



YOUTH GROUP IS STARTING IN SETPEMBER!!!

MEET OUR YOUTH LEADER

Robin Stuart

Pastor Adrienne challenged me last year to gather information and to start building the foundation for the youth groups to be built again here at Sardis. She wanted me to research youth space along with April and to see what youth groups do now. It has been a long time since I was in a youth group at church and times have changed from the time I was in youth group to now.

One morning Pastor Adrienne called me on the phone and I could see the excitement in her through her voice. She told me of an opportunity that was available in Hickory at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Their youth director Van VanHorne had just taken the Executive Director position at Lutheridge and they were looking for someone to fill in for a short period of time while they formed a committee to start the hunt for their next youth director.

I met with Pastor Chris Webb one morning for breakfast at the Snack Bar. We talked about the position and about the church and about me and what my goal was. He met with a couple of other people as well. He got back in touch with me in late December and told me that I would be sharing the position with another person that was younger and had been a camp counselor named Nathan.

From January to April, Nathan and I partnered up doing the youth groups at Holy Trinity. We worshiped at Holy Trinity. After worship service there was always lunch available for the youth. The youth then had rotations based on what they wanted to do of bells, liturgical dance, and choir. After the rotations we met as the high school youth group.

We always started each gathering with the highs and lows of the week. Highs is something good that happened this week, Lows was something that wasn't good. Hearing about their life and how things were affecting them truly helped us to get to know the youth and appreciate them. When we finished with that we had fun and fellowship and played games. At the closing of the meetings we always tried to have a prayer to send them out into the week.

On Wednesdays we had middle school youth. For the first hour they had rotations of bells and choir depending on what they chose to do. Then we met as the middle school youth group and followed the same protocol for them. Highs and lows, fellowship and fun, and then closing prayer. We also started to challenge the middle school youth to be leaders and lead us in prayers, and to look harder for the good stuff to outweigh the bad stuff.

I am truly thankful for the opportunity that was given to me by Pastor Chris Webb and Holy Trinity. I hope when we get our youth up and going here we can partner with our friends and neighbors at Holy Trinity for some activities.

Thank you to my church family for supporting me during this journey. I have stepped way outside of my comfort zone and am learning to stay outside of my comfort zone and have a great time doing it.



Coming Soon...Youth Groups

The Angels for Christ committee met recently and they changed their name to the Youth Committee. We have been busy working and planning for youth groups to kick back off this fall at Sardis. We are so excited to be able to offer this again. We will start meeting around the time school starts.

Some of the things I would love to get involved in within our state:

- ◇ There is a church in Winston called The Dwelling that is an ELCA church. I want to organize a trip to visit them over the summer to do service work and assist with this homeless ministry. Their minister Emily Norris has a real passion for this and loves helping this community.
- ◇ There is another youth gathering coming in 2024 to New Orleans
- ◇ Would love to have a box for the youth to ask questions that they don't feel comfortable asking out loud to assist in their faith formation.
- ◇ Allow the kids time to meet and talk about their faith formation with Pastor Adrienne.
- ◇ And lots more...stay tuned
- ◇ We will encourage the youth to bring friends to our meetings and activities.
- ◇ We will partner with other churches when possible to make the youth group a better experience for everyone.



First on the agenda is we are planning a huge celebration and we are going to need all hands on deck. There is a Fall Festival coming October 8. We are planning on having a lot of activities and games for the kids to do. Attending the festival is free but there will also be cotton candy, candy apples, sno cones, popcorn that will be available to be purchased.

We will need volunteers for various stations and to be floaters. A sign up sheet will be placed in the narthex soon for that. Please be on the lookout for it and sign up to help where you can.

Also we need donations for prizes that aren't that expensive. We are looking for Happy Meal toys, small inexpensive stuffed animals, hot wheel cars, and individually wrapped candy (please be cautious of peanut allergies). If you think there is anything else we could use as a prize please bring it as well.

Robin Stuart