

# Youth & Children's Voice

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Rite of Affirmation

9 am Sunday, February 5

Why do we have the Rite of Affirmation opportunity? At age 13 or 14, 8<sup>th</sup> graders are moving toward independence from their parents. As a faith community our mission is to recognize their steps in faith. We have nine 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth who will participate in this year's Affirmation. This is our opportunity to recognize their growth and our role as a community of supporters & guides on their faith journey. The Rite of Affirmation is an opportunity for us all to gather around our young people to recognize they are growing up & maturing. We want to support them on their journey.

## Mardi Gras Planning Meeting & Event

1-5 pm Saturday, February 11

We need many 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth to help make this year's Mardi Gras a success. We'll serve pancakes beginning at 5:30 pm on **Wednesday, February 15**. The special youth presentation will begin at 6 pm followed by worship at 7 pm.

## Great Northern Teens Encounter Christ

TEC is a spiritual renewal weekend. Grade 9-12 youth attend one time during high school as a Candidate. Candidates arrive at 10 am on a Friday to participate in a weekend that is all about them. We ask them to leave all of their worries about school, friends, family, tests, and all the things that can weigh a young person down, and commit to a weekend that for some will transform the rest of their lives. Many youth continue involvement in TEC as a Team Member. The TEC Team provides all the Candidate care over the weekend; their number one rule is that the weekend is for the Candidates. If you are a high school youth and have not yet been a TEC Candidate, consider making this the time. The Spring Northern TEC will be at St. Paul's in Duluth. Every possible youth should participate in the March 23-25 weekend. Team members begin to set up the space at 7 pm on March 22. Registration forms will be on the Parish Hall Youth Board and our website. **The Team Meeting is in Duluth Friday-Saturday, February 24-25.**

## Episcopal Youth Music Festival

Saturday, March 3

What happens at Festival? Choristers arrive by 9 am to start rehearsing, then break for lunch, and divide into groups for a number of activities around the Cathedral. Some go on a Cathedral Crawl; some watch a movie; some participate in a theatre workshop; some just hang out at the Cathedral coffee shop. There's one more rehearsal in the afternoon to put on the finishing touches, then we sing everything we've rehearsed as part of 4 pm Festival Worship. We encourage parents, relatives, parishioners, & all who support our choristers to attend this beautiful service including over 100 youth voices. The Canticle Ensemble will rehearse at 6:45 pm Wednesdays during February for the Festival. We encourage youth in 4<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades to take this opportunity.

Contact: Sheila Foster or Matt Anderson.

For more information:

[www.episcopal-youth-music.org](http://www.episcopal-youth-music.org)

## Pretzel Making Event

10 am Sunday, March 4

Pretzel time is here! Join us in the Parish Hall following 9 am Family-friendly Worship. We will make pretzels, a traditional prayer symbol. See the Children's Ministry board for more information on the history of the pretzel. If you wish to help out, we need volunteers to bring in dough, man the ovens, & pre-bake pretzels. For more information contact Christine Karp or Sheila Foster. Note: Godly Play children will begin in the Gathering room and hear the Parable of the Leaven before going upstairs to the Parish Hall.

## Episcopal Youth Music Camp Grades 3-12

(Fall 2012 grades) **August 5-11** at Camp

Heartland, Willow River, MN

Registration Forms are on the Parish Hall Youth Board & online: [www.EpiscopalYouthMusic.org](http://www.EpiscopalYouthMusic.org).

Don't miss out on **Early Bird reduced price registration: \$495 due by May 1.**

## The "Bigger & Better" event in review

Participants in the January 8 "Bigger & Better" Treasure Hunt went door to door searching for something Bigger & Better than the key ring with which they all started. Twelve youth split up into 4 teams and hit the streets. They all came back with incredible stories & treasures, and were all very creative as they related their journey & treasures to scripture. Judges Wayne

Todd, Laurel Stiebler, & Carrie Thomas scored the presentations. One team's story stood out. "The 3 Queens" told of how they went door to door and no one would answer. They were fortunate that it wasn't as cold as it had been in years past, but it was still a bit chilly. They continued on their journey hoping someone would answer their plea for help to find that "Bigger & Better" treasure. Finally, they approached a door, and as they rang the bell they were greeted by a mom, dad, & baby. This was more amazing than they could imagine. The family sent them off with a Christmas ornament representing the Holy Family. They had truly experienced the greatest treasure of all, and Jesus Christ was with them as they said thank you to the family who helped them.

**Don't forget these dates:**

### February

- 5 9 am 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Rite of Affirmation
- 11 1-5 pm Youth Mardi Gras Planning
- 15 5 pm Mardi Gras prep & Celebration
- 24 Great North TEC Team Meeting overnight

### March

- 3 Episcopal Youth Music Festival
- 22 Great North Teens Encounter Christ weekend begins for Team
- 23 Great North TEC Candidates arrive

### April

- 4 4 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation available until 7 pm
- 5 Maundy Thursday Overnight
- 6 7 pm Good Friday Stations of the Cross
- 7 5 pm Easter Vigil with COFTA drama, Agape meal & Easter egg hunt
- 8 9 am Easter drama rehearsal  
10 am Easter Day worship
- 14 1-5 pm Feed My Starving Children, Eagan

### May

- 1 EYMC Early Bird Registration Deadline
- 3 7 pm National Day of Prayer
- 20 9 am Baccalaureate Worship  
10 am Faith Formation Celebration

**John 12:24**

*Very truly, I tell you,*

***unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.***