



## HEY THERE!

We are so excited that you and your kid(s) will be joining us for WNL/NEXT this 2018-19 school year. In this booklet you will find lot of helpful information to help you and your kids(s) get connect with us here.

WNL/NEXT is a place where your kids can connect with peers other loving adults. Kids will experience a safe, fun, learning environment where they can meet Jesus in unexpected and exciting ways. We have large group worship and game time. Then we provide small groups where your kids can wrestle with what they have heard in large group. Our goal is that this a place where kids can express doubts, ask challenging questions, figure out what it means to trust Jesus.

Thanks for sharing your kids with us. It is an honor and privilege to partner with you in helping these kids discover who Jesus is and why He matters. We are excited to see what this year's journey has in store for all of us and to see where God shows up.

Jason Roton

## OUR STAFF

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Children, Youth & Family

Ministries Pastor

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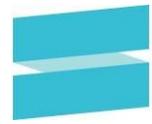
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# WHY

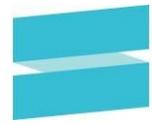
**The mission of Calvary Lutheran Church is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.**

## **CYF CORE VALUES:**

We believe that...

- Every person is created in the image of God.
- Every person needs to know they are loved, they belong, and they are not alone.
- Every person needs to know the life-changing truth of the Bible.
- Families have the greatest influence in a kid's life.
- Every person needs to know they can trust Jesus no matter what.

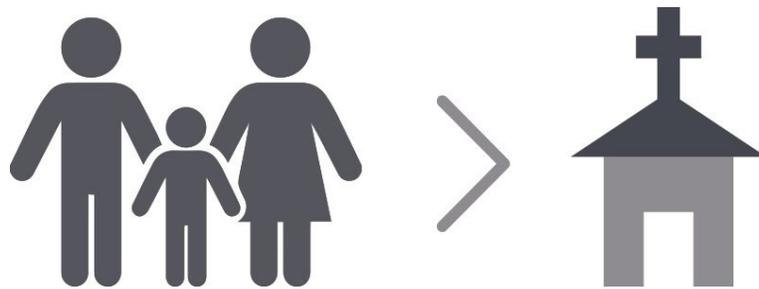
Our mission statement and these five core values are the “**WHY**” behind everything we do in Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at Calvary. Our hope is that you will embrace these core values and make them a part of your ministry role in every way possible as we seek to lead kids and families into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.



# PARTNERING WITH PARENTS

Getting involved in a church is a really important part of growing in faith. But you know what? (Now, don't freak out.) **Church isn't the most important part of ministry.**

Before we explain any more about what our ministry is all about, we want to make sure one thing is super clear. (We even drew a picture to help you remember it.) We believe that, in every student's life, this is true: in a kid's life, **the influence of a family is always greater than the influence of a church.**

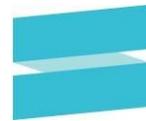


Here's another way to phrase it, from the smart people at Orange, who help churches everywhere better partner with parents:

**“What happens at home is more important than what happens at church.”**  
- Reggie Joiner

No matter what, a kid's family (not their church) will always be the biggest influence in their lives. So doesn't it make sense for us to partner with the most powerful, influential people in our students' lives in order to influence their faith?

We use the term “partner” for a reason: parents and the church need each other. **We need to team up with parents** because they're ultimately the biggest influence on their own kids' spirituality. **And parents need to team up with the local church** because their kids need to see faith in Jesus and missional living modeled from a whole community of believers! We need each other!



# A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

Do you know the last thing that Jesus said to His followers while He was on earth? “Go and make disciples.” Duplicate yourselves. Go and make more of you. Take your faith and pass it on to someone else.

When we talk about helping students begin to own and affirm the faith of their baptism and enter into a relationship with Jesus, we’re really just talking about discipleship. So what is discipleship? Here are three thoughts...

## **DISCIPLESHIP IS ABOUT LIVING, NOT LEARNING**

Rather than asking, “What can I teach a kid about God?” try asking, “How can I help a kid live out their faith?” It’s not just about teaching them about Jesus, it’s about modeling what faith in Jesus looks like. That’s why our small groups spend time together outside of church. Discipleship isn’t taught in a classroom, it’s modeled in everyday life.

