



# CHILD OF GOD

## youth newsletter

jan 10, 2024

### MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

All middle school youth are invited to Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church for youth group on Sunday, JAN 14th from 6:30-8:00pm! We'll play games, have a Bible devotion, and enjoy snacks.

*Upon arrival, go to the back of the church and enter the double glass doors.*

### MIDDLE SCHOOL LATE NIGHT!

Friday, 1/26

6th to 8th graders are invited to a night of games, food, devotions, and fellowship with local LCMS churches. The event will take place at Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Charles. Admission is just \$10 per person.



## A NEW LANGUAGE FOR THE NEW YEAR - AXIS ARTICLE

Even at the best of times, teens can seem like a total mystery to their parents. So what happens when it feels like they're speaking a whole new language? Teens in 2024 are reaching maturity in what can feel like a totally new-to-us world, and they're knee-deep in the chaos that adolescence historically brings. As if that wasn't enough, now they're talking about girl dinners and situationships, and for some reason, the Roman Empire. It's enough to make some parents feel like giving up on real conversations.

It's understandable to feel helpless when your kid walks into a room and says something that might as well be an alien language, but it's also something of a parental rite of passage. At some point when you were young, you probably mystified your own parents, and someday your children's children will mystify them. You're not alone, and this isn't an insurmountable obstacle.

After Jesus ascended into heaven following His death and resurrection, His disciples met together at Pentecost and experienced the powerful anointing of the Holy Spirit. The very first miracle the Spirit empowered them to perform was one of communication and relationship. The disciples began to share the gospel in the many different languages of the friends and neighbors around them.

When we talk about "culture translation," defining slang and diving deep into trends and media, it's this kind of connection we're striving for. In the book of Acts, the people were drawn to the message of the disciples because they heard them "declaring the wonders of God in [their] own tongues." God's truth and light exist in every corner of our world, and as parents it's our commission (and our great joy) to guide our children to walk with Christ. Talking with our kids about Fortnite or Harry Styles or TikTok might feel shallow, but you never know when the Spirit might move and use those conversations, creating space for your children to hear the gospel in their own language.

With that in mind, here are some questions to help kick off conversations with your teens:

- What's something about being a teen today that you wish I understood?
- Is there anything that people younger than you say or do that confuses you?
- What is one thing you think that your generation and my generation have in common?