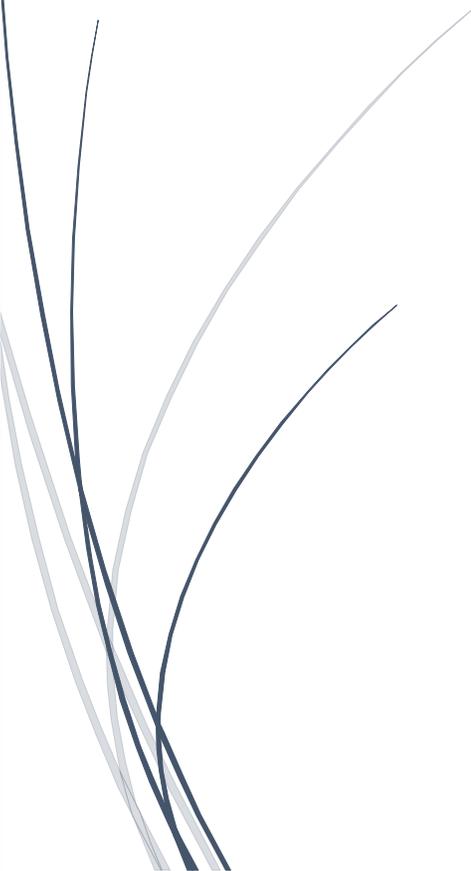




2020-2021

School of Love

Parent Guide



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
ANKENY, IOWA

Parent's Guide to Middle School Ministry

The School of Love

Welcome to the in-between. Middle Schoolers are not kids anymore but they are not really teenagers either. They are uniquely in-between! We have middle school ministries at Holy Trinity that are built just for those in-between!

Baptism and First Communion

At Holy Trinity, we assume that our middle schoolers have been baptized and received first communion or have made plans for those things to happen very shortly. Baptism and first communion are the first steps of a faith journey that spans a lifetime. The focus of our time together in middle school is to help tweens move from a child-like faith to a growing and deepening faith that will provide a solid foundation for the rest of their lives.

Connecting Church and Home

The best and easiest way to connect church and home is to worship regularly. Worship happens primarily online right now, with some offerings of in person, socially distanced worship in one's car and events like that on occasion. Council and Pastors review our policies around public health monthly.

We have always known, and our current context shows us, that while we love church and gathering, we do not need the building to be a strong community grounded in the love and mission of Jesus Christ. Home is a huge part of where our faith is lived out. Basing our learning and growing in faith in our homes, at least temporarily, reminds us that we are the hands and feet of Jesus no matter where we are.

Communicating with Holy Trinity & Staff

Another important way of connecting church and home is to make sure you are getting all our communications:

Sign up for our weekly email for middle school parents.

- Go to holytrinityankeny.org
- Scroll down to the green section and look for "Quick Links"
- Click "Join Our Email List"
- Follow the prompts; make sure you select Middle School News

Bookmark the middle school ministries page on the website.

- <http://www.holytrinityankeny.org/middle-school-ministry.html>
- Everything you need for the year will be posted here.

Text Anne your name and cell as well as your kid's cell if you are willing.

- Anne's cell is 515-865-2442.

Communicate with your child's Guide

- Make sure you know who they are and how to get in touch with them. Make sure they can get in touch with you.

What Wednesday Looks Like

A detailed schedule is at the end of this document.

Twice a month your child will meet online, via Zoom, with a member of staff. That staff member is usually Vicar Matt or Anne.

Once a month we will offer a Worship Watch, which will also be a large group Zoom for all three grades, to watch a worship service together and complete a worship note. More about worship notes below.

Once a month, or so, your child will meet in their small group. We are strongly suggesting using Zoom (or another online meeting app).

The School of Love material is all online based. It will be posted on our website:

<https://www.holytrinityankeny.org/middle-school-ministry.html>.

Most lessons will include a video introduction to the topic or passage for the evening, a Bible study and some reflection.

What does My Student Need?

Students will need a Lutheran Study Bible. HTLC provides one to all incoming 6th graders. If your older student has misplaced their Bible, HTLC can replace them for \$20.

Students will also need a journal – a real paper journal. We use the journals to track the changes over three years of learning. We piloted using journals last year with our 8th graders and enjoyed it so much we are extending it all grades.

Bibles for 6th graders and journals will be dropped off or mailed right around Labor Day.

Other physical materials that students might need will be mailed or dropped off as needed.

Students will also need love and support and encouragement to make Wednesday evenings a priority. We live in unprecedented times and being together like this for confirmation and spiritual transformation and growth is also unprecedented.

Why is there a Fee? To Serve Others

There is a fee for confirmation this year - \$40/student. These funds cover the cost of materials and postage. We are still planning to do service projects. Most of the registration fee goes to supply our service projects so that half-way through the year, staff or Guides do not come to you asking for more money. Currently, we are still planning a Christmas service project and Fill the Food Pantry in April. We will have two more service projects – they will be determined soon.