## **DISCIPLESHIP HAPPENS IN COMMUNITY**

In the Gospels, you don’t really see Jesus doing one-on-one discipleship. That’s because discipleship happens best in a community of people. That’s why we focus so much energy on getting students plugged into consistent small groups, why we emphasize that parents are the primary disciplers of their own kids, and why we surround students with tons of Jesus followers. Because discipleship takes all of us!

## **DISCIPLESHIP IS A PROCESS**

Discipleship is never really complete because learning to live out our faith is a life-long process. Confirmation is just the beginning. And because we know discipleship takes time, we want to put people in the lives of students who are in it for the long haul. That’s why our small group leaders don’t bail on their students after a few months, but stick with them for several years when possible because it’s a process.



# HOW

## **Wednesday Night live and NEXT**

**Grade 6-12 | WEDNESDAY 6:30 P.M.**

Our kids ministry meets weekly for games, worship, teaching, and small groups.

## **OUR ENVIRONMENTS**

There are four kinds of environments for kids in our ministry. Each one is designed strategically to invite kids on a journey into deeper relationships with their peers, leaders and Jesus, and each one is designed with every kid in mind including the kid who's grown up in church and the first-time visitor too.

**SMALL GROUP TIME:** Small groups are the most important part of what we do. They happen every week in our programs, but the relationships built in small groups extend outside the walls of our church. They're designed to connect every student with a consistent adult and a community where they can get to know Jesus better. In Grace Place this is also where our kids will hear the Bible story.

**LARGE GROUP TIME:** This is designed to help kids see how the Bible story relates to their lives today. We will also engage in worship and games.

**SPECIAL EVENTS & RETREATS:** Throughout the year, we'll host several big events designed to help kids connect with their peers and small group leaders. Retreats and special events are often the place where kids will walk into our ministry for the very first time.

**Ethos:** A place where high school students can gather outside of Calvary with friends and loving adults to cover issues of if identity, faith, and purpose. These groups meet three times a month in homes on various days of the week. This environment provides kids with a safe place to wrestle with difficult topics. The goal of these groups is to help our high school students be better prepared for life after high school when they leave home.



# THE ROLE OF A SMALL GROUP LEADER

Kids need other adults who ...

- Believe in God.
- Believe in them.
- Give them a place to belong.

Being a small group leader (SGL) is an opportunity to walk alongside 5-8 kids and meet with them weekly. Each SGL must embrace Calvary's mission and priorities, and be passionate about creating an environment where all kids experience love, belonging and a Jesus-focused community. We believe that circles are better than rows and that spiritual growth happens best in small groups.

**SMALL GROUP LEADERS WIN WHEN  
THEY BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH  
STUDENTS AND HELP STUDENTS BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH  
EACH OTHER**

## BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Without a relationship, it's impossible to influence a student's faith in a significant way. That's why it's so important for small group leaders to build strong relationships with the students they lead. You can't make a student own their faith. You can't make a student join God on His mission. **But you can build a relationship with that student that allows you to love them and influence their faith.**

So a small group leader wins when they choose to love and embrace the students that God has entrusted to them. They win when they leverage their relationship to lead students, rather than relying on their position. **They win when students see their small group leader not as just an authority figure they have to obey, but someone they trust and want to follow.**



# ROLE & EXPECTATIONS OF GE TEAM

We already talked about the big win for our ministry: seeing students take a step toward owning their faith. But not every member of our team has the same role in trying to see that goal accomplished. Here's what we think the win looks like for our **Guest Experience (GE) Team**...

## **GUEST EXPERIENCE TEAM MEMBERS WIN WHEN THEY MAKE A STUDENT FEEL WELCOME AND A SENSE OF BELONGING**

Our GE Team members are the first people students meet when they arrive and the last people they see before they leave, so they've got a pretty big responsibility!

Our GE Team has the ability to set the tone for the kind of day students are going to have when they walk through our doors. **It's not just about signing students in. It's about making students feel seen, cared for and liked.** An awesome GE Team member has the opportunity to begin breaking down walls so that, for the rest of our program, students are more open to connect with others, to connect with their small group leaders and to connect with God.

### **THE QUALIFICATIONS**

- Love students.
- Love smiling.

### **THE SPECIFICS**

- Be present when you are scheduled to be there.
- Make sure every student is greeted with a smile.
- Make sure every student signs in.
- Identify first-time guests and introduce them to a small group leader for their grade. Make sure they receive registration information as needed.
- Attend all events, meetings and gatherings for the GE Team.



