

# The Mi d-Poi nt



www.sotv.org



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
For Youth in Grades 6-8 and their Parents  
2011-2012

To Parents:

Welcome to the Confirmation program at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (SOTV)!

**We hope that your family's involvement in confirmation helps equip and inspire you to live a**

life of faith that reaches far beyond the walls of SOTV and continues for your entire lives.

SOTV staff and volunteer leaders work hard to create a welcoming and engaging environment for the sake of Christian faith formation, serving in our community and the wider world, and the growth of healthy Christ-centered relationships. To support these efforts, we invite you to

- Attend scheduled Parent Nights
- Attend worship and ServeTogether events with your child and take an active part in filling out the Worship and MS ServeTogether note form
- Make attendance at weekly confirmation classes and MS ServeTogether events a priority
- **Encourage and support your child's participation in summer trips, camps, and retreats—**extended experiences that have proven to be transformative for youth AND adults
- Volunteer to be a small group Guide or a substitute guide, help with Middle School Events, or even go on a summer trip!

**SOTV offers many exciting opportunities designed to nurture middle school students' faith,** but—believe it or not—*you, as parents, play the MOST IMPORTANT role in your child's faith development.* Faith and faith formation begins and grows at home, which means "home" is church, too. Published data indicates that mothers and fathers, not pastors or youth directors, are the top two primary faith influences in the lives of young people between 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Parents, you are the curriculum for how your children's faith grows!

Therefore we encourage you to:

- Pray for and with your child everyday at home
- Make time for caring conversation and daily check-in
- **Practice rituals or celebrate traditions that help remind you of God's presence with your family**
- Find ways to serve together as a family at home or in the neighborhood
- Connect with other parents for support and encouragement at Parenting Partnership Nights (pg 8) or other opportunities in the community

May God bless you with peace, joy, and a sense of humor as your family journeys together through the middle school years!

Your brothers and sisters in Christ,

Pastor Randy, Barb, Brandon, Erin, and Katie

# Confirmation Curriculum

## Parents bring students to weekly Confirmation classes

**Weekly classes are the “heart” of the** confirmation program. Large group **sessions will give students the “head”** knowledge about the Bible and the Small Catechism. During large group, a weekly offering is taken. The offerings go towards various benevolence projects both here at SOTV and globally. Throughout the year, these projects will be communicated in the weekly email. During small group time, **students will have time to share “highs” and “lows” of the week, form relationships** with a caring guide and fellow students, and learn how to apply the knowledge learned in large group to life as a middle schooler. A weekly email is sent to let parents know about what students are learning and give details about all of the events happening for youth at SOTV.



## Parents and Students Attend Parent Nights

Each grade has 2 special event nights when we would like students to bring their parents to confirmation. You will not have regular class these nights, but students and parents are expected to come at 7:00 PM to the sanctuary . (All other confirmation classes and GodZone classes will meet as usual.)



- 6th & 7th grade Parent Nights are on Wednesday, December 14 and Wednesday, April 25.
- 8th grade Parent Nights are on Wednesday, November 16 and on Wednesday, April 18.

## Take part in ServeTogether Events

**HYPE has changed, but our faith in action is the same (and you'll still get a purple t-shirt).**



Service is our faith in action in our community, which is **why it is an important part of SOTV's 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation program.** Understanding faith comes by following Jesus, who lived his life in service to the last, the least, and the lost. To act with love by putting those in need before ourselves is the way Christ calls us to live! We hope that ServeTogether is one way for you to serve with your friends, parent(s), and small group, and to experience the love of Jesus beyond the walls of the **church building. We also hope ServeTogether isn't the**

only way you live out your faith by serving others!

Here is the schedule of ServeTogether events. Please attend at least 2 - one with your small group and one with your parent(s) or other caring adult(s):

+ SOTV ServeTogether (Register at [www.sotv.org](http://www.sotv.org))

Saturday, October 15 from 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Saturday, January 14 from 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Saturday, March 17 from 9:00 - 11:00 AM

For the whole family!

+ MS ServeTogether (Register online or on a MS Events Form)

Friday, November 11 from 5:30-8:30 PM

Go to Feed My Starving Children or Christmas shopping for children in need.

