

2011-2012 Educational/Fellowship/Outreach Opportunities at Third CRC

Whether you are a lifelong member or an occasional guest here at Third, we want to welcome you! We are excited to have you and hope to serve you this year by helping you find your place to learn, fellowship and grow in Christ.

The following pages are a full listing of this year's activities and programs. We think there is something for everyone!

If you have an idea for an activity that is not currently taking place, or you would like to volunteer for an existing activity, please contact either Missy Sculley (616.878.0921), Carrie Beyer (616.772.4177), or Mabelle Knochenhauer at (616. 842.5122).

Outreach is focused on serving Christ through meeting the needs of others in our immediate neighborhood and across the world.

Here are some of the ways we try to meet the needs around us:

- Mission Trips - averaging 2 trips per year
- Vacation Bible School at Logan Estates each summer
- *ART in the LOT* - intergenerational summer art program
- Host of *Zeeland Arts League*- a community arts group
- Low cost day trips to festivals and museums
- *Feeding America* food distribution 4th Sat. each month
- Long term support of five global missionaries
- Three year commitment supporting two "home grown" missionaries
- Food drives through *His Harvest Stand*
- *James Gang* - a group of DIY'ers doing fix-it for others
- *Crossroads Bible Ministry* reaching out to prisoners
- Summer worship at Dutch Treat campground
- Christmas gifts for Zeeland families that are in need
- Events encouraging church and community involvement

All activities are opportunities to bring a friend or neighbor into our midst where God is present. Plan to bring someone to our next event. If you are interested in volunteering to help run an Outreach event please contact Mabelle Knochenhauer at (616.842.5122).

Little Lambs is a program for the two and three-year-olds of our church. When a child turns two, they are invited to join Little Lambs. Little Lambs meet Sunday mornings during the worship service in room 5. They will begin on September 11 and meet throughout the school year. Contact: Kara Huizingh (616.772.4144) or Lynn Fischer (616.772.0498)

Children's Worship involves the children age 4 (by September 1 so that they are with the children of the same grade level in school) through 4th grade. We are privileged to have four worship centers. Worship Center 1 meets in room 4 with the 4 year olds and kindergartners. First and second grade meet in the basement room next to the elevator as Worship Center 2. The children in these groups begin worship in the sanctuary and follow the banner out of church after the sermon. The third graders are a part of Worship Center 3 and meet in room 10. The fourth graders form Worship Center 4 and meet in room 3. These centers leave worship upstairs after the sermon and dismiss to the back of the sanctuary. The worship centers dismiss at 11:40. All of the worship centers will begin on September 11 and meet throughout the school year. Visitors are always welcome in any of the worship centers and encouraged to come be a part of the worship experience. Contact: Sherri Tibbe (616.892.4481)

Youth Education/High School Education is for grades 5 through 12. Children in WC 3 and WC 4 along with 5th grade leave during the hymn after the sermon. Sixth through twelfth grade students attend their classes following the morning service. Each class dismisses at 11:40. The church school classes will begin meeting on September 11 and will continue to meet throughout the school year. Contact: Missy Sculley (616.878.0921)

Early Teens usually meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. It is a program designed for seventh and eighth graders. Contact: Jon Stevens (616.706.9683)

Youth Group involves the teens in grades 9 through 12. Youth group meets on Sunday evenings after evening worship. They also participate in a variety of activities throughout the school year. They plan to start their year on Sunday, September 18. Contact: Jon Stevens (616.706.9683)

GEMS stands for Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior. It involves the girls in grades 2 through 6. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Each year the ministry focuses on an annual theme.

The theme for 2010-2011 is Get Wisdom: Go Beyond the Gold. The theme verses from Proverbs 9:10 and 16:16-17 help direct the focus for the theme this year. The heart of this theme is the life lesson that we must fear the LORD. The term "to fear" can describe everything from dread (Deuteronomy 1:29) or being terrified (Jonah 1:16) to standing in awe (1 Kings 3:28) and having reverence (Leviticus 19:3). It is a shrinking back in recognition of the holiness, power, and autonomy of God and the drawing close in awe, reverence, and worship.

