

THE Foundation

Youth and Children's Ministry Newsletter



OCTOBER 2023

FROM THE YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S DESK...

September was a busy month! Here is a recap of all the excitement:

- We started back to Sunday school, and we have loved seeing all the old and new faces on Sunday mornings! In the children's department, our littlest ones are back in the routine of the Atrium at Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and our 4th and 5th graders are diving deeper into the lectionary each Sunday with a little fun added in. In youth, the middle schoolers are continuing to learn about the Ancestors of Faith and the high schoolers are continuing to read *Looking For God in Messy Places* by Jake Owensby. I cannot thank all of our Sunday School teachers enough for being willing to pour into all of these students and children.
- Boys and Girls Choir is back in full swing! They are learning so much and having a great time doing it during Wednesday afternoon rehearsals. They were so excited to participate in Evensong. Please contact Derrick if your child would be interested in participating. Choir is open to ages 7-18
- We had our first St. Mark's Kids Club on September 27 for grades 3,4 & 5. We learned about creation and had a great time playing games and showing off our creative side. We will meet again on October 25 at 6pm in the Ministry Center.

October is already shaping up to be full of activity! Fall fest was SO much fun. There are some pictures included in this newsletter. Thank you to everyone who helped make it wonderful. Our EYC and the EYC from St. Paul's will start meeting together once a month. This month we are meeting together on Oct 22 for Pumpkin Carving.

We are filling our roster for the mission trip to Honduras. We have adult and youth spots still available. Please contact Amy if you are interested in hearing more about this trip and how you can be a part of it.

Lots of exciting things are happening for children and youth at St. Mark's Cathedral! Be sure to mark your calendar using the [Dates to Remember](#) in this newsletter and check out the [EYC spotlight](#) on Emma Caraway. We don't want you to miss a thing!

INSPIRING READS IN THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE YOUTH AND
CHILDREN'S DESK 1

DATES TO REMEMBER 2

EYC SPOTLIGHT 2

PICTURES 3

FINDING GRACE
IN THE TRENCHES 4



DATES TO REMEMBER

October 1

- Fall Fest
- No EYC

October 8

- No Sunday School / No EYC - Fall Break

October 15

- EYC 5:30-7 in Youth Rooms

October 22

- **EYC at St. Paul's - Pumpkin Carving!**

October 25

- CLUB 345 6-7 in the Ministry Center

October 29

- EYC Halloween Party 5:30-7
- Wear your not so scary costume!

November 5

- Friendsgiving EYC with St. Paul's @ SMC



EYC spotlight

3 Questions with Emma Caraway



School: Loyola College Prep

Grade: 9th

My favorite part of EYC is when we have fellowship and we talk about God and how we can follow him and be more Christ like.

My favorite St. Mark's memory was helping out this past summer with VBS and getting to hang out with the kids along with helping them grow closer with Christ.

This year I am most looking forward to helping change lives on the Honduras mission trip with the EYC youth community.



MISSION TRIP TO HONDURAS

MARCH 9-16, 2024

OPEN TO 8TH - 12TH GRADE

SCAN HERE TO SIGN UP



TOTAL COST

APPROXIMATELY

\$2300

(includes air fare, food and lodging)

DEPOSIT DUE BY OCT 1.

\$250

to reserve your spot

There will be fundraising opportunities to offset some of the cost of the trip.

Adult Spots are also available, contact Amy for more information

Contact:
Amy Garsee, Youth Minister
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EYC @ SURGE



Club 345

Fall Festival

FINDING

Grace

IN THE TRENCHES

Do you ever have the feeling that you are just “too busy?”

This newsletter is coming out about a week later than I wanted it to, because the Garsee house came to a screeching halt this week as everyone (except for myself) came down with covid, strep or some other type of illness. Plans had to be canceled, school and work were missed, and everyone spent far too much time inside our house. We were in a “forced time-out.”

While I have been on this “time-out” I have done a lot of thinking about what I was missing. I often struggle with letting the busyness of life overwhelm me. I can get pulled so far down into the weeds that even the things I enjoy become a chore. This week I missed just about everything that was on my calendar. Looking back, I found that most of them did not really matter at all or could be rescheduled. Taylor will still go to college even if we didn’t make that tour and have to reschedule. The swim meet on Tuesday still ran even if I was not sitting at the computer. The list goes on and on.

Do you ever feel like you are just “too busy” for God? How often do we think “I’m just too busy to do that thing at Church.” “I’m too busy to make it to worship on Sunday morning.” “I’m too busy to add one more thing to our weekly schedule.” “I’m too busy to pray.”

We missed church this weekend so everyone could recover and we could keep any remaining germs to ourselves. I found my soul yearning for that time of restoration that I missed. I missed the overwhelming peace that I feel sitting in the cathedral. I missed the prayers, the music and the comfort that restores my soul and sets me up to go out into the world with Jesus for the week. I have found that times when I think I am “too busy” for God are the times I need him the most. It can be so easy to “bump” the church stuff off the calendar for other activities. To squash that tug you feel to participate in the missions of the church while you occupy your life with other things.

There is hope though. Even though we may feel that we are “too busy,” God is never too busy for us! He wants to be with us and in our lives in all things. So, I challenge us all (myself included) to remember that God wants to be with us in our busyness. Don’t try to shove him to the side. Pray in those moments that feel overwhelming. Use the time sitting and waiting for your children to read, study, or pray (there are great apps.) Respond to the tug to do something new like joining a bible study, going on a mission trip, going to the Wednesday morning Eucharist, or participating in some other activity at the church.

Imagine what our children will learn from watching us in this process.

Blessings-

Amy

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St Marks EYC