Friday, May 11 from 4:30pm-May 12<sup>th</sup> at 8am

**"Left Out" is an overnight event at St. Andrew's in Mahtodmedi to raise funds and awareness for youth homelessness. Students will sleep in cardboard boxes in the safety of St. Andrew's parking lot.**

For students and parents & small groups

+ MS Worship & ServeTogether

Sunday, December 11

Sunday, February 12

10:30 - Meet in the Music Room to drop off your bag lunch, pick up your purple t-shirt and find your confirmation guide

11:00 - Worship in the Sanctuary with your guide and the rest of your small group

Noon - Eat lunch back in the Music Room

12:30 - Head out with your small group to serve somewhere in the Twin Cities area

3:00 - Meet back at the church for pick-up

For small groups only (parents are always encouraged to attend!)



## Parents and Students Worship Together

Regular attendance at worship is an important part of the confirmation experience at SOTV. All 6th-8th grade Confirmation students are expected to complete 18 worship & service notes **during the year. Here's how it works: Before you go into worship, pick up a form.** They are found in the alcove area of the Narthex and on the shelf in the hallway across from the CYF office. Complete the form during the worship service and return it to the proper bin near where you picked it up. Barb Schulz collects, reads, records and returns them to your confirmation guide. Sometimes, if you ask a question that is too hard for Barb, she will pass it on to one of the pastors. When you complete 18 notes, your name goes up on the Wall of Fame bulletin board and you get a certificate and a package of M&Ms!

Also this year, there is a section on the worship note to let us know when you have completed a ServeTogether event. This section lets you tell us what you did and what you learned from participating in a service project. This part of the worship note must be signed by a parent or your confirmation small group guide to receive credit.

## FAQ's







- Can I take a worship note at another church? Yes, simply fill out a worship note, **either one of ours or the other church's form and turn it in.**
- **When are the "2 for 1" worship services?** They are Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.
- When I fill out a form during the Lenten services I attend with my confirmation group, do they count? Yes, they do, so remember to turn them in.
- Seriously, does anyone really read all of those worship notes? Yes, Barb really does read them all and she can tell when you have filled them out before worship even starts! At least once a month, she notes all of the prayer concerns on them and the youth staff prays for those concerns during their weekly staff meeting.
- When I do a ServeTogether event, how many worship notes is it worth? A Serve Together event is worth 2 worship & service notes. We will count up to a maximum of 3 Serve Together events, but of course, you are welcome to do more service projects.
- Can I do service anywhere and have it count as a worship note? We hope that you do lots of service, but we will count only the 7 opportunities offered at SOTV for worship note credit.
- **What happens if I don't complete my worship and service note requirement?**  
Hmmm . . . .we would rather not answer that question!

**IMPORTANT:** To receive proper credit, please remember to put your name, your guide's name and the hour you attend confirmation on all of your worship & service forms!

# 2011-2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 6TH, 7TH, & 8TH GRADES

Date	6th & 7th Grade	8th Grade
Sep 21	<b>Confirmation Kick-off with Parents</b> - Come at the hour you are signed up for class	
Sep 28	God's Word	Group Building/Intro to Catechism
Oct 5	Creation	10 Comm. Overview/Group covenants
Oct 9	<b>6th Grade Worship &amp; ServeTogether</b>	
Oct 9	<b>2012 Summer Trip Sign Up</b>	
Oct 12	The Fall	Commandments 1, 2, 3, 4
Oct 14	<b>*MS Run Ragged 'til Midnight</b>	
Oct 15	<b>SOTV ServeTogether 9-11 AM</b>	
Oct 19	<b>NO CONFIRMATION—FALL BREAK</b>	
Oct 26	Cain & Abel	Commandments 5, 6, 8
Nov 2	Noah	Commandments 7, 9, 10
Nov 9	Abraham & Isaac	10 Commandment Review/Wrap Up
Nov 11	<b>*MS ServeTogether - Feed My Starving Children</b>	
Nov 16	Jacob & Esau	<b>PARENT NIGHT #1</b> Sexuality & Relationships
Nov 23	<b>NO CONFIRMATION—THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	
Nov 30	Jacob	Introduction to Creed
Dec 7	Joseph	1st Article of the Creed
Dec 9	<b>*MS Movies, Munchies &amp; More</b>	
Dec 11	<b>MS Worship &amp; ServeTogether</b>	
Dec 14	<b>PARENT NIGHT #1</b>	2nd Article of the Creed
Dec 21/28	<b>NO CONFIRMATION—WINTER BREAK</b>	
Jan 4	John the Baptist	3rd Article of the Creed
Jan 11	Jesus Begins his Ministry	Creed Review
Jan 14	<b>SOTV ServeTogether 9-11 AM</b>	
Jan 18	Parable Project Week #1	Q & A Panel
Jan 20-22	<b>*MS Welch Village Ski Trip</b>	

