

*Central Lutheran Church  
High School  
Youth Group*  
*Ministry booklet for  
2009-2010*



**Helping youth & families grow in love  
for Jesus Christ and each other!**

Welcome to Central Lutheran Church's Higher's (that's short for High Schoolers) Youth Ministry. *Our bottom line motivation is to help youth grow in love with Jesus Christ and the people in their lives.* We strive to be a caring community, a playful place, a spiritual sanctuary, and an engaging encounter with each other and with Christ. We've got lots of opportunities planned to help all this come together into a fabulous year of friendships, faith and service. So, this booklet is intended to help orient you and your family to what's going on, program-wise, so you can plan ahead and help us make this year unforgettable. Blessing to you all!



In Christ,

Pastor Robyn Eddy  
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## This YEAR'S CALENDAR!

### **In addition to CJAM on Sundays 9:30-10:30am, and WNL on Wednesdays (6:00 dinner) 7:00-8:30pm, here's what's up:**

Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> Rally Day & Church Picnic- (help with kiddy games)  
Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> Parent-Student Orientation 7:00-8:30pm  
Sept 20<sup>th</sup> Youth New Orleans Slide Show at PACE 9:30am  
Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> WNL begins! Youth Board Elections! (6:00)7:00-8:30pm  
Sept.26-27 Fall Lock-in  
Oct 4<sup>th</sup> Pet Sitting for Blessing of the Animals 10:30-12:00  
Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> Concert: David Crowder Band at First Baptist  
Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> Servant Event: Habitat for Humanity  
Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> Mid-High Servant Event: Trick or Treat for Canned Food  
Nov. 25 – 29<sup>th</sup> NO WNL or Forum (Thanksgiving Break)  
Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> Forum helps with Advent Fair  
Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> All Church Servant Event: Christmas Caroling  
Dec. 20-Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> No Forum or WNL for Christmas Break  
Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> & 9 or 10<sup>th</sup> Youth Fundraiser: Christmas Tree Pickup  
Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> Epiphany Party  
Jan. 22-24 Snow Retreat at Mt. Bachelor  
Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> Youth Sunday (rehearsal on Jan 30<sup>th</sup>)  
Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> No WNL (Ash Wednesday Worship)  
Mar. 21-31 No Forum or WNL (Spring Break and Holy Week)  
Apr. 4<sup>th</sup> Easter Breakfast  
Apr 16-18 Spring Fling Retreat  
May 1<sup>st</sup> Fundraiser prep: unload flower truck & baking party  
May 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Fundraiser: Gourmet Bake Sale & Flower Sale  
May 16<sup>th</sup> Graduation Sunday and Brunch  
May 23<sup>rd</sup> Confirmation Sunday & "Buddy" Reception  
May 26<sup>th</sup> WNL "Celebrate Seniors" End of the Year Party  
July 4-10 Highers Canyoneering Summer Trip  
Summer Dates TBA:  
Rafting Retreat, Other Meet-ups

\*\* Youth Board meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month 7:00-8:30pm

## "YOUTH COMMUNION": WEEKLY GATHERINGS

*The purpose of weekly gatherings is to provide a safe place for relationships to grow and faith to deepen. Youth need a regular opportunity to connect with each other and with adult volunteers/mentors, and CJAM and WNL are meant to fill that need. This is the place where lives are enriched and transformed!*

**Sunday "Coffee, Jesus, and Me"**—this is our gathering on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour (9:30-10:30). We hang out together in the Luther House as we enjoy a time of sharing, praying, and Christian conversation. This is not a class with lectures, but more of a discussion group where we can learn from and support each other. Drinks from Pray-a-Latte are welcome! Other Sunday morning options include attending the adult PACE presentations or helping teach Sunday School for the younger kids.



**WednesdayNightLive (WNL)**— Each Wednesday we gather to fellowship, learn and grow in faith. There is time for checking in with each other, praying for each other, getting into God's Word as we explore various topics youth are facing, and honest sharing. This is the place to invite friends, as we discuss topics that YOU have chosen, from a Christian perspective. We'll also have regular "Chat Nights" when we follow your lead for whatever you want to talk about and occasional "Facebook Nights" where, together, we'll update our Facebook site (CLC Youth!), uploading photos, writing comments, and checking out each other's pages, too! In an important way, WNL is the core of the Youth Program at Central, **so we want you to be a part of us!**

Example Schedule of the evening:

6:00 – Simple Dinner and Hangout/Homework Time

7:00—Opening Worship

7:15—Communion Circle with High's and Lows

7:45—Topical Discussion/Bible Study

8:30—Announcements, Hangout, Home

We want to offer a **simple dinner** to any students who wish to come early to just hang out, do homework, or whatever. Parents: We need your help! Can you help supply food?

