TLC
Teens Living for Christ

Trinity Lutheran Church & School
Junior/Senior High Youth Group
4th-5th Grade Youth Group

September-December 2026
Calendar of Bible Studies & Activities

Trinity Lutheran Church • 6850 W. 159th St. • Tinley Park, IL 60477
708.532.9395•TLCS.org

August 10, 2026

Dear Trinity Youth Group Parent:

I hope each of you and your family are having a wonderful summer! This newsletter contains a calendar and description of youth events for the September-December 2026 time frame. You will also find on the last page a Code of Conduct form and a Student Profile form that needs to be filled out **prior** to your child attending their first youth event this upcoming September. Even if you have filled out a form in the past, please fill it out again for this youth season. Any student who does not have a form on file will not be allowed to participate further until the forms are returned.

Youth group events are for students' 6th grade through high school. As we had the past two years, we have an activity for the 4th and 5th grade students one time a month as well. Their youth activity will be separate from the 6th grade-high school group. Although there is a monthly Bible study available to students, all youth activities will begin with a brief devotional and end with the Lord's Prayer.

All students must be signed up for youth activities prior to attending. Sign-up will end the day prior to an activity occurring or when the class is full, usually due to space constraints. This ensures that there are enough supplies for everyone involved. If you sign your child up for an activity and find that they can no longer attend, please text me (708-243-8362) as soon as possible to let me know. The materials needed for each child for each class can be quite expensive and we want to be good stewards of the money that has been allocated to the youth group. Texting me with a cancellation also allows anyone on a waiting list to be notified that they can participate.

Signing up for events can easily be done online by going to the Trinity website (TLCS.org) under Ministries, pick Jr/Sr High info and events and choose the youth event you would like your child(ren) to attend and fill out the form. Again, your child must be signed up prior to the event to attend the event.

During most youth group activities, I provide a light snack and a beverage. 90% of youth group activities take place in the basement which is designated as youth space. Children should be entering through door #1 or come straight to youth group from school. Any parent is welcome to come and see the youth space when dropping off their child. Either I or another adult who may be volunteering to assist with a class with walk your children from the downstairs youth room to the main door (door #1 under the portico) for dismissal. If I am held up with a student finishing a project, the security guards Ralph, Lance, Luke, or David will make sure that your child gets to their car safely. Of course, you are always welcome to wait in the narthex area for your child.

Events for September-December will be open for on-line sign-up at the end of August. Please contact me if you have any questions at 708-243-8362 (cell) or email dplattner@tlcs.org.

In His Service,

Dan Plattner, Children's Ministry and Youth Director

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 13TH

5PM-7PM

CAMPFIRE NIGHT

Come and enjoy
outdoor games and s'mores!

Bring a blanket to sit on and bug spray for those pesky insects. I will provide the marshmallows and the roasting sticks. I will have chips and cookies as well.
We will meet by the soccer field.

If it rains or is too cold, we will play Glow Games in the gym. [Glow Tag, Glow Balloon Knock-Out, Glow Dodgeball]

September 2026 Calendar of Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7		9	10	11	12
13 Jr. High Youth Group Kick-Off (5pm-7pm)	14	15 Baking Brownies 2:45pm-4pm [4th/5th grade only]	16 Baking Brownies 6pm-7:30pm	17 Bible Study 6pm-7pm	18 Hotdogs, popcorn, and hangout 6pm-7:30pm	19
20	21 Open Gym 6pm-7:30pm	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Paint on Canvas 6pm-7pm	30 Succulent Plant Terrarium 6pm-7pm			

Youth group is for students 6th grade through 12th grade only – except for 1x a month on the above calendar when 4th and 5th grade students have an activity. Please sign up on-line for all activities at tlcs.org under ministries, TLC youth, upcoming events.

Most youth activities take place downstairs in the youth room. A snack and beverage are available for each activity except for off campus activities. All activities begin with a devotion.

Any questions please contact Dan Plattner, Youth Director, at dplattner@tlcs.org or cell 708-243-8362.

TRINITY YOUTH GROUP
SEPTEMBER 2026
ACTIVITIES

9/13 **JUNIOR HIGH KICK-OFF** (5PM-7PM). Kick-off this school year's youth season with games and s'mores. Meet at the soccer field. Bring a blanket and bug spray if you want. I will supply the marshmallows and sticks.

9/15 **BAKING BROWNIES** (2:45pm-4pm). [4th & 5th grade only] Let's start the year off with a treat and bake some brownies. Learn how to mix, measure, pour & bake.