# ROLE & EXPECTATIONS OF SE TEAM

We already talked about the big win for our ministry: seeing students take a step toward owning their faith. But not every member of our team has the same role in trying to see that goal accomplished. Here's what we think the win looks like for our **Special Events (SE) Team**...

## **SPECIAL EVENTS TEAM MEMBERS WIN WHEN THEY HELP STUDENTS HAVE FUN AND CONNECT WITH A COMMUNITY OF FAITH**

Our SE Team members have an important role in making sure kids experience how much fun it can be to follow Jesus. Fun doesn't trivialize our mission. We are called to celebrate, fellowship and live life to the fullest.

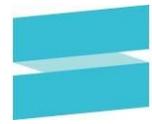
Our SE Team has the ability to set the tone for the kind of day students are going to have. **It's not just about hosting a fun event. It's about helping students experience Jesus through having fun together.** An awesome SE Team member has the opportunity to begin breaking down walls so that, for the rest of our program, students are more open to connect with others, to connect with their small group leaders, and to connect with God.

### **THE QUALIFICATIONS**

- Love students.
- Love planning and organizing fun events.

### **THE SPECIFICS**

- Be present when you are scheduled to be there.
- Make sure every student is greeted with a smile, and create a welcoming atmosphere.
- Make sure the event is set up and cleaned up on time.
- Pay attention to details and remain flexible.
- Attend all events, meetings and gatherings for SE Team.



# SPECIAL EVENT DATES

October 17 - Fall Party

October 26 - Fall Costume Carnival

Dec 19 - Christmas Party

January 16 - Pancake Palooza

April 27 - Serve-a-thon



# KID EXPECTATIONS

We want WNL/NEXT to be a place where everyone knows they are loved, they belong and they are not alone. We expect kids to...

## HAVE FUN:

“At the risk of oversimplifying... If we played, laughed, danced and smiled a little more at church and at home, kids and teenagers might grow up with a healthier perspective on their family and Christian community.”

From *Playing for Keeps* by Reggie Joiner

## BE RESPECTFUL:

- Welcome new people and be aware of people who are not as connected.
- Listen to the adults who are there to support them.
- Participate in the music or the game, being respectful of the leader and the others who want to participate, even if they do not.
- Use words that encourage, not tear down

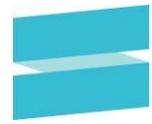
*“Do your best... Keep in mind always that the ultimate Master you’re serving is Christ..” (Colossians 3:23)*

## BE LIKE JESUS:

While we don’t expect anyone to be perfect, we do expect everyone to be striving to make wise decisions, to glorify God with their lives, and to strive to look more like Jesus every day.

*“Watch what God does, and then do it.” (Ephesians 5:1)*

**Our small group leaders are there to build relationships, not to be the behavior management police.** That said, it is important for kids to know the boundaries and to know that there are consequences if they choose not to follow the expectations.



## THEME OF THE YEAR

### What does it look like to follow Jesus?

#### John 1:35-49

“The following day John was again standing with two of his disciples. As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, “Look! There is the Lamb of God!” When John’s two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus. Jesus looked around and saw them following. “What do you want?” he asked them. They replied, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” “Come and see,” he said. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon when they went with him to the place where he was staying, and they remained with him the rest of the day. Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means “Christ”). Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, “Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas” (which means “Peter”). The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Come, follow me.” Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter’s hometown. Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, “We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.” “Nazareth!” exclaimed Nathanael. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” “Come and see for yourself,” Philip replied. As they approached, Jesus said, “Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity.” “How do you know about me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus replied, “I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you.” Then Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!”



# TEACHING SCHEDULE

## September

- 5 Follow Me: John 1:29-49
- 12 Parent Night
  - Justice League: Deborah
- 19 Justice League: Micah
- 26 Justice League: Jeremiah

## October

- 3 Justice League: Amos
- 10 **SMALL GROUP NIGHT**
- 17 Fall Party
- 24 Relationships by Disney
- 31 Relationships by Disney

## November

- 7 Relationships by Disney
- 14 Da Church—Why and What
- 21 No programming
- 28 Da Church—How

## December

- 5 PCYC Night
- 12 Community Christmas
- 19 Christmas Party
- 26 No programming

## January

- 2 No programming
- 9 I Am a Follower
- 16 I Am a Follower
- 23 Feed My Starving Children
- 30 I Am a Follower