Date	6th & 7th Grade	8th Grade
Jan 25	Parable Project Week #2	Martin Luther #1
Feb 1	Jesus Heals	Martin Luther #2
Feb 8	Jesus Prays	Our Theses
Feb 10	<b>*MS Family Event - Tubing</b>	
Feb 12	<b>MS Worship &amp; ServeTogether - Souper Bowl of Caring</b>	
Feb 15	Rich Young Man	Martin Luther #3
Feb 22	<b>NO CONFIRMATION - ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP</b>	
Feb 29	Worship	Worship
Mar 7	Worship	Worship
Mar 9	<b>*MS Moonlight Madness</b>	
Mar 14	Worship	Worship
Mar 17	<b>SOTV ServeTogether 9-11 AM</b>	
Mar 21	Worship	Worship
Mar 28	<b>NO CONFIRMATION—SPRING BREAK</b>	
Apr 4	Holy Week	Communion
Apr 11	Jesus' Death	Baptism
Apr 18	Jesus' Resurrection	<b>PARENT NIGHT #2 - Blessing into 9th Grade</b>
Apr 25	<b>PARENT NIGHT #2</b>	Review
May 2	Test	Test
May 4	<b>*MS END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION</b>	
May 11	<b>*MS ServeTogether - Left Out</b>	

-  MS ServeTogether Event
-  SOTV ServeTogether
-  MS Worship & ServeTogether  
(formerly called HYPE)
-  MS Fun Event
-  No Confirmation
-  Parent Nights

\* Register online at [www.sotv.org/events](http://www.sotv.org/events) or on paper forms found in the Children, Youth & Family Ministry office and at the Welcome Center.

## 6th Grade Worship & ServeTogether

Sunday, October 9 from 10:30 AM-2:45 PM

6th graders, by October 9, you will have experienced a couple of weeks of confirmation and be ready for another new experience. A special 6th grade MS ServeTogether begins



at 10:30 AM in the music room for students and in the Commons for parents. In the music room, you will check in, drop off your bag lunches, and pick up a Serve Together t-shirt. At 11:00, you will attend worship with your parents where you will be presented with a gift! After worship, you and your parents will meet your confirmation small group for lunch before you participate in rotations of: 1) Dodgeball with a twist; 2) Cards for Kids; 3) Find your spiritual gift; 4) The Bible. Parents of 6th graders are encouraged to participate in this special MS ServeTogether event as well.

## Summer 2012 Sign-up Day Sunday, October 9

Join your friends, take a chance, and change your life by going on a summer mission trip. From mid-June through early August, we travel the country serving those in need and learning more about God and his relationship with us. Where can you go during the summer of 2012?

- Minneapolis Immersion for grades 6-8
- YouthWorks: Quad Cities for grades 6-8
- YouthWorks: Rapid City for grades 6-8

June 10-13

July 8-13

July 29– August 3

Some of the trips fill during the sign-up night, so be sure to be at SOTV on Sunday, October 9. High school students sign up from 6-7 PM and middle schoolers for 7-8 PM. A deposit of \$200 is needed to hold your spot on a trip. If you have any questions call Brandon at 952-985-7361.

Do you prefer the camp experience? The date for both WAPO and Luther Dell is June 17-22, 2012. Registration for camp begins in February.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS

Several times during the year, students arrive to eagerly participate in a fun activity! These events are the perfect time to hang out with church friends from confirmation, meet new people, or invite kids you know from school. Some events will be service, some will be social, all will be fun! Register using a form found in the CYF office or the Welcome Desk or sign up for each event online at [SOTV.org/events](http://SOTV.org/events)



- **Run Ragged 'til Midnight** is our biggest, craziest middle school event of the year! Come to church and find fun everywhere you turn: bounce around on giant inflatables, play carnival games, get a makeover at the hair and nail salon, Dance, Dance, Revolution until you drop, rap with Agape, and so much more. The event is on October 14 from 7-midnight and the cost is \$30. Registration is limited to 150 participants.

