

August 1, 2010

Greetings from the Youth Ministry Office! I hope you are having a fabulous summer, trying to stay cool!

Once again this year, the Youth Ministry programs at Saint Elizabeth are here to help you keep you and your family connected to the parish and your friends by offering programs that are faith-filled, service-oriented and tons of fun! The purpose of this letter is to provide you with all the forms and information you will need to get yourself started in our programs. It's my 3rd year now as the Youth Group Coordinator, and look forward to another awesome year! I really hope to get to know more teens and families this year!

After prayer and discussions, we have decided to make a change in the regular meeting times for the Middle School Youth Group. In the past, youth group meetings were every other Sunday, but in asking parents and teens, we have decided to try having our meetings or events on Fridays. A calendar with dates and times for September through December is included in this information – and in December we will re-evaluate this change in meeting time to see how it is working compared to prior year's Sunday meetings.

Below is an overview of our 2 types of programs, additional information about special events, retreats and trips are included on our website, online calendar and monthly e-newsletter. I encourage everyone (teens & parents) to sign up for our email communication! It's the best way to get meeting reminders, updates and forms on a regular basis!

For the 2010-2011 Year, our theme will be: "Face to Face" – focusing on how we see ourselves, others and God in our daily lives! Our regular meetings, service projects and events will all tie into this theme.

This year's programs are:

F.L.Y. (Faith Living Youth) Middle School Youth Group (7th & 8th grade)

F.L.Y. will meet, generally, every other Friday evening at St. Elizabeth from 7:00 – 9:00pm. In addition there will be service opportunities, social nights and bigger events. Last year, over 50 teens from St. Elizabeth, Downingtown Middle School, Lionville Middle School, Villa Maria, Devon Prep & Owen J. Roberts participated. Over the summer of 2011 we will continue to offer fun trips and service events as well. *Proposed calendar on reverse side.*

S.O.U.L. (Serving Others Using Love) Middle School Youth (7th & 8th grade)

This year, in addition to our regular meetings we will meet 6+ times per year to have strictly service oriented experiences. Our Martin Luther King Day of Service is always such an awesome experience, so we will continue that positive experience all year long! These service opportunities will occur on weekends or afternoons that regular meetings are not scheduled.

*All youth are encouraged to register for "Youth Group". By filling out the enclosed registration, teens are automatically invited to participate in ANY event that is offered whether it is FLY or SOUL! Also, all social events, trips or programs that require an additional fee will have a "registered member" rate and a "non-registered member" rate – providing an extra discount for all youth that are registered members of St. Elizabeth Youth Group.

To enable these programs to run smoothly and successfully takes a team of people in addition to myself. I am really looking forward to the upcoming 2010-2011 year but am in need of some additional assistance in planning and implementing these meetings and events. Please take some time to fill out the Stewardship form that is enclosed and help out in any way that you can!

If you have any questions, please contact me at adeedy@stelizabethparish.org or 610-646-6550. My office is located in the St. Elizabeth Education Center, and I am available for meetings during my regular office hours on Mondays from 1:00pm – 4:30pm or by appointment.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to see how the Youth Ministry programs at St. Elizabeth will be a part of your family in the 2010-2011 year. I look forward to seeing you soon!

