 18:15



# Liveitout

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