Youth and Parents!

I hope you all have had a great summer. With school starting in the next few weeks, it seems like a good time for a letter in the mail about youth this fall.

If you've never received a letter from me, Hello! My name is Misti Schoonover. I am the youth director at Holy Trinity. My official title is Communications and Program Director. If you get a weekly email; I sent it to you. If you read a bulletin on Sundays; I printed those, just for you. I also serve as LEM, reader, and sometimes you'll see me working with a new acolyte. I play in the handbell choir and often operate the sound and streaming of the Sunday service. I have been working the youth and going on a summer trip for...a long time. 10 years? Maybe more. I accepted a staff position in February of 2025.

Our youth program is geared towards youth ages 3 all the way through seniors in high school. Second and Fourth Sundays are for what I call the "Bigs". They are 5th through 12th grade. It sounds like a big spread, because it is, but it works. Third Sundays are for the "Littles"; ages 3 through 4th grade.

We do take a youth trip in the summer, but I want to try something different. We have A LOT of 5th graders this year. So we've decided to split the youth into three trips.

> Trip 1 will be in November. I want to take littles through the 3rd grade on a day trip to Lubbock. We'll leave right after church - Lunch in Midland, visit the Science Spectrum, eat some dinner somewhere fun, and drive home.
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> Trip 2 - I've been calling this trip the "Mid trip". Sometime between late December and early February we'll take a weekend trip to DFW. 4th – 6th graders will leave on a Friday. We'll very likely stay at an AirBnB, because I feel like staying in one house as opposed to a hotel is better in all the ways. I'm kind of waiting on winter hours for the new Universal Epic park to be released. Then we'll return Sunday.
>
> Trip 3 – Big trip (7th-12th graders) – Early to mid June - google Tanganyika Wildlife Park. I WANT TO GO THERE!! And it'll be a shorter drive than Galveston or Santa Fe.

I've always wanted to take the littles on a day trip and I'm hoping that a weekend away with the middles will help them transition to a week long trip away from mom/dad/siblings/dog. It will also help them have some sort of expectation for what to expect from me, from the trip, and from themselves.

Really Bigs – Those of you who drive... lets do breakfast. Third Thursdays? Super early before school. We'll talk about it. I'm also happy to take you to lunch. You just have to let me know.

Another new thing is to use the BAND app for communications. It's something the big kids asked for. We can try it out. The QR on the back will get you into the group. I'll still send a Thursday Comms email. I'm hoping that the kids can stay better connected through the app.

Youth in the Fall officially kicks off in September. The super tentative, subject to change schedule is on the back of this letter.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to ask them. My cell is 432-230-5978. You can find me at church Monday-Thursday 9-3 or on Sunday Mornings. My email is misti@holytrinity.org.

Thanks for sharing your kids!



Youth Fall 2026

Littles

9/20 – Big Game

10/18 – Paint Pumpkins

11/15 – Littles Trip to LBK

Bigs

8/30 – Youth Sunday

9/13 – Blessing of the Badges

9/27 – Giant Dominos

10/11 (long weekend) – Bowling? Laser tag? Escape room?

10/25 – Carve Pumpkins

(10/28 – Trunk or Treat)

11/8 – Thanks to Parishioners

11/22 – Tree Up

Advent

1 - 11/29 – Advent Wreaths (fifth Sunday)

2 – 12/6 – Progressive dinner on 12/5 afternoon?

3 – 12/13 – Lessons and Carols

4 – 12/20 - Caroling

Band app group invite: