



The Church of the Holy Cross

Episcopal

Faithful + Visible + Uplifting

7507 Kelly Street Homewood South Pittsburgh, PA 15208
Church Office: (412) 242-3209 historichcpa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 2, 2022

Pittsburgh Youth to March on Washington to Protest Gun Violence

The recent surge in mass shootings across our nation has heightened the need to address gun violence. Regardless of locale – be it a school, a place of worship, or a food store, there is now no “safe haven.” The moral fiber of our nation is eroding to a point where protecting the right to own guns is more important than the sacredness of life. In support of the “*March for Our Lives Peace Walk*” on Saturday, June 11, youth from the Church of the Holy Cross in Homewood South Pittsburgh and the surrounding community will travel to Washington, DC to participate in the national outcry of our youth against gun violence.

The Church of the Holy Cross will host a prayer service and pre-march orientation and training at the church prior to leaving for Washington. The bus trip to the rally is organized by the Priest-in-Charge at Holy Cross, the Rev. Torrey O. Johnson, and sponsored by ELA – The Episcopal Lutheran Alliance. This will be second bus trip organized by the Church of the Holy Cross to support the March for Our Lives Rally – the first one occurred in 2018 following the mass shooting at Parkland High in Florida.

On May 31, 2022, outside the Pittsburgh office of U.S. Senator Pat Toomey, Rev. Johnson stood along with protesters and Parkland shooting survivor and co-founder of March for Our Lives, David Hogg, to bring attention to the continued calls for gun reform in this country. “Although our national dialogue has placed gun violence at the center of public discourse, the black community has long been a victim of senseless acts of violence due to the easy access to guns. We bear witness that not only do guns kill people, we have seen for over three decades, people killing people in our communities and in our streets. From Chicago to South Central LA to Homewood and Uvalde, Texas – our sons, daughters, mothers, and fathers have buried too many of our children because of gun violence. That’s why this trip to stand with our children to stop gun violence is so important.” said Rev. Johnson.

This bus trip will serve as a kick-off event to coincide with ELA's Summer Safety Program that will run for eight weeks beginning June 22. The Act Your Best (AYB) Summer Safety Initiative is designed to help stem the tide of violence and foster a summer of fun and productivity aimed at teaching life skills, mentorship, entrepreneurship, and opening dialogue amongst our most at risk, our youth. "More than 85% of black homicide victims are shot and killed by guns. It is imperative that the church be on the front line of caring for and protecting our community until such time when we have replaced the current culture of violence, it is imperative that the churches do their part in responding to gun violence by providing safe alternatives for youth to grow and become life-affirming citizens," said Reverend Johnson.

ELA is seeking donations and sponsors for the June 11 bus trip to Washington, DC as well as the AYB Summer Safety Program. You can register youth and adult chaperones for the bus trip and/or make tax-deductible contributions at the ELA website: elallianceinc.org. You can also mail checks or money orders to Episcopal Lutheran Alliance - 7507 Kelly Street, Pittsburgh PA 15208. For more information, contact the ELA office at 412-242-3209

7507 Kelly Street
Homewood South
Pittsburgh, PA 15208



website: elallianceinc.org
email: staff@elallianceinc.org
Phone: 412-242-8660