



Dear Families!

As your students prepare to enter high school, we know that many of you are experiencing a variety of emotions. Some of you may be nervous for the transition into a new space with new people. Some of you may be excited for a fresh start with new opportunities. It's also totally okay to be experiencing any combination of these feelings or anything else as you enter another season of life, students and parents alike. Our Christ Church Student Ministry team wants to support you in any way we can. Whether that be a conversation over the phone, ice cream, lunch, or a cup of coffee with me or any of our other student ministry team members, we want to be partners and advocates as you navigate this next step of life and faith. One way in which we hope to support you and your family is by formally welcoming you into our high school ministry!

Our high school ministry is called Koinonia, which simply means “fellowship” in Greek. Koinonia is a vibrant and robust ministry experience, and we hope that your student will feel at home in this community. The format is similar to COW with a large group gathering of Biblical teaching and games followed by small groups. Many of your students will have the same small group leader as they move up to high school as well as some new faces to walk alongside them in their relationships with Jesus. To facilitate this transition, please consider the following opportunities to engage with our high school community and as always, reach out if you have any questions. We would love to make you aware of some dates on the horizon as you begin to familiarize yourselves with Koinonia.

Koinonia Preview Night | Sunday, April 28 | 7:00–8:45 p.m.

This will be a special night to welcome our students in grade 8 into our community and give them a preview of next year. (Don't worry, Grace and Steve will be there, too!) We will have a parent meeting running simultaneously led by Steve Noble and a brief check-in from myself (Grace Stevenson) to give you the run-down of what Koinonia is all about and answer any questions you may have about this next step!

Koinonia House Groups | Beginning Wednesday, June 5 | 7:00–8:30 p.m. | Register [HERE](#)

During the summer, our high school students meet at the homes of various church families for worship, devotional teachings, backyard games, snacks, and time to hang out with friends. All

incoming students in grades 9–12 are invited to join us! If you're interested in hosting, please reach out to Mandy Januszewski at mjanuszewski@ChristChurch.us.

Dates are June 5, 19, 26 and July 10, 17, 24, 31

Confirmation | During the fall of 2024 we will launch our annual Confirmation experience, designed for high school freshmen. Confirmation may sound intimidating, but we promise it's not! Confirmation is based in small groups led by mentors with the opportunity for students to engage in meaningful conversations about who they believe God is, how to grow in their relationship with Jesus, and what it means to be the Church. It is also a great on ramp for our freshmen to enter into our high school community. Confirmation runs in conjunction with our normal Sunday night Koinonia programming, so there is no need to worry about fitting one more thing in your already busy schedules! We do ask that you sign up so we can adequately build our volunteer teams to support our new students. Registration and information on Confirmation dates will be available late summer, so keep an eye out!

Fall Retreat | Our annual Fall Retreat is similar to our middle school winter retreat, Stampede. Join us for a weekend at Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin to retreat from our normal weekly rhythms, engage in spiritual disciplines, build new relationships and have a ton of fun. Registration and details will be available in August. The retreat is typically in late October or early November!

I would also like to introduce you to our high school ministry director and my friend, Emily Maruyama. She is so excited to meet you all and grow alongside each and every one of our new students as they enter high school this coming fall! She is more than happy to answer any questions you may have as well. You can reach her via e-mail at emaruyama@ChristChurch.us.

One more thing! Make sure to mark **Friday, May 10**, on your calendars, for our **Celebration for students in grade 8**. We'll gather together to celebrate this class's specific impact in COW, share fun memories and talk about the future. Be on the lookout for a registration link and more information in the next week or so. ***If your family is interested in hosting this group of students at your home on Friday evening, May 10, please reach out to Grace Stevenson, gstevenson@ChristChurch.us.***

Thank you again for partnering with us as we walk together on the discipleship paths of our student communities. We are praying for each and every one of you as you work to finish middle

school strong and prepare for the next steps of high school as parents and students. We love you all and look forward to celebrating your student in COW in the weeks to come!

In Christ,

Grace Stevenson

Christ Church Middle School Ministry Director

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