9/16 **BAKING BROWNIES** (6pm-7:30pm). Baking brownies is fun any00 time. Learn to measure out the ingredients and bake brownies; let them cool and add some frosting if you like.

9/17 **BIBLE STUDY** (6pm-7pm). Gear Up looks at common struggles of middle school students and addresses how to view those things through a biblical lens. By studying various themes and books of the Bible, students will see that their faith impacts the way they live, even now in junior high. *Gear Up* is designed to help students build a foundation of faith, equipping them to follow Jesus. Help students learn what it means to pursue Jesus and commit to a life with him.

9/18 **HOT DOGS, POPCORN & HANGING OUT** (6pm-7:30pm). Friday night is a good night to just have a little food and hang out with your friends.

9/21 **OPEN GYM** (6pm-7:30pm). Join your friends for volleyball, basketball, badminton or pickleball. We will be outside weather permitting. If not, we will be in the gym.

9/29 **PAINT ON CANVAS** (6pm-7pm). Come to youth group and grab any size canvas to paint anything that inspires you.

9/30 **SUCCULENT PLANT TERRARIUM** (6pm-7pm). We will add some dirt, stone and succulent plants to a slanted glass bowl to make a terrarium. All that is left is to add some fun miniature pets or people and a little water.

October 2026 Calendar of Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Banana Split Bites and Bingo [4th/5th grade only] 2:45pm-4pm	7 Cupcakes 6pm-7:30pm	8	9	10
11	12 No School	13	14	15 BINGO 6pm-7pm	16	17
18	19 Open Gym 6:15pm-7:15pm	20	21 Paint wood pumpkins & add buttons 6pm-7pm	22	23 Hang-Out in Game Room/ Hide and Seek 6pm-7pm	24
25	26	27 Make Smores 6pm-7pm	28	29 Bible Study 6pm-7pm	30	31

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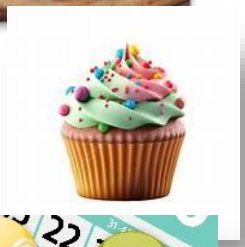
TRINITY YOUTH GROUP
OCTOBER 2026
ACTIVITIES

10/6 **BANANA SPLIT BITES** (2:45PM-4PM). [4th & 5th grade only] Make Banana Split Bites: the delicious, a fun dessert recipe everyone loves. This fruity, sweet treat is based on nutritious banana pieces dipped in melted chocolate, sprinkles and topped with whipping cream.

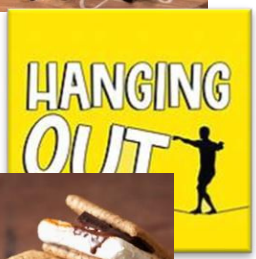


10/7- **COOKING** (6PM-7:30PM). Who doesn't love a good cupcake with lots of frosting? Especially when you can dye the frosting fall colors and add sprinkles.

10/15 **BINGO** (6PM-7PM) Let's play a few rounds of Bingo and win some crazy prizes while having snacks and laughs with friends. **October 2026 continued..**

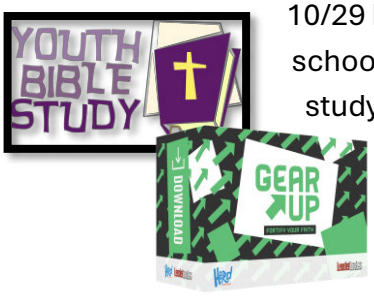
10/19 **OPEN GYM** (6:15PM-7:15PM) Let's come together and play some games in the gym. Pickleball or kickball?

10/21- **ART** (6PM-7PM). A great fall project. Take a wooden pumpkin and add some paint, buttons, and ribbon and you have a nice piece of art.



10/23 **HANG OUT** (6PM-7PM). Hang out in the youth room and play games or join in a few games of Hide and Seek in the building.

10/27 SMORES (6PM-7PM). Everyone loves a good s'more in the fall. We will take some graham crackers, marshmallows, and chocolate over a table top flame and roast some marshmallows in order to make a great s'more.



10/29 **BIBLE STUDY** (6pm-7pm). Gear Up looks at common struggles of middle school students and addresses how to view those things through a biblical lens. By studying various themes and books of the Bible, students will see that their faith impacts the way they live, even now in junior high. *Gear Up* is designed to help students build a foundation of faith, equipping them to follow Jesus. Help students learn what it means to pursue Jesus and commit to a life with him.