## “MEETING UP”: EVENTS & RETREATS

*We want to “meet up” outside our weekly gatherings to encounter Youth in fresh ways. These are the times when great memories are made and friendships move to a deeper level because of our shared experiences. These are also great events to invite friends to, especially those who may not be familiar with church or Christian faith, as they provide a fun intro to our ministry.*

**Let’s Meet-up**— Throughout the year we’ll have opportunities to hang out together, be it sharing lunch at school, attending a play, concert, or game, or whatever you, the youth, want to do! We could play Capture the Flag, or have a Rock Band night, perhaps rock out to the David Crowder Band or just meet for late night swarm at “off- the- waffle.” Who knows? It’s up to you!

**Fall Lock-In, September 26-27**. this lock-in is our chance to jump right in to the year, grow together as a community, and have some late night fun. Bring your favorite video game stuff, movies, and dark clothes for blackout Sardines.

**Snow Retreat to Mt Bachelor, January 22-24, 2010**—Join us for the weekend as we play in the snow, hit the slopes, marvel at God’s beauty in the mountains, and grow in our relationship with Christ. For those who don’t ski/board, there will be lots to do for fun that doesn’t involve strapping planks to your feet!

**Spring Fling Beach Retreat, April 16-18, 2010**— Hit the beach with us this spring as we consider what Christ’s been doing in our lives and how we’re being challenged to move forward in faith. And of course, we’ll have time to play in the sand, wade in the water, hang out around the bonfire, and have a laid-back great time!

**Deschutes River Rafting Retreat, Summer 2010**— Join us for a wet and wild adventure as we welcome incoming Freshmen, bid farewell to graduated Seniors, and think about the role our faith in Jesus Christ will play in our lives in the upcoming year.

Summer Events may include Pool Parties, Picnics, Servant Events, and other fun gatherings so you can stay connected with each other, even when school’s out! Dates and times will be figured out in the Spring.

## LEADERSHIP AND CONTACTS

**Pastor Robyn Eddy, Pastor of Youth and Family Ministry**  
345-0395 x17 [pastorrobyn@hotmail.com](mailto:pastorrobyn@hotmail.com) cell phone 579-1554 or facebook Robyn Eddy or CLC Youth!

Pastor Robyn grew up in Spokane, WA, graduated from Macalester College (St. Paul, MN) in 1995 and earned her Masters of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1999. She is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) but has loved serving Christ in many churches of many denominations. She co-pastored a United Methodist Church with her husband for 4 years in Skagit Co., WA, where she lead the Youth Group, Worship Band, and many other church-wide ministries. She has lead Youth and Family Ministries here at Central since July, 2005. She is passionate about reaching out to people with the love and grace of Jesus Christ, enjoys travel, playing guitar, hiking, high adventure, and playing with her son, Jasper. She’s got another baby on the way, due in mid-February!

**The Youth Board** is a group of adults and youth who care deeply about keeping our youth ministry strong, healthy and growing. They meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month to help plan, implement, and evaluate what goes on, as well as coordinate volunteers. They receive and consider feed-back and suggestions from youth and parents, so if you have ideas and comments, please talk with a Youth Board member. In the past the Youth Board has primarily focused on High School programs and we would like to expand to include some parents of Middlers and a couple 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Please consider joining us!

Current Youth Board Members (adults): Terie Hansen, Carol Mosman and Dawn Susico. We’re looking for another adult!

Our current Youth members include: Michael Naleway (Senior), Emily Herrmann & Ian Doxsee (Juniors), and Andy Rodgers & Kyle Lambert (sophomores). We’ll elect new student members on Wed. Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>, up to two from each grade.

**Adult Mentors** (who help lead regular meetings)

Joe Carmichael (maybe)—WednesdayNightLive

Terie Hansen—Wednesday Night Live

Rachel Vettrus—Sunday “Coffee, Jesus And Me”

Caitlin Elwood—Sunday “CJAM”

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

\**Adult Volunteers Needed*—Pastor Robyn is NOT God. She cannot do everything herself. But she CAN make phone calls, send texts and emails when she needs help with Chaperones, drivers, dinner or snack providers, etc. If we're doing something that you'd like to help with, Pastor Robyn would love to have you on board!