GEMS plans to start on Wednesday, September 21. Contact: Helene VanderPoppen (616.772.6302) or Beth Ysseldyke (616.931.3948)

Cadets is a program for the boys in second through sixth grades. The Cadet motto is "Living for Jesus". Their focusing theme for the year is Prepare Yourself. The theme verse supporting the focusing theme is:

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

They meet the first three Wednesdays of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. The area-wide Heritage Council kick-off is the week of September 12 and a regular Cadet meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21. Contact: Doug Baas (616.748.6256)

Ladies Bible Study meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 1:30 PM at church. Pastor Jay will lead this year's study using Liz Curtis Higgs' book *Bad Girls of the Bible*. Our first lesson is September 21. Contact: Lucy Dozeman. (616.772.4123)

Women's Retreat is an annual event that occurs in the winter. This year's retreat is scheduled for a Friday evening to Saturday afternoon in February. It is open to all the women of the congregation and the friends they invite to come and be a part of this wonderful experience. The purpose of the retreat is to promote intergenerational fellowship and to encourage women spiritually. Contact: Val Snoeyink (616.772.1261)

Adult education classes are currently being planned on a variety of topics including a study of the book of Mark and Max Lucado's book, Becoming Money Smart. We are also planning some intergenerational events on the fourth Wednesdays of the month. This winter look for your opportunity to be a part of a group as we take a closer look at the Psalms. Contact: Lyle Ahrenholz (616.392.5764) or Missy Sculley (616.878.0921)

Body & Soul Aerobics The fall session will be starting up on Monday, September 12. There are four classes offered: Mon/Thurs. 9:15-10:15 AM at Third, CRC, and Tues 6:30-7:30 PM and Sat 7:30-8:30 AM at Victory Point on Ransom. Call Sue at 875-7219 to pre-register or if you have any questions.

Purpose – This group of women meets each week to spend an hour working out to songs of the Spirit. The theme is "Way Beyond Myself", and the ladies will be told how God takes and uses us way beyond what we ourselves can even imagine. We are praying that women come from all avenues of life, and that the music and fellowship reach out to demonstrate the love of Christ. The workout is for varying levels of fitness, and is a complete body workout. The benefits are physical, psychological, and spiritual. (It is a healthy way to de-stress). In addition, they support each other in prayer and friendship. This small group is open to people both here at Third and outside the congregation. Nursery is available on Monday and Thursday. There is a small fee for this program and the nursery. Come with a friend - that gives both of you a \$10 savings on the class. Contact: Sue Gras (875.7219)

The Volunteer Breakfast Group – Jack Wyrick (616.772-9462)

Mondays – 7:45 a.m. at Russ' Northtown

Purpose: Come have a cup of coffee with some of our congregation's most faithful members! These men gather weekly to fellowship and coordinate the work of the Youth For Christ Donation Center which in turn supports the YFC activities in the area middle schools. More than just talk, this group goes to work caring for people each week.

Congregational Life is all about having fun while we fellowship with each other. We promote intergenerational fellowship among members and non-members. Whether single, family or a couple, young or old, we have an opportunity for you to join us in sharing God's love. Some of the activities we have planned for this year are:

- Corn Maze and Hot Dog roast Saturday, October 22, at Post Farms (Hot dog roast at the Beyer's house)
- Adult progressive dinner on Friday, November 4
- Family sledding/ice skating during Christmas Break
- Sleigh Ride for the whole family at Teusink's farm on Friday, January 28 at 3:30
- Leap Party/Supper on Wednesday, February 29 with supper and games for the whole family to enjoy.
- Ladies scrapbook/craft night Friday, March 16
- Climb Mt Pisgah and enjoy ice-cream sometime during Spring Break. Exact date and time to be determined
- Church picnic in June for all families
- Camping with other church families in August
- Movie nights at the bowl with movies, popcorn and slush's at the bowl one evening in June, July and August. A community event

We are always looking for new ideas of fun ways to share God's love with each other. If you have any suggestions, please contact Carrie Beyer at 772-4177.

The Agape' Group will continue to provide meals throughout the year as needed during special events and services. Come and break bread together as a family of believers.