



# Children, Youth and Family Ministry News

# APRIL



## Camp Sunday

Join us on April 8<sup>th</sup> at both services as we celebrate worship with a crew from Camp Hiawatha leading us! Come ready to join in with all your favorite camp songs, maybe see a skit or two, and experience worship a little bit differently than normal! We hope to see you there and getting excited for camp this summer!

Pastor Jordan



## Wednesday Night Schedule through May

Spring is finally here! And summer is following right on its heels! We certainly know how everyone will soon be busy with all of our pre-summer activities. So, if you are going to be busy on Sundays remember that we have Wednesday night services as well! Throughout April we will still be having Coffee House, Wednesday Night Faith, Confirmation, our Adult discussion class, our amazing suppers, and worship all happening! Our last day for Confirmation and Wednesday Night Faith will be May 2<sup>nd</sup> but Worship, Supper, and Coffee House will all be happening through our last night of Wednesday Night Worship which is May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Pastor Jordan

## Habitat Build

On April 11<sup>th</sup> we are pleased to be able to do a special act of service and welcome our new neighbors in Aitkin. Our 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> Graders will be working that night on building some special projects that will be given to the family when they move in! We will also be learning a bit about Habitat for Humanity and how they work in our area. We are still looking for a couple of skilled volunteers that might be able to help teach and guide our youth that night in different carpentry skills. Please talk to Pastor Jordan if that sounds like something you would be interested in doing!



## Summer Stretch

Summer Stretch is a youth summer program for all current 6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> graders. We will be meeting four Thursdays and one Wednesday in June and July to do a service project in the morning and a fun activity in the afternoon with a few churches in the area. Summer stretch is a great opportunity for our youth to live out their faith by helping in their community as well as a great chance to have fun this summer!

Dates: June 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> and July 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The cost: \$50. Please stop into our office and see Pastor Jordan to sign up!

## A look ahead to Summer

Its April already and its time to look ahead to summer! And if you think that we are finally going to slow down from our “ridiculous” schedule you are in for a surprise!

On the youth side of things, yes there is going to be a break from Sunday School and Confirmation until September but those are getting replaced with a few other activities! For our younger kids we have VBS, and Camp (we already have 19 kids going to camp – let’s get that number higher!) For our older youth we are going to be having Summer Stretch again this year, our high schoolers are going to be heading down to Houston for the ELCA National Youth Gathering (Which I know I am extremely excited to be going down with them!)

If you’re thinking that’s great, but I don’t really fall into any of those categories, how about coming to our Tuesday Senior day out here at First! And of course for ALL AGES we have our all-ages retreat at Camp Hiawatha on August 24 through the 26<sup>th</sup>! During worship on Sunday, April 8th and Wednesday, April 11th, we will be drawing for 3 families to attend camp FREE. And for everyone who is around we are still having our 5:00 p.m. Saturday evening services and our 10:00 a m worship services all summer long!

There are all these things and more and we are going to need your help more than ever! We still house the Aitkin area food shelf which will be opening up twice a month in the summer. We will still be serving 2 meals a week for the community through our kitchen. There are still many places that you can help serve all summer long!

And as many people know, Pastor Darrell will be on sabbatical for all of June and July. So during those 2 months I’ll be working as hard as I can to serve the congregation as well as I can. Also during those 2 months you’ll see Pastor Doug Larson around a little more for preaching, which is always a great thing! I’m also looking forward to doing some visioning and planning for this fall as well!

I hope you are excited for this busy exciting summer that is ahead of us!

Grace and Peace

Pastor Jordan Gades