\**WNL Simple Dinners*—Could you help provide a pot of soup and bread or spaghetti & salad, or a pizza once a month, quarterly or whenever so our youth can get both spiritual and physical nourishment on Wednesday nights? Please sign up to help!

\* *Youth Board*—The Youth Board does innumerable behind-the-scenes tasks to help make this youth ministry the awesome community we have today. But they also are NOT God, and can't do everything, so they help coordinate volunteers, plan, and give input on Youth Ministry directions. We need fresh faces each year to keep our ministry fresh, so please consider serving on the board. And if a board member calls to ask for your help with a specific event, consider saying "Yes!" (for more info on the Youth Board, see Leadership on page 13).

\* *Youth Band*—Music is an essential part of our culture, as well as any Christian community. Pastor Robyn loves to play guitar and sing, but what she loves even more is being part of a band! If you are a "higher" and you'd like to help lead music, please let Pastor Robyn know. She will even give informal guitar lessons on alternating Sundays at her house! Let her know if you're interested.



\* *Got Ideas? Got Skills?* Pastor Robyn would love to help you get more Youth activities going, be it a service project, a fun night event, or a Small Group Study. There's always room to expand the program, all we need is God to nudge you to take the lead! Call, email or facebook Pastor Robyn if you have ideas!

## "MINGA & MISSION": SERVANT EVENTS

"And the righteous ones will ask, "Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you a drink? ...When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?" and the King will tell them, "I assure you, when you did it to one of the least of these, you were doing it for me." Matthew 25:37-40. For many people, the best way to experience God is to serve God. Compassionate service, and learning about justice issues is an important part of Christian faith, so that Service Projects are a crucial part of this youth ministry!

**Minga: The coming together of the community to work for the common good.** (This is a South American Quechua term)

**Mission: Joining in with the ongoing work of God in our world.** (This is a fundamental Christian concept! It's our purpose for existing!)

In the past, our youth ministry has participated in a variety of servant opportunities, from Food for Lane County's Community Garden, Dining Room and Rescue Kitchens to hosting the Interfaith Homeless Shelter and adopting a family at Christmas to provide food, clothes and gifts.

But this year, it's my prayer that as a youth ministry, we could discern if God is calling us to make a deeper impact within a specific area of community need. We'd then focus our energies on a regular basis in this area, be it homeless youth, hunger and poverty, issues of race and immigration, literacy, accessibility or whatever we sense God is leading us into. Hopefully this will open the door for us to serve on a monthly basis so that we truly get to know and care for the people we encounter. Parents will occasionally be invited to join us, too!

### **Possible Servant Opportunities include:**

**Hosea Youth Services-** homeless youth ministry  
**St. Vincent's Family Center-** homeless family ministry  
**Centro Latino Americano-** Hispanic/immigrant ministry  
**Springfield Clothing Exchange-** poverty ministry  
Tutoring kids? Helping at Habitat? Growing food?  
**Any ideas that you, the youth might come up with!**

**Easter breakfast, April 4th**—proceeds raised from our annual breakfast are donated to Hosea House Homeless Youth Ministries

## THE BIG SUMMER TRIP: OUTDOOR ADVENTURE!

In our summer trip rotation (Youth Gathering, Outdoor Adventures, and Intensive Service) it's time for an Outdoor Adventure in 2010. We've narrowed down our options to three great possibilities and we want to hear your choice! Then plan to join us for a great summer adventure!

**Backpacking & Canyoneering in the Sierras**—We'll hike in about 5 miles to a base camp, then each day go out exploring the slot-canyons nearby by rock climbing & repelling, creek walking/swimming, cliff jumping (into water!) and a class 4 rafting day at the end. Trip led by Rock n' Water Ministries.

Dates: July 4-10 (5 days plus 2 travel days)

Estimated Real Cost per person: \$400

What we'll actually ask you to pay: \$250

**Sierra Treks Backpacking**—In the spectacular Sierras bordering Yosemite N.P., this is the most demanding trip in this year's line-up. We'll backpack or hike 6-7 miles each day learning important backcountry skills and Christian environmentalism along the way. Trip led by Sierra Treks.