November 2026 Calendar of Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Banana Split Bites 6pm-7pm	5 Puzzle Piece Fall Tree 6pm-7pm	6	7
8	9	10 Turkey Pretzel Art & Eat 2:45pm-4pm and 6pm-7pm	11 "Christmas is Coming" tree count down 6pm-7pm	12	13	14
15	16 Candy Cane Countdown to Christmas 6pm-7pm	17	18 Christmas Tree using glass beads 6pm-7pm	19 Bible Study 6pm-7pm	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30					

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TRINITY YOUTH GROUP
NOVEMBER 2026
ACTIVITIES

11/4 **BANANA SPLIT BITES** (6PM-7PM). Take some banana pieces, dip them in chocolate and sprinkles, and add some whip cream to the top and you have some banana split bites.

11/5 **PUZZLE PIECE FALL TREE** (6PM-7PM). Paint the outline of a tree on canvas and add fall colored puzzle pieces to make a tree.

11/10 **PRETZEL ART & EAT** (2:45PM-4PM for 4th & 5th grade) (6PM-7PM Jr. High). Dip pretzels in chocolate and add candy corn for a head dress, candy google eyes for eyes and fondant for a nose and wattle.

TWO ACTIVITIES THIS NIGHT. AFTER SCHOOL FOR 4TH AND 5TH GRADE AND 6PM-7PM FOR JR. HIGH

11/11 **CHRISTMAS IS COMING COUNTDOWN** (6PM-7PM). Take a wood slice and paint a Christmas scene that follows a numbered path as you count down the days until Christmas. You will move the red peg each day as you count down.

11/16 **CANDY CANE COUNTDOWN.** (6PM-7PM). A tasty way to count down the days until Christmas. Remove one candy cane from the wood display each day. When the candy canes are gone- Christmas is here.

11/18 **GREEN GLASS CHRISTMAS TREE**. (6pm-7pm). Take a 4x12 piece of wood and paint it your favorite background color. Add green glass beads, a trunk, and a star at the top and you have a great decoration.

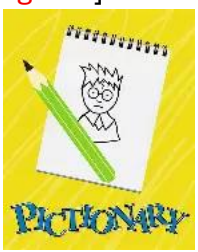
11/19 **BIBLE STUDY**(6pm-7pm). *Gear Up* is designed to help students build a foundation of faith, equipping them to follow Jesus. Help students learn what it means to pursue Jesus and commit to a life with him.

December 2026 Calendar of Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Decorate Gingerbread Houses 6pm-7:30pm	3	4 Live Nativity 5pm & 7pm	5 Live Nativity 5pm &7pm
6	7	8 Frost and Eat Sugar Cookies / Pictionary **2:45pm-4pm**	9 3D Canvas Christmas Tree 6pm-7pm	10 Lessons & Carols Practice	11	12 Lessons and Carols 6pm
13	14 Reindeer Art 6pm-7pm	15	16 Youth Christmas Party 6pm-7:30pm	17	18	19
20	21 **Christmas Break**	22	23	24 **Christmas Eve**	25 **Christmas Day**	26
27	28	29	30	31 **New Year's Eve**		

12/2 **GINGERBREAD HOUSES** (6PM-7:30PM). Take a premade gingerbread house and add some frosting and decorations to make something magical.

12/8 **FROST AND EAT SUGAR COOKIES/PICTIONARY** (2:45PM-4PM) [4th & 5th grade]. Take some premade sugar cookies and add some frosting and sprinkles. Enjoy these cookies while you play a few rounds of Pictionary.



TRINITY YOUTH GROUP
DECEMBER 2026
ACTIVITIES

12/9 **3-D CANVAS CHRISTMAS TREE** (6PM-7PM). We will take a blank canvas and paint a background if desired or leave white. We will then use different colored ornaments to glue to the canvas to make a Christmas tree.

12/14 **REINDEER ART** (6PM-7PM). Stain a block of wood. Paint or add googly eyes, a red nose, some branch antlers, and a bow to make a reindeer.

12/16 **YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY** (6PM-7:30PM). School is almost out and Christmas is a little over a week away so let's have our own celebration. Good food and fun games.

