

Parent/Student Meeting 2021

1) Youth Group Meetings

High School meets Sundays from 4pm-5:30pm.

High School Leaders

- Adam Eriks
- Josh Sanders
- Kenzie Sanders
- Shawn Sanders

Jeremy's Cell Phone:

616-886-1620

Jeremy's Email:

jzoet@zionreformed.org

- Kyle Vande Pol
- Shanda Vande Pol
- Rachel Verbrugge
- Jeremy Zoet

Middle School meets Sundays from 5:45pm-7:15pm.

Middle School Leaders

- Olivia Davis
- Rachel Eriks
- Tom MacGraw

- Mackenzie Wallace
- Jeremy Zoet
- Kim Zoet

What we do: Youth and Leader-Led Devotions, Ice Breakers, Games, Announcements, Worship, Lesson, Small Groups, Journaling/Reflection, Acts of Service.

Why we do it: Youth Group Values

Connect with God

Grow in Community

Serve others

Multiply our life

What youth group is not:

- a) a place that specializes in behavior modification. Instead we teach that God loves us and we should respond to that love in obedience.
- b) a place that teaches happy and feel good spirituality. We know the Christian life is a difficult, yet rewarding, journey
- c) a place that teaches we only need God when we go through a problem.
- d) a place that teaches "good" people go to heaven when they die. Jesus is the only way.

3) Registration/Release Forms

<https://zionreformed.breezechms.com/form/566fb771>

- a) This form can be found on the Youth Page of Zion's website: www.zionreformed.org
- b) Bringing a friend to an outing or youth group? They must fill out a release form

c) I hope to have all the info you need for everything on this site youth group meeting times, announcements, fundraiser info, retreat dates & locations, mission trip dates and locations, when payments are due, email link, etc. If you have a question about something, please visit the website first. If you can't find the info there, then contact me or another adult leader. If you think I should add something to the website, let me know.

4) Student Led Devotions

Opening Devotions each week

Alone or with a partner or two (youth leaders will be assigned to each date to work with students to encourage and hold them accountable)

Requirements: Bible verse, explanation, Prayer, you can add anything else (ex. Music video, inspirational video, devotional thought, experiential activity, etc.)

5) Fall Fundraisers (see hand-out)

Student Accounts: Money that students earn from fundraisers goes into their "account".

This account money may be used to pay for mission trip, retreat, and outing costs.

Students must indicate this as their method of payment when signing up for something. If they sign up by paying out of their student account, but don't show up for the event, that amount will still be deducted from their account.

Seniors must use up their account money, they can't get the cash at the end of the year.

Unused account money is donated to the youth program.

Account money can only be transferred between siblings.

If you do your own fundraising, you cannot turn that money in to us to hold it in your account. But, you can pay ahead on any trip.

If people would rather donate money to you than buy a product for a fundraiser, you can turn that money in at the end of the fundraiser. For example, you ask "Would you like to buy a KeyCard Coupon Book or a Calendar to help me raise money for our trip to Alaska? If not, would you be interested in making a cash donation?"

You cannot write a check to just have us hold money in your student's account.

People cannot make "donations" into your account at random times. If they want to pay a trip payment for you, that is fine. But you are no longer making a "tithe" or "offering" when you specify it to a specific person.

We are trying to minimize the potential for illegal deductions that can be made when people write a check to "Zion Reformed Church" and trying to minimize confusion with student account bookkeeping.

Again This Year: Payments listed on the payment sheet will have an "**Early Bird Payment Date.**" Payments after the early bird date will be at a greater cost.

If you want to pay ahead for other payments, you may do that.

***Payment dates will be announced at a later date.**

6) Alaska Mission Trip - Middle School & High School - Joint Mission Trip - June 11-19, 2022

a) We only have 40 spots available. Hopefully we won't have to make any cuts, but if we did, we would have to start with 6th graders who will hopefully get an opportunity to do a trip like this before graduating high school (I cannot guarantee anything though)

b) Cost will be somewhere between \$1,000-\$1,300. We won't know an exact number until we lock in flights. We will **try** to take care of as much as half the cost through group fundraisers (youth must help participate in fundraisers to get a portion of that money). I'd rather start with the expectation of a higher number and then give you good news that the cost went down. :-)

c) Shareholders

1) We will be starting Shareholders earlier in the year to build the relationship between students and adults throughout the year...and the money donated will help us get a better gauge of how much more we need to raise.

2) Shareholders will be required for all mission trip participants. It will require calling, texting, and meeting with shareholders. Students will also need to fill out an information card that we can give to shareholders. Students will send out postcards on the trip. Students/ Parents will need to provide a 9X13 Salad AND Dessert for the Shareholder dinner after the mission trip

d) Group Fundraising

1) Shareholders

2) Change Jars

3) RCA Scholarship

4) Envelope Wall

e) Making Connections between middle school and high school before the trip

f) Planning on some joint youth group meetings this year

g) Hoping to get a few high school students come to some middle school meetings as Teen Leaders

h) Be prepared for changing requirement regarding flying. You might be required to get a COVID test before flying and there is a chance that proof of COVID vaccinations could be a part of flight requirements in the future...it's tough to know where we will be in June

7) Winter Retreat

a) Hoping to do Spring Hill Retreat for High School and Middle School

b) Registration hasn't opened yet, so I don't have a date

c) Cost \$155

8) Possible Dates for Special Worship services

a) **Feb 6** - Possible Youth-Led Worship Service

b) **May 15** - Graduate Sunday

c) **July 10** - Mission Trip Youth Service & Shareholder Dinner

High School Students must pay \$100 extra for the mission trip if they cannot attend Shareholder Dinner.

9) Attendance

We will be keeping track of attendance again this year. If a student wants to go on a mission trip, they need to be at Sunday youth group at least 50% of the time youth group is held. There's a lot of relationship building, spiritual growth, and teaching throughout the year that prepares us for mission trip. It is important that you participate in that if you want to go on mission trip. Also, too often seniors check-out their last year and feel like strangers to the rest of the group on mission trip.

If someone is new to youth group and wants to go on the mission trip, we will start keeping track of the 50% from the date they start coming to our youth group.

Exemptions may be granted for unique circumstances, like COVID, quarantining, funerals, etc.

10) Behavior For Trips

Mission Trips and retreats are a privilege. Proper behavior is required in youth group to be able to attend these events. Students will also be expected to do what is asked of them by youth leaders, particularly in serving on mission trips. They will also be required to write a Pre-Mission Trip Devotional, and pray for each person going on the trip. By signing up for these events, students are saying they are willing to do what is asked of them, without any resistance. If students are unwilling to do these things, they should not sign up.

Jeremy, the youth leaders, and Pastor Greg have the right to take away trip privileges at any point.

High School Students signing up for mission trip are also required to have shareholders. Shareholders must be contacted prior to the trip, a post card must be written to them, and they must attend the shareholder dinner to meet with their shareholder during dessert.

Regarding All Payments (outings, fundraisers, etc):
Make checks payable to "Zion Reformed Church"