Worship Notes

Students are expected to complete 10 worship notes a year. There will be 7 Worship Watch Wednesdays during the year. We will be watching the worship from the previous weekend on those Wednesdays. If your child has already completed a worship note for that weekend, or all ten notes, the Worship Watch is optional.

Students will be responsible for choosing three other worship opportunities to complete 10 worship notes.

Currently, completing worship notes is done online with a form, available on our middle school ministry page that students can fill out as they watch worship on our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_9hZhvIQ1jN450ldA6X89Q

Schedule for the School of Love

Date and Time	Lesson	Format	Leader
9/9/20 @ 6:00 pm	New Student Orientation for 6 th Gr Students & Parents	Large Group Zoom	Anne
9/9/20 @ 7:00 pm	Returning Student Orientation for 7 th & 8 th Gr Students & Parents	Large Group Zoom	Anne
9/16/20 @ 6:00 pm	Welcome to the School of Love	Large Group Zoom	Anne
9/23/20 @ TBA	Radical Hospitality: Gratitude	Small Group	Guides
9/30/20 @ 6:00 pm	Worship Watch	Large Group Zoom	Anne
10/7/20 @ 6:00 pm	Radical Hospitality: <i>Imago Dei</i>	Large Group Zoom	Vicar Matt: 6 th & 7 th Anne: 8 th
10/14/20 @ TBA	Radical Hospitality: Responsibility	Small Group	Guides
10/21/20 @ 6:00 pm	Authentic Worship: Preaching	Large Group Zoom	Anne: 6 th & 7 th Vicar Matt: 8 th
10/28/20 @ 6:00 pm	Worship Watch	Large Group Zoom	Anne
11/4/20 @ 6:00 pm	Authentic Worship: Prayer	Large Group Zoom	Vicar Matt: 6 th & 7 th Anne: 8 th
11/11/20 @ TBA	Authentic Worship: Sacraments	Small Group	Guides
11/18/20 @ 6:00 pm	Spiritual Transformation: Seeking	Large Group Zoom	Anne: 6 th & 7 th Vicar Matt: 8 th
11/25/20 @ TBA	Worship Watch: Thanksgiving Eve	TBA	Anne
12/2/20 @ 6:00 pm	Spiritual Transformation: Crossing Boundaries	Large Group Zoom	Vicar Matt: 6 th & 7 th Anne: 8 th
12/9/20 @ TBA	Spiritual Transformation: Connection	Small Group	Guides

12/16/20 @ 6:00 pm	Worship Watch	Large Group Zoom	Anne
12/23/20	Christmas Break		
12/30/20	Christmas Break		
1/6/21 @ 6:00 pm	Fearless Witness: Being Beloved	Large Group Zoom	Anne: 6 th & 7 th Vicar Matt: 8 th
1/13/21 @ TBA	Fearless Witness: Sharing Faith	Small Group	Guides
1/20/21	Fearless Witness: Abundance	Large Group Zoom	Vicar Matt: 6 th & 7 th Anne: 8 th
1/27/21 @ 6:00 pm	Worship Watch	Large Group Zoom	Anne
2/3/21 @ 6:00 pm	Intentional Compassion: Trust	Large Group Zoom	Anne: 6 th & 7 th Vicar Matt: 8 th
2/10/21 @ TBA	Intentional Compassion: Caring for Others	Small Group	Guides
2/17/21 @ TBA	Worship Watch: Ash Wednesday Worship	TBA	Anne
2/24/21 @ 6:00 pm	Intentional Compassion: God's Works	Large Group Zoom	Vicar Matt: 6 th & 7 th Anne: 8 th
3/3/21 @ 6:00 pm	Extravagant Generosity: Over the Top	Large Group Zoom	Anne: 6 th & 7 th Vicar Matt: 8 th
3/10/21 @ TBA	Extravagant Generosity: Leap of Faith	Small Group	Guides
3/17/21	Spring Break		
3/24/21 @ 6:00 pm	Extravagant Generosity: Hope & Imagination	Large Group Zoom	Vicar Matt: 6 th & 7 th Anne: 8 th
3/31/21	Holy Week		
4/7/21 @ 6:00 pm	Worship Watch	Large Group Zoom	Anne
4/14/21 @ 6:00 pm	Stump the Pastor	Large Group Zoom	Anne & Pastor: 6 th & 7 th Vicar Matt & Pastor: 8 th
4/21/21, 6:00 – 8:00 pm	Fill the Food Pantry	Service Project	Students!
4/28/21 @ 6:00 pm	8 th Gr Affirm Meeting for Students & Parents	Large Group Zoom	Anne