

# YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

*Not a Significant Source of Protein, Riboflavin, or Facts*

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## New Year, New Youth!

It's 2023, and my hope for the St. Paul's/St. Matthew's Youth Ministry is that it will continue to grow and evolve as it did in 2022. I'm looking forward to exciting new opportunities, new faces (youth AND adult), and new ventures, as well as the return of some old favorites that haven't been seen since 2019 (and that will still be "new" to just about all of the youth since they haven't happened in four years). Here's a sampling of what is (hopefully) in store for 2023:

## Upcoming Events

*see calendar pages for more details and signup links*

- ☞ **SUNDAY 1.8** High School Youth "Brunchtime!" @ St. Matt's
- ☞ **SUNDAY 1.8** Middle School Youth Fun & Games @ St. Matt's
- ☞ **SATURDAY 1.28** Good Works Youth Workday
- ☞ **SUNDAY 1.29** Youth Gaming Day at Uplink Studios

## Upcoming Deadlines

*signup links embedded*

- ☞ **Wednesday 1.18** Signup deadline for [January 28th Good Works Workday](#)
- ☞ **Sunday 1.22** Registration and deposit deadline for Mar. 24th-26th [Tuscarora Lutheran Youth Retreat](#) (6th-12th graders)
- ☞ **Thursday 1.29** Registration deadline for Feb. 10th-12th Youth Retreats to Bear Creek Camp (6th-12th graders) — [Middle School Retreat](#) and [High School Retreat](#)

◆ **Our first actual overnight retreats in four years!** The Bear Creek Camp "Connect - Disconnect - Reconnect" retreats in mid-February for both middle school and high school, and the synod-wide Tuscarora Lutheran Youth Retreat for 6th through 12th graders at the end of March offer multiple opportunities for youth in both groups to explore their faith among like-minded peers! See details on pages 2 and 3, but note that the registration deadlines for ALL of these are before the end of this month.

◆ **A newly-started relationship with the Martin Luther School in Plymouth Meeting,** where our high schoolers can provide activities and social interaction for their elementary-aged kids who have experienced some serious challenges in their lives. (See the photos from our December Elmwood Zoo trip on page 2!)

◆ **A mission trip opportunity for our current 5th through 7th graders to spend several days in Washington D.C.!** See page 4 for updated info.

◆ **A return to Central Appalachia for another high school workweek through Appalachia Service Project!**

◆ **Re-engaging with World Vision's "30 Hour Famine" at the end of February,** to make the issue of childhood hunger even more real to our high school youth. Details on page 4.

◆ **The return of community-building fundraising events such as car washes and the ever-popular Spaghetti Dinner!**

...And of course, the launch of our new GroupMe group pages to streamline information for youth and families. Watch your e-mail for invitations to join, coming to you by Friday, January 6th.

I hope that all of these new beginnings and possibilities energize you as much as they do me! Here's to a year where God continues to work in and through us!

It's Back!  
The

# TUSCARORA

LUTHERAN RETREAT

March 24th - 26th, 2023

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod's Annual  
6th through 12th Grade Spectacular!

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW  
THROUGH JANUARY 22ND**

What is the Tuscarora Lutheran Youth Retreat? It's an opportunity to gather with a few hundred other Lutheran youth from our area and spend a weekend at a conference center in the Delaware Water Gap engaging in fun activities, taking part in faith conversations, and making new friends! Activity groups are separated by grade level. Free time opportunities include indoor basketball and volleyball courts, Kan Jam, a GaGa Ball court. Sleeping arrangements are by congregation, with male and female participants in separate rooms. Saturday breakfast through Sunday lunch is provided; accommodations can be made for individuals with special dietary requirements.

