

# Family and Youth Initiatives Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2023 6:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Kari Mathys, Jenny VandenLangenberg, Joan Huntoon, Mitch Peterson, Loren Vandenplas, Tara O'Donohue, Theresa Williams (Staff)

## 1. FYI Committee Events & Initiatives

- Christian Mommy Group Clarification - This new group falls under the Discipleship Committee, and is experiencing success with support for busy moms.
- Pet Blessing October 7th 10:00. Committee members to be there: Kari, Jenny, Mitch, and a few Confirmation students that will be there to help. We can meet at church at 9:00.
  - Picture taking and frames- Jenny purchased frames. Kari can help take and print photos that day. We will assemble them and display them on white boards in the Gathering Space for people to pick up.
  - Deacon Jeff has the prayer blessing and medals. He and Jenny will go over the order of events.
  - Human Treats/Cookies- Sammy C. is a Confirmation student who will make 4 dozen cookies for the pet owners. The Youth Group will make puppy chow, and buy Goldfish and Scooby Snacks as extra fun snacks for everyone.
  - Pet Treats- Tara will buy dog and cat treats, and carrots. She and Youth Group will bag them up to give out.
  - St. Francis Presentation- Jenny will see if a Confirmation student can be St. Francis or have a statue of St. Francis there with a student reading about him. Kody will help with the speaker set up at 9:00.
- Pumpkin Carving October 22nd 11:00-1:30 - Committee Members who will be there: Kari, Jenny, Mitch, Loren (Amy?)
  - Pumpkins carving tools, paint supplies are downstairs. We have rolls of white paper in the basement for tablecloths. Provide markers, utensils for participants. Kari will coordinate.
  - Mitch will get pumpkins and ask Kody who to contact.
  - Gift Cards for prizes- 10 cards bought with Scrip for \$10 each - Joan will organize.
  - Food- 5 dozen donuts, candy, fruit, string cheese. Kari will buy.
  - Drinks- pitchers water, coffee, cider, lemonade. Loren will buy.
  - Music- use church Spotify list. Jenny will work this out with Kody.
  - Put up our FYI sign. Mitch will organize the categories and get paper bags, scrap paper for voting. Mitch will also speak on the microphone during the event.
  - Kari will make pumpkin seeds.

- Breakfast in Bethlehem, Magi Market - December 10th - As of now, this event will run as usual, but we know we may need to cut out some parts of the event if the Conference Room, Bridal Room, or Fellowship Hall are unavailable due to construction. Jenny will ask Gary Hermans if the KOC can provide breakfast again. Theresa will scan over the book The Birth of Jesus that we will use to act out the Nativity story in church the day of the event.
- Update on construction and events January through May 2024 - Jenny updated the committee that during this time frame will not be able to host events in the Fellowship Hall, so likely no Lent/Easter event. We will use this “down time” to prepare for the babysitting ministry to kick off and to work on new events that can take place in the new space after May!
- Children’s Collection Disbursement - Continue to think of organizations or people to donate to for Advent disbursement.

## **2. RE update**

- Theresa provided her report/update in advance of the meeting-see attached. She could use more subs for teachers and aides for Religious Ed.

## **3. Middle & High School Update**

- Neil provided his report/update in advance of the meeting-see attached.
- A new Consent to Contact form was created by Red and has been approved by the Diocese and is compliant with safe environment requirements. This form was shared with the committee. There were no changes requested and we feel that Neil and Theresa can proceed with using this form so that minors in groups such as Youth Group and Confirmation Class can be reached through Flocknote.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, October 17th at 6:00 in the Bridal Room.