Dates: July 29-Aug 8 (9 days plus 2 travel days)

Estimated Real Cost per person: \$950

What we'll actually ask you to pay: \$350

**Biking and Kayaking the San Juans**—Explore the islands and waters of the Puget Sound, camping out each night, enjoying the sights and sounds of this gorgeous part of the world. Not really a wilderness trip, but still beautiful. We may add a day serving in the migrant worker camps in Skagit County. Trip led by the staff at Tall Timber Ranch near Leavenworth, WA

Dates: Mid-late July, 5-6 days plus 2 travel days

Estimated Real Cost per person: \$500

What we'll actually ask you to pay: \$250

\$

Because we ask summer trip participants to pay only part of the cost of the summer trip, it is essential that you participate in our Fundraisers. You'll be expected to work the Basketball Lot 3-4 times, plus actively help with at least 3 other fundraiser events.

## EXPECTATIONS (CONT.)

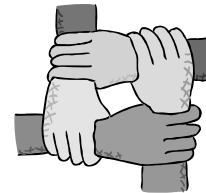
### Youth:

\* *Make being here a priority*—We've heard it all before, "do I really hafta go?" Well, any youth *community* is more fun when there're lots of people there, so come and make youth group awesome! We WANT you to be part of us! You make a difference in our community! And don't forget to INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!!

\* *Build loving, respectful relationships*—We've made a group covenant together that explains how we agree to act when we're together, just to ensure that our youth events are always fun and safe. We'll expect you to abide by the guidelines our group created.

\* *Be open to something new*— We're always trying new things, welcoming new people, and considering new perspectives. Openness is key! God's gonna do great things here, so let's be open to see what happens!

\* *Participate in fundraisers to go on trips & retreats*— We need you to help out! No free lunch until you get to heaven folks, and as much as we love grace, when it comes to money, you've gotta earn it.



### What you can expect from Pastor Robyn

I will do my best to love your kids and help them to grow in love for each other and our God. I will make high quality, faithful Youth Ministry a priority and encourage the youth to participate in making this youth ministry the best it can be. I will be open to your suggestions. I will try to involve as many youth and adults in shaping this ministry as possible.

### What you can expect from God—

God promises to show up—where 2 or more are gathered in God's name, God is in the midst of them! God promises to love you and accept you unconditionally and to fill you with God's own Spirit. God promises to change our lives for the better, if we commit to follow Christ and make Him a priority in our lives.

## EXPECTATIONS

### Parents:

- \* *Get your child registered* at Rally Day or ASAP so we can get their insurance info on file, get current info on birthdays, emails, cell #s and all those ever-changing details.
- \* *Be active in your child's life!* Ask him or her how things are going. Pray together. Volunteer to help with a youth event. Cheer your child on!
- \* *Encourage your child to attend!* When he or she is wavering on whether or not to come, a gentle nudge on your part could change your child's life!
- \* *Strengthen your own faith*— Parents are the most effective Youth Pastors on the planet. Despite what your child may tell you, what you model makes a lasting impact! And being a parent is hard work—get the support you need, so consider coming to Parents' Group on Tuesday Nights.

### ***PARENTAL SUPPORT:***

***Parents Support Groups!!!*** Oct 6-Nov 24 we'll be offering "Love for a Lifetime" each Tuesday night, a curriculum to help promote more loving, lasting marriage and family relationships, facilitated by Dave and Linnea Embleton. But we encourage other spontaneous groups to form—perhaps an informal "Higher Parents" dinner group once a month on a Wednesday night? If you'd be willing to help get a group started, please talk with Pastor Robyn and she'll help you out!

***50 Below—Sunday Small Group for Adults under 50.*** Beginning October 11th, Pastor Robyn and (someone yet to agree) will co-facilitate this small discussion group while our children are in Sunday School. We meet in the Gathering Room and will discuss topics of faith pertaining to families.

### ***Watch for other Parent-Student Activities during the year!***

In the past we've had game nights and servant events where you can spend some quality time with your son or daughter. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can better encourage your faith and strengthen your relationship with your child, please talk with Pastor Robyn or any member of the Youth Board.

## FUNDRAISERS AND FINANCIAL AID

*Fundraisers: While you may think that most of the money raised through our fundraisers goes to the "Big Summer Trip," in reality, that money also helps keep your costs down for other, smaller scale events, so whether or not you plan to go on the Big Trip, we still need your participation in making our fundraisers a success. Besides, our fundraisers can be a lot of fun!*

This year, our fundraisers will include:

Pray a Latte—ongoing during the school year, come work as a barista between worship services!