## February

- 6 I Am a Follower
- 13 I Am a Follower
- 20 I Am a Follower
- 27 Lenten Mentor Kick-off

## March 6 - April 17 Lenten Mentoring

## April

- 24 Life as a Follower

## May

- 1 Life as a Follower
- 8 Life as a Follower
- 15 Fun Night
- 22 Leader Wrap-up



# FAMILY COVENANT

## FAMILY COVENANT (grades 6-9)

**As a part of the middle school faith community at Calvary, we commit to prioritizing the promise made at baptism and our relationship with Jesus by promising the following:**

- To participate regularly in corporate worship experiences and engage with sermon dialogues for 12 of these experiences per year as a way of interacting with faith as a family.
- To make Wednesday nights a priority in our schedule. We understand that attendance is a significant part of being in a faith family.
- My child will engage in a week-long or weekend mission experience at least once over the next four years.
- My child will attend a minimum of three retreats over the next four years.
- Together, we will develop a My Faith Story Timeline during my child's ninth grade year in preparation to move toward affirming their baptism.

**As a family, we covenant to being in this process of affirming our baptism, to walking through doubts and questions together, and praying regularly for one another. We understand that faith is a journey and not a product.**

**We understand the significance of this covenant and will communicate with leadership in the event circumstances interfere with our ability to follow through.**

**Parent(s)/Guardian(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Confirmation Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



# SERMON DIALOGUES

As part of the Family Covenant, kids in grades 6-9 are expected to complete 12 sermon dialogues each year (approximately one per month) either in the Calvary App (Look in your app store for “Calvary Lutheran GV”) or using a paper booklet. The instructions are to answer the following questions **after talking about the sermon with your family**. They can be turned in electronically after each one, or the paper booklets can be submitted at the end of the school year.

## Talk

- What stood out to you?
- What surprised you?

## Hear

- What Bible stories or verses did you read?
- Name one thing you heard about who God is.

## Live

- What is one way you can apply what you heard to your life this week?

## Pray

- Write a prayer for the week.



# FAMILY COVENANT

## FAMILY COVENANT - Calvary Staff

### **Calvary staff, pastors and youth directors covenant to the following:**

- Praying regularly for the children, youth and families in our community.
- Provide clear, consistent and regular avenues of communication to parents and teenagers.
- Prepare events and experiences that enrich the faith development of teenagers and adults.
- Grow in our own personal walk with Jesus through regular times of prayer, worship and community-building as we seek to set an example for the next generation.
- Create an environment that is physically, emotionally and spiritually safe where teenagers share openly, invite friends, wrestle with questions of faith and build meaningful relationships with significant adults.
- Be good stewards of the time, money and resources with which God has entrusted us.

**We understand the significance of this covenant and will be authentic with teenagers and adults in the event we are unable to follow through with aspects of our commitment. We understand that this is a process and the goal is not perfection, but faithfulness to the work to which God has invited us.**

Sharry Hosfield, Children's Ministries Director

Jason Roton, Children, Youth & Family Ministries Pastor



# IMPORTANT DATES

## September

- 22 Calvary Block Party
- 23 ethos groups start (HS only)
- 23 Early bird Deadline for MS Retreat

## October

- 3 Deadline for MS Retreat
- 5-7 Middle School Retreat
- 14 Early Bird Deadline for HS Retreat
- 15 Deadline for Senior Mission Trip
- 26 Costume Carnival
- 27 Affirmation of Baptism Brunch & Rehearsal
- 28 Affirmation of Baptism Service

## November

- 2-4 High School Retreat

## December

- 12 Community Christmas Party

## January

- 15 Deadline WNL & NEXT Mission Trip
- 18-20 Winter Wapo Family Weekend
- 20 Mission Trip Mtg #1

## February

- 24 Lenten Mentor Training

## March

- 3 Mission Trip Mtg. #2
- 8-9 Freshman Retreat

## April

- 27 Serve-a-Thon

## May

- 1 WNL & NEXT Parent Preview Night

## June

- 2 Baccalaureate Brunch and Service
- 3-7 VBS Week #1
- 10-14 VBS Week #2
- 10-14 VBS+
- 19 Mission Trip Mtg. #3
- 22-29 WNL & NEXT Mission Trip

## July

- 12-14 SEEDS at Wapo
- 14-19 Camp Wapo