

St. John's Middle School Ministry 2025-26

*Our purpose is:
to help students **OWN THEIR FAITH**
through a partnership between parents and church.*



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Please complete the [St. John's family registration form](#) available online. It applies to all programs below and all Children, Youth & Family events. Only one registration per family is needed.

Our Confirmation program at St. John's begins with a 2-year Bible Overview Class in 5th & 6th grade. Formal Confirmation Classes with Pastor Karen begin in 7th & 8th grade.

In 9th grade, students put their faith into action with monthly gatherings exploring world religions as well as visiting those Houses of Worship, participation in High School Youth Group, and a Lutherdale Retreat, and then are Confirmed in May. We encourage families to participate in worship on a regular basis.

5th & 6th Grade Connect Class

5th & 6th Graders meet on Sunday evenings, every other week, from 4:30pm-6:00pm. In these two years, students are engaged in a Bible overview using the Connect Curriculum. This is a fun and engaging class! The first day of class is September 21.

4:30-4:55pm Light Meal provided by St. John's
5:00-6:00pm Connect Class

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Class

7th & 8th Graders meet on Sunday evenings, every other week, from 4:30pm-6:00pm. In these two years, students are engaged in a Confirmation program led by Pastor Karen, Linnea Logan, and guest leaders. The first day of class is September 21.

4:30-4:55pm Light Meal provided by St. John's
5:00-6:00pm Confirmation Class

9th Grade Confirmation Class & Confirmation Day

In fall, students begin to work toward their day of Confirmation in May.

There are 3 things in which students participate:

- Meet monthly on a Sunday evening with their class and attend activities.
 - Attend an overnight retreat
 - Attend High School youth group Sunday evenings.
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Sunday Mornings

8:30am Traditional Worship

This is our traditional indoor worship with the organ, choir, handbells, special music and liturgy.

9:45am 6th-8th Graders/Sunday Morning Youth Leadership Team

Back by popular demand! 6th-8th Graders can share their faith through volunteering as student leaders for Sunday School and within the larger congregation. Students LOVE this time. It is relaxed and they complete lots of different service projects. Students can drop in as they are able. The first day of YLT is Sept. 7th.

10:45am Contemporary Worship

This is a family-oriented worship experience with a Children's message, family blessing time, and shortened liturgy. It is our contemporary service with the band.

Serving in Worship - We would like our Middle Schoolers to serve as worship leaders as they are comfortable. This includes reading the lesson, reading the prayers, serving communion, acolyting, and ushering. Pastor Karen will be leading training on these activities.

Monthly Social & Service Events

Middle Schoolers (6th-8th grade) will be invited to monthly scheduled events where they can build community with each other, St. John's, and the greater church through play, serving, and retreats.

September 13 at 6:30pm – Comedy Sportz

October 10 at 6:30pm - Roller Skating at Skateland

November 22 & 23 – Help cook and serve at the Winter Farmer's Market

December 7 at 12:30pm - Serve at the Hope Center

January TBD – Rock Climbing at Adventure Rock

February 13-15 – Youth Quake in WI Dells

March TBD - Mini Golf (Indoors)

April 5 – Easter Sunday Donut Fundraiser

Expectations for 7th-8th Grade Confirmation Students

Behavioral Expectations

1. Students will be respectful of each other and adult leaders.
2. Students will stay home if not feeling well.
3. Students can bring phones but cannot use them during programming unless asked.

Parent Expectations

Parents are the #1 influence in their student's faith development. Your leadership and your partnership are needed.

- Help your student meet the expectations outlined above and hold them accountable to taking ownership of their faith journey.
- Attend worship regularly with your student.
- Be open to conversations about your faith, your experiences, your questions.

COSTS

There is no cost for Sunday School or Confirmation.

Middle School events, particularly Youth Quake may involve costs per student. **Scholarships are available to those with financial need upon request** (please contact the Pastor or Joanna if you have need for financial assistance).

What is a Middle Schooler, Anyway?

[from justaphase.com Think Orange ministry]

The next time you take in an all-star performance from a middle schooler—complete with tears, of course—consider this: behind those emotions is a brain hard at work analyzing, processing and planning the next move.

What we're talking about is a duality of sorts—the middle schooler you see and the middle schooler you don't see.

The Middle Schooler You See

- He's growing like a weed and eating all of your groceries.
- She's happy one moment and crying the next.
- They're embarrassed easily and often by you.
- She knows everything.
- He lies and argues more than ever before.
- She wants to be with her friends. Always with her friends.

The Middle Schooler You Don't See

- He loves to learn and be challenged.
- They want to know if you care.
- He needs to talk about his feelings, even when his face says otherwise.
- She wrestles with decisions big and small.
- They're starting to view the world through the eyes of others.
- She longs for non-parental adult influence.

When it comes to helping these complex creatures understand who they are in Christ, you have to remember the middle schooler you don't see. The engineer inside needs to know that God can do anything. That He can overcome impossible odds to rebuild what is broken, bring stability, restore peace, resolve doubt, give hope, and redeem everyone—including themselves.