The cost is \$125 per person, payable by check to either St. Paul's or St. Matthew's. **Scholarships are available**; talk to Craig Miller, Pastor Stuart, Pastor Christian, or either church office for more information. **Financial challenges should not be the only barrier to participating in this, or any other, youth event.** Sign up here by Sunday, January 22nd to participate: [March 24-26 Tuscarora Lutheran Youth Retreat.](#)



*Photos of our Dec. 18th trip to Elmwood Park Zoo's "Wild Lights" display with some of the elementary kids from Martin Luther School. Our youth had as much fun as they did!*

**St. Matthew's/St. Paul's (Rescheduled)  
Middle School AND High School Youth  
Full-Weekend Retreats  
to Bear Creek Camp  
in the Pocono Mountains!**



*Friday evening, February 10th through  
Sunday afternoon, February 12th, 2023*

**Two separate retreats,  
but on the same weekend  
in the same facility**

- Fun Activities ● Food ● Thought-Provoking Conversations
- Food ● Teambuilding ● More Food
- Games ● Campfire ● Did We Mention Food?

☞ \$40 for the first participant from each family

☞ \$20 for each additional participant from the same family

☞ Registrations for BOTH retreats are factored into the cost!

*Sign up at these links to participate:*

[Middle School Youth Retreat Signup](#)

[High School Youth Retreat Signup](#)



**Adult drivers and  
leaders are also  
needed; sign up  
here to help out**

[Youth Retreat Adult Help](#)

**Registration deadline is  
Sunday, January 29th,  
so sign up NOW!!!**

**COMING FEBRUARY 24th THROUGH 25th, 2023**

Our group will once again commit to going without food for thirty hours from noon Friday, February 24th through 6pm Saturday, February 25th. We will participate in activities, group discussions and projects to learn more about the problem of child hunger in our world, as well as do things in service to others, from 6pm Friday evening through the end of our fast on Saturday. **You do not need to fast to take part in the activities;** participants may also join us late or leave early if other commitments make it absolutely necessary. Join our team and become part of an unforgettable experience by clicking here and selecting “Join Our Team”: [30 Hour Famine](#).

## **IMPORTANT CHANGES TO OUR JUNE MIDDLE SCHOOL TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.**

Based on conversations with, and suggestions and feedback from, some families at both St. Matthew’s and St. Paul’s, we have decided to make some adjustments to our Middle School Youth mission trip to Washington D.C. this coming June, in order to draw more participants. Here’s the quick rundown:

1. **The trip is being shortened by two full days.** The new dates are **Sunday, June 18th through WEDNESDAY, June 21st**, for a total of four days and three nights.
2. Since the trip will be shorter, some expenses for our group will also be less. As such, **the registration fee is being reduced to \$250 per youth participant.** There will still be fundraising opportunities, and scholarships are still available to help defray the cost for any families that require some financial relief.
3. Finally, **the age range for eligible participants is being shifted to current 5th through 7th graders**, who will be ‘rising’ 6th through 8th graders by the time the trip happens in June. Current 8th graders (rising 9th graders) are still able to participate in the July Appalachia Service Project workweek.

Because of these changes we are re-opening the registration period until Sunday, February 12th. To register, sign up here: [Middle School Trip to Washington D.C.](#) You will also need to submit a \$100 non-refundable deposit in the form of a check made out to either congregation, also due by February 12th.

This still promises to be a worthwhile, meaningful, and fun experience for our younger youth, and we hope that these changes allow you to become part of our group! Contact Craig Miller for more information about this trip. For more information about the Steinbruck Center, go to their [website](#).



# MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS SCHEDULE

## JANUARY 2023

- **Sunday, Jan. 8th, 2:00 to 4:00pm at St. Matthew's  
Middle School Fun & Games Day**  
*Spend the afternoon playing games of all types — board, card, skill, chance, mind, athletic, electronic — you name it, we'll probably play it! Sign up here to participate: [Jan. 8th Middle School Fun & Games](#).*
- **Sunday, Jan. 29th, 12:45 to 3:30pm at Uplink Studios  
Youth Gaming Day at Uplink Studios!**  
*Come show off your e-skills as we take part in another gaming session at Uplink Studios in Glenmoore. Cost is \$20 per person. Sign up here by Sunday, January 22nd to participate: [Jan. 29th Youth Gaming Day](#).*