Blessing of the Animals Sunday—Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 10:30-12:00am. Between worship services we take time to bless the animals that have been a blessing to us. We need youth to "pet sit" the animals during the 10:45 worship service.

Waiting Tables for Consecration Sunday Bruch—Sunday, Nov 15<sup>th</sup> we'll help with the church brunch, and get a nice donation in return for our efforts!

Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Certificates Sale—from late November through Christmas, youth will sell \$5 gift certificates for Ben & Jerry's Scoop Shops.

Christmas Tree Pick-up—January 4 & 9 or 10. Folks sign up for our services and we'll come and collect their old, dead Christmas trees. We'll need pickup truck drivers and tree hefters.

U of O Basketball parking—on winter weeknights, our parking lots fill with Duck fans willing to pay for prime parking. We'll need you to help as parking attendants!

Flower Basket and Bake Sale—pre-selling flower pots between worship services in April for delivery May 2<sup>nd</sup>. We need you to take orders, help unload the truck the day before and bring flowers out to people's cars. Just in time for Mothers Day, bake and buy delicious treats! We'll have a baking party the day before.

### FINANCIAL AID:

We try to keep costs down, but we realize that if you were to participate in all our events, you'd spend hundreds of dollars each year. So we have a Financial Aid Fund to help those families who need it and we gladly offer generous aid to anyone who asks (including friends of youth group regulars). Please talk with Pastor Robyn about your needs. All conversations and agreements are strictly confidential.

## YOUTH ON SUNDAYS



**Acolytes and Crucifers**—At each worship service we need youth (both Middlers and Highers) to help lead worship as acolytes and crucifers. Acolytes help with such duties as lighting candles, carrying torches and collecting offerings. Crucifers carry in the processional cross and occasionally help serve communion (if they've been confirmed). This Fall, an acolyte/crucifer schedule will be published through February 1 and mailed to each of you. A second schedule will be published in January. We expect youth to do their best to fulfill their scheduled obligations. If you are NOT

able to assist on your assigned dates, it is UP TO YOU to find a replacement and notify Kristi in the church office by the Wednesday before your assigned date. Lists of student subs and phone numbers will be distributed with the Acolyte Schedule.

**Youth Sunday**—Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. This is a creative worship Sunday, designed and led by the High School Youth. We need as many youth to help as possible for readings, drama, music, artwork, and children's message at both services. Our High School Seniors will share messages from the pulpit.

**Graduation Sunday**—Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate our many graduating students, including Middle Schoolers, High Schoolers, College Students and others. A special brunch for our graduates and their families will follow the 10:45 worship service.

**Confirmation Sunday**—Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. At the 10:45 worship service we will officially confirm our 8<sup>th</sup> graders who satisfactorily completed the confirmation program during Middle School. Between services, Higher "Buddies" will welcome and introduce these newly confirmed members during a special reception in the Parish Hall.

Other Sunday Special Events include helping "pet-sit" for the Blessing of the Animals Service on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, leading crafts for the Advent Faire on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, and serving breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.

## PARENTAL PERMISSION/HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY

All events that require a parental permission form and signed covenant (basically anything that we do outside church property) will be publicized with fliers that include those forms in the published material. For your convenience, when you get them in the mail, just cut off the permission form section and send it along with your child! Easy! However, because we still need to have an idea of attendance numbers for advance planning, it's **IMPERATIVE that you RSVP** by phone, facebook or email by the deadline set in the fliers you'll receive, then simply bring the completed forms with you to the event itself.

**The Health Insurance Binder**: This is an option for parents who tire of always writing out your child's health insurance information. We will compile a binder with each child's health insurance information and then bring this binder along whenever we travel off church property (and keep it in a safe, secure place, I promise). If we have you're child's health info in the binder, that will cover him or her for the whole year. If you'd like to take advantage of this convenience, please supply Pastor Robyn with a photocopy of your child's health card (front and back) and any specific health concerns (allergies, latent illnesses, etc).

However, if you do not feel comfortable supplying this information for our binder, you may opt to simply fill out the appropriate blanks on each form for each particular event. The important thing is that we have sufficient information to get your child the medical care he or she might need in an emergency. God willing, we'll never have to use it!



### A Word about FACEBOOK:

This web networking tool is a great way for our youth ministry to stay connected, get the word out, and celebrate what we've been doing together through photos and comments. I encourage you (parents and kids!) to get signed up and join our group page: CLC Youth! If you have questions or concerns, please talk with me! My page is Robyn Eddy.