



CHILD OF GOD

youth newsletter

april 10, 2024

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

All middle school youth are invited to Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church for youth group on Sunday, April 21st 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.

UPCOMING YOUTH DATES:

Save the date for the following Middle School Youth Group opportunities!

- **Saturday, May 11, AmazinGrace Event** (Amazing Race styled event at Chapel of the Cross from 3:00-7:00pm. More details to come!)

UNEXPECTED JOY IN MOTHERHOOD --- HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 1517 ARTICLE

The work of motherhood is not what I expected. Joy is not found where I expected to find it. I expected planning activities and fun would seamlessly flow from my bones, bringing immense joy to me and my children...

Despite all my dreams, motherhood did not begin as I had planned nor does my day-to-day function as I envisioned.

Motherhood began with a one-night stand. I was not anyone's wife. I moved back into my parents' home. The initial work of motherhood was navigating a parenting relationship with someone I barely knew; this work was not even on my list. My dreams of always being in tune with my children's health ended with a week-long stay in a children's hospital for my one-month-old.

I eventually married, moved out of my parents' home, and had more children. Marriage and having more children did not magically make me the mother I had planned to be. The work of motherhood often holds frustration, not joy. Our home is rarely picked up, and we often play the game of "what is reeking and where is it coming from?" Our meals are more often beige than a vibrant rainbow, and spaghetti is on a weekly rotation. No one is setting a clock according to the Koplins' schedule. We come flying in with backpacks half zipped while my phone dings telling me the cell phone bill is past due.

I'm not the mother I thought I would be. I don't find joy, as I expected to, in the work of motherhood. Yet joy abounds.

Joy does not come from the work I do. Joy comes from the work of Christ. Joy comes from Christ working in my life to form a co-parenting relationship that works. Joy comes from discovering all I lack in each stage of parenting and learning.

I am loved despite myself and despite how many things I have accomplished in a day. Joy comes from apologizing to my kids and knowing grace abounds.

Joy comes from being reminded of the finished work of Christ as I look at all the unfinished work of motherhood. We have joy because we have assurance in the work of Christ.

Read more at 1517.org