

Dear High School Parents,

As I hope you've heard, we have canceled our High School Youth Group due to the COVID-19 virus. We are moving to an online youth ministry during this time to reach both your youth and you at home. Shepherd of the Hills will not be hosting any ministry gatherings at Shepherd of the Hills during this time. You can find Shepherd of the Hills response here at [Coronavirus Update #2 \(3.16.20\)](#). There will be more updates by Pastor Steve and the Shepherd of the Hills ministry teams as time continues and we learn more.

While I am bummed we won't be able to meet physically (for now!) I know that God is still God! Our relationship with God and with each other does not rely on Wednesday evenings, or any specific time or place. In fact, I believe this will be a wonderful opportunity for youth and families to learn and grow in faith together. Youth Group will be offered online and will be emailed out every Wednesday. I will be going live on Instagram on Monday and Friday to connect with our youth. They will receive texting updates with readings and challenges if they sign up! In other words, youth ministry is not cancelled all together, but it does look different for the time being.

As we continue, we need your help in making this possible! Please encourage your youth to be engaged with all these online opportunities – weekly and daily.

Here is what you can expect from the youth ministry program moving forward -- this will continue to grow and expand as we develop more of our online ministry materials and resources for parents:

1. We will continue youth ministry through online resources.

•**Twice A Week Instagram Live Videos:** I will be going 'live' on Instagram on Monday and Friday to give a devotional reading. To have access to these videos make sure you follow our Instagram: @sothlutheran

•**Daily Text Messages:** These texts will give youth a Bible reading and a challenge to apply that reading each day. To join the texting group: Enter this Number: 81010 Text this Message: @shlcy

•**Weekly Youth Group:** On Wednesday, I will be sending out an online high school experience. It will have all the aspects of our usual night of youth ministry – just in a digital format. There will be an announcement video, a game, a worship song, a teaching, and small group questions. Please discuss these questions with your teenager! You have everything you need to have a meaningful faith conversation with them. We will also be doing a Zoom this Wednesday @ 6pm and possibly following Wednesdays to connect and join together for a fun interactive get together with a game, devotion, and chat time. I will send the Zoom link with the online format each Wednesday.

2. We will encourage spiritual conversations at home and provide resources for you as a parent.

We all struggle with being busy. There will probably never be another season when we all have so much time on our hands. We want to maximize the opportunity! That is why we have created a google drive specifically for Ignite parents. As I gather and find parent resources for you – I will continue to add to this google drive. Please be patient as I build this resource up and check back in a few days!

Link to the Google Drive for Parent Resources:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1CkToPdqaOQluqvLN0D4m6IcX2DkngF0I>

3. We will pray for you and care for you as a part of the family of God.

We know anxiety is high. We know everybody's life is severely disrupted. We are praying for your physical, spiritual, and emotional health. We are praying for your family to experience peace amid this storm. Please let me know how we can pray specifically for your family. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

In His Love,

Jessica Tibben: Director of Family Life

jtibben@shepherdhills.org: 920-757-5722