## FEBRUARY

- **Friday, Feb. 10th to Sunday, Feb. 12th  
Youth Retreat to Bear Creek Camp**  
*Our congregational youth retreat which was postponed from September. More information on page 3. Sign up here to join us: [Middle School Retreat to Bear Creek Camp](#). Signup deadline is **Sunday, January 29th**, so don't put this off!*
- **Sunday, Feb. 26th, 12:45 to 2:15pm (note time change)  
Escape Room Event at Elite Escape Exton**  
*Spend an hour attempting to solve "Aladdin: The Mystery of the Lamp!" Cost is \$15 per person; sign up here by February 19th to participate: [Feb. 26th Middle School Escape Room](#).*

## MARCH

- **Friday, March 24th to Sunday, March 26th  
Tuscarora Lutheran Youth Retreat**  
*The annual Southeast Pennsylvania Synod regional youth event is back! Come spend a long weekend with several hundred other Lutheran youth from our area around the theme of "Do Justice, Show Love, Walk Humbly with God." Cost is \$125 per person; scholarships are available. Sign up here to be part of our group: [Tuscarora Lutheran Youth Retreat](#). Sign up deadline is **Sunday, January 20th**, so don't wait!*

## APRIL

- **Saturday, April 8th, 8:00 to 11:00am at St. Matthew's  
Help with St. Matt's Easter Egg Hunt!**  
*More info coming in February, but save the date now!*
- **Sunday, April 23rd, 12:00 to 3:30pm (meet at St. Paul's for pizza)  
Laser Tag and Mini Golf at Grand Slam in Malvern**  
*More info coming in February, but save the date now!*

## JUNE

- **Sunday, June 18th through **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21st**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC!**  
*See page 4 for updated information and more details.*

# HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS SCHEDULE

## JANUARY 2023

- **Sunday, Jan. 8th**, 11:30am to 1:15pm at St. Matthew's High School Youth "Brunchtime!"  
*Our second get-together over a late-morning meal will happen at St. Matthew's, where we will prepare the food ourselves! Sign up here to join us: [Jan. 8th High School Brunch](#).*
- **Saturday, Jan. 21st**, 7:00 to 8:30pm at St. Paul's OASIS. *Our regular high school get-together returns for a time to relax, unwind, and take a break from life's stresses with friends, food, and fun. No advance sign-up is necessary; just show up!*
- **Saturday, Jan. 28th**, 8:15am to 3:30pm  
**Good Works Workday**; sign up here by Wednesday, January 18th to participate: [Jan. 28th Good Works Workday](#).
- **Sunday, Jan. 29th**, 12:45 to 3:15pm at Uplink Studios  
**Youth Gaming Day at Uplink Studios!**  
*Come show off your e-skills as we take part in another gaming session at Uplink Studios in Glenmoore. Cost is \$20 per person. Sign up here by Sunday, January 22nd to participate: [Jan. 29th Youth Gaming Day](#).*

## FEBRUARY

- **Sunday, Feb. 5th**, 6:30 to 7:45pm at St. Matthew's OASIS
- **Friday, Feb. 10th to Sunday, Feb. 12th**  
**Youth Retreat to Bear Creek Camp**  
*Our congregational youth retreat which was postponed from September. More information on page 3. Sign up here to join us: [High School Retreat to Bear Creek Camp](#).*
- **Friday, Feb. 24th to Saturday, Feb. 25th**, location TBD  
**30-Hour Famine**. See info on page \_\_\_\_\_. Sign up here to join our team: [World Vision 30-Hour Famine](#).

## MARCH — MAY

(Additional information coming in January)

- **Sunday, March 5th**, 6:30 to 7:45pm at St. Matthew's OASIS
- **Saturday, March 18th**, 7:00 to 8:30pm at St. Paul's OASIS
- **Friday, March 24th to Sunday, March 26th**  
**Tuscarora Lutheran Youth Retreat**  
*The annual Southeast Pennsylvania Synod regional youth event is back! Come spend a long weekend with several hundred other Lutheran youth from our area around the theme of "Do Justice, Show Love, Walk Humbly with God." Cost is \$125 per person; scholarships are available. Sign up here to be part of our group: [Tuscarora Lutheran Youth Retreat](#). Sign up deadline is Sunday, January 20th, so don't wait!*

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