DEAR PARENTS:

PLEASE FILL OUT THE NEXT TWO PAGES AND HAVE YOUR CHILD BRING THE PAGES WITH THEM FOR THEIR FIRST YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITY

THANK YOU

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH YOUTH MINISTRY
STUDENT PROFILE 2026/2027

Student Information

Name: _____ Date of Birth:_____

Gender:_____ Grade:_____

School:_____ Cell Phone:_____

Church Affiliation:_____

Family Information

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Parent Name: Best phone # in case of emergency:

_____

Parent Name: Best phone # in case of emergency:

_____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number **IF DIFFERENT FROM PARENT ABOVE**:

_____

Relation to student: _____

Medical History:

Allergies: _____

Medication:_____

Anything else you would like us to know:

_____

Trinity Youth Group Code of Conduct ~2026/2027

We expect each student to conform to these rules of conduct:

- **NO** possession or use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco
- **NO** fighting, weapons, fireworks, lighters, or explosives
- **NO** cell phones during youth group
- **NO** offensive or immodest clothing
- Participation with the group is expected
- Respect property
- Respect one another, staff, and adult leaders
- Respect and comply with event schedules
- Please be prompt with drop-off and pick-up

Students who fail to comply with these expectations may be sent home at their parents' expense.

I, _____ have read the rules of conduct above and I agree to abide by them.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Liability Waiver

Activities may include, but are not limited to: cookouts, swimming, basketball, roller skating, rollerblading, games in the park, soccer, pickleball, badminton, ice skating, volleyball, softball, baseball, camping, hiking, biking, fishing, concerts, escape rooms, bowling, Bible studies, miniature golf, hay rides, retreats, and amusement parks. ***Note****: If you desire to limit your child's participation in any event, please submit your wishes in writing to the youth director prior to that event.*

Name of Student (please print): _____ has my permission to attend all youth activities sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church from Sept. 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027.

This consent form gives permission to seek whatever medical attention is deemed necessary, and releases Trinity and its staff of any liability against personal losses of named child.

We (I) hereby direct and authorize the Trinity Lutheran Church Youth leader(s) to whom the care of this minor child is entrusted, to obtain and permit any emergency medical, surgical, or dental diagnosis and treatment deemed necessary for the child's welfare by any state licensed and certified physician, dentist, or medical practitioner currently on the medical staff of a licensed hospital.

The undersigned understands that they shall remain liable for, and agrees to pay, any and all costs and expenses incurred or associated with any such medical or dental services rendered to the aforementioned child pursuant to this authorization. Should it be necessary for our (my) child to return home due to medical reasons or otherwise, the undersigned shall assume all transportation costs.

The undersigned does also hereby give permission for our (my) child to ride in any vehicle designated by the Trinity Lutheran Church youth leader(s) while attending and participation in activities sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church Youth Ministries.

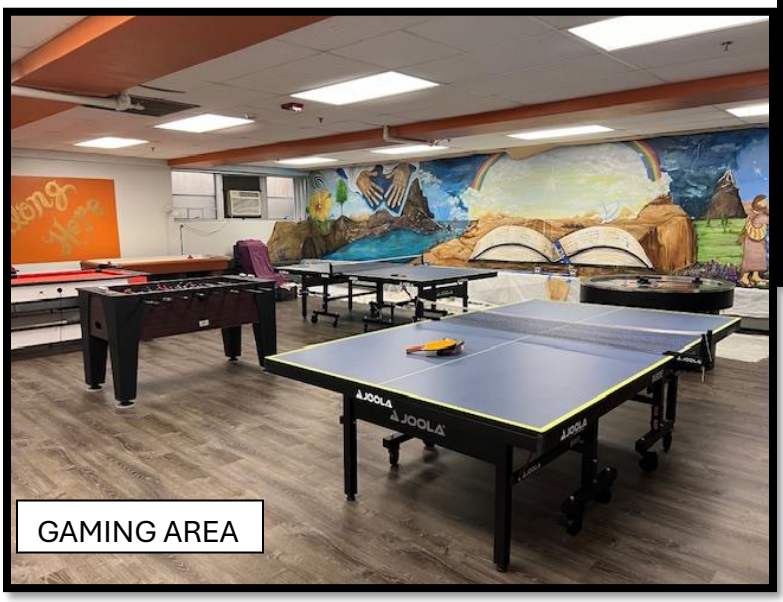
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

For those of you who have never been in the youth room, below are a few photos. Parents are always welcome to come down and visit.

KITCHEN AREA

BIBLE STUDY

CRAFT / ART AREA


GAMING AREA

CONVERSATION AREA