# Faith Formation/Religious Education Report to FYI

September 21, 2023

1. **REGISTRATIONS** - Registration for the 2023-2024 Religious Education year continues. Currently, we have 221 students registered. One came to class that was not registered. I sent the parents a note.
2. **2023-2024 RE YEAR** – The first night of classes went well. I made signs for this week asking while classes are still going on that those that are here please remain quiet so as not to disturb the classes in session.
3. **CONSTRUCTION** – In January, the main offices will also be moving to the Fellowship and remodeling will begin in the Conference Room and current office area. This will mean that all classes after January 17<sup>th</sup> will need to be held in church only. I revised the calendar to reflect this. There are a few weeks where grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 will have an at-home lesson, so that grade 2 can meet and have sacramental prep for First Communion.
4. **UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS**
  - Sept. 24 Grade 10-11 Class. Begins with 6PM Mass
  - Sept. 27 Faith Formation Classes at 4:30 or 5:45 (Grades 1-6) & 7:00 (Gr. 7-9)
  - Oct. 1 Grade 11 Spiritus Confirmation Retreat. Begins with 10AM Mass until 5PM.
  - Oct. 1 Grade 10 Class begins with 6PM Mass
  - Oct. 4 Faith Formation Classes at 4:30 or 5:45 (Grades 1-6) & 7:00 (Gr. 7-9)
  - Oct. 7 Pet Blessing @10 AM
  - Oct. 8 Grade 10-11 Class. Begins with 6PM Mass
  - Oct. 11 Faith Formation Classes at 4:30 or 5:45 (Grades 1-6) & 7:00 (Gr. 7-9)
  - Oct. 15 Grade 2 Parent Sacrament Meeting @11 AM in the Fellowship Hall
  - Oct. 15 Grade 10-11 Field Trip to the Shrine. Bus leaves 1:00 PM.
  - Oct. 18 Faith Formation Classes at 4:30 or 5:45 (Grades 1-6) & 7:00 (Gr. 7-9)

In Christ,  
Theresa Williams  
Director of Religious Education

# Youth and Young Adult Report to FYI

## September 21, 2023

**1. YOUTH GROUP** – Youth group numbers continue to grow slowly but steadily. Even without a large number of our regulars last week we still have 9 people. The other nice thing is that we've begun to attract some parents as well and there were 4 of us altogether that hung out and played basketball and talked. I think that in the short term, as spaces continue to shrink and the weather and light continue to decline, that youth group will move to only once per month and it will be offsite. I will be asking for funds to do a bowling night in Oct. and then I'm looking at batting cages in Nov. Depending upon costs and how they work it I'll consider charging to participate. Kids would meet and be picked up so no transportation.

**2. YOUTH GROUP MOVIE NIGHTS** – LifeTeen has several movie small group discussions that follow. We have the projector etc. in the FH but we could also do that in the gathering space and even offsite in the form of a watch party if we wanted to include everyone from home. Suggest we do those separate from the regular YG.

**3. PARENT CHILD SPORT DAYS AT THE YMCA CITY FIELD**– If the church could sponsor a day of admission to the Y where we play middle and highschool and parent basketball, volleyball, ultimate frisbee, badminton, or some such sport. Football at a city facility is \$22.50 for a 2-hour slot up to 3 slots per day. Was thinking we could also do a sledding event as well with hot chocolate etc.

**4. BABYSITTING** – Tara and I have not had a chance to get together on this yet so she might be able to offer a better update than I.

**5. DIOCESAN GRANTS** – The Diocese grant season opens Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. I would like some input but I am going to write a grant for some technology for the teen room. I am considering the following: PC, Projector, Controllers, Streaming subscription fees, BIBLEX project, wireless and standard charging blocks. These I would use to furnish an inviting and relaxing environment and increase the offerings for our youth.

**6. DID YOU KNOW SPOTLIGHTS** – I'm wondering if each committee could divide up the responsibility of recording a quick selfie video with a piece of "did you know?" trivia either about the committee, the faith, the parish, or something related. Then we can post them to social media, use them to recruit for our committees, use them as sound bites for announcements and spotlights, post them on that committee's page on the website, and whatever else. It only takes one person about 2 to 3 minutes and we many of us can manage the upload and download portion. I'd suggest the FYI committee test this out to see how it works for the other committees.