- On November 11 from 5:30-8:30 PM, there are 2 ServeTogether options to take part in as an individual or as a confirmation small group. Package meals for children who are hungry in body and spirit at Feed My Starving Children or go Christmas shopping for children in need who shop for gifts for their family at the Lutheran Social Service Holiday Store.

Meet at church at 5:30 PM and bring a suggested donation of \$10. For those planning to serve with their confirmation small group, please have your small group leader register all participants online. For those signing up as individuals or with a parent, please register online or use the paper MS Events Registration form. Parents are welcome to participate in this event.



- Movies, Munchies & More - On December 9 from 7-10 PM, we will dig the games out of the storage closet - if you have some favorites please bring them along - so that we can play games while we eat Christmas munchies and watch some holiday movie favorites. The cost is \$5. Registration is limited to 100 participants, but there is plenty of room to bring a friend.



- Welch Village Ski Trip - AN SOTV TRADI TION! Welch Village is the place to be from January 20-22. Get lodging in a cabin at the bottom of the hill, transportation, meals and lift tickets for \$215 with ski/board rental, \$170 if you have your own gear, or \$120 if you have your own gear and a Welch season pass. Welch Village is limited to 25 girls and 25 boys. A \$75 deposit will hold your spot. Deadline for

registration is January 18.

- Family Tubing will be on February 10 from 7:00-10:30 PM at Green Acres in Lake Elmo! All ages are invited to take part in this event: Mom, Dad, Grandpa and Grandma, sister, bother, neighbors down the street, everyone!!! The cost is as follows: 13 years & older- \$15.00 per person, 12 and under- \$10.00 per person, under 42 inches tall- \$5.00 per child. Please register as a family either online or on the Middle School Events form and indicate how many tickets you need in each category.



- **Here's your chance to stay up all night!!! That's right, all night this time and it is** called Moonlight Madness! Board the bus at 9 PM on Friday, March 9 to head to Dakotah! Health and Fitness where we will have access to the ice rink, pool, rock climbing, gym, bowling alley, and all of the other fun stuff that is there. Next the bus will head to Skateville for a couple of hours of dizzying fun on the rink. In the early morning, we will return to SOTV for a **breakfast specially prepared by the men's** ministry group. The cost for Moonlight Madness is \$50 and includes the fees for skate rental, rock climbing, bowling, some snacks and breakfast. Registrations are due by Wednesday, March 7 and the event is limited to 120 participants. Bring a friend!



## End of the Year Celebration!

- **As Pastor Randy would say, "Wahoo!" Confirmation** is over for the year and summer is just around the corner! Celebrate with us on Friday, May 4 from 7-9 PM as we have a **bonfire with camp songs and s'mores**, eat other treats, play games, win prizes and party!! This event is freeeee! So, get everyone in your confirmation small group and ask some friends from school and come CELEBRATE!
- **MS ServeTogether "Left Out"** is an overnight event at St. Andrew's in Mahtodmedi to raise funds and awareness for youth homelessness. Students will sleep in cardboard boxes in the safety of St. Andrew's parking lot. The event is Friday, May 11 from 4:30 PM to Saturday, May 12 at 9:00 AM. Participants will be asked to take part in some pre-event fundraising.



The Youth Ministry Team



Pastor Randy



Katie Heilman



Brandon Newton



Erin Swenson-Hatzung

Staff Phone & Email Info

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Barb Schulz

## Parenting Partnership Nights



**It's not an easy job** - parenting. Sometimes you feel all alone, but believe us, you are not! Partner with other parents as Pastor Randy facilitates three Wednesday evenings of conversation, learning and special guests and speakers. All Parenting Partnership Nights are in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM. These sessions are geared toward parents with middle school and high school students, but are all welcome!

- On Wednesday, November 9th, **the topic is "Parenting Survival Techniques"** or how to survive the school year with healthy relationships with your kids.
- On Wednesday, December 7th, **we have a two topic evening about "Alcohol and Teen Depression"**. **As guests, we will have college students, who have first hand knowledge of depression or misuse of alcohol and a school counselor therapist.**
- Finally, on Wednesday, January 18, **we will all share tips on "How to Help my Kid have Faith"**.