



Trinity Youth Newsletter - December

TRINITY YOUTH GROUP – BURR RIDGE

Radical Gratitude

5:18).

I recently heard a devotion on this Bible verse the day after Thanksgiving. It was interesting to hear this on what we call Black Friday, a day when we tend to go crazy as consumers in preparation for Christmas. So, what does Radical Gratitude really look like?

Radical gratitude looks like the Bible passage above, but most people read it incorrectly. Notice that the Bible says to give thanks *in* all circumstances, not *for* all circumstances. There is a huge difference by changing the word in to for. We don't have to be thankful *for* the bad things that happen in our lives. We know that we see a lot of evil in the world and not everything that happens in the world is God's will. In fact, if you really think about it, most of the time God's will is not done. *Our* will is done. So, we don't thank God for the evil in the world. We thank God in the middle of it.

Why can I thank God in every circumstance? First, because I know God is in control. I know God can bring good out of evil. I know God can turn even my mistakes into something that works out well – good can come from it. I know that I'm not going to live on Earth forever. I know that I am going to heaven one day. I know I can't love my salvation as long as I stay faithful. I know no matter what that God isn't going to stop loving me. I could think of a lot of reasons to be thankful in any circumstance, even circumstances that are bad.

The verse also says in *all things*. This could also mean any, all, anyone, all the time, anywhere, everywhere, the whole thing. It means no exception, no excuses, no exemptions.

That seems pretty radical, doesn't it? That's why it's radical gratitude.

It doesn't take effort to be grateful for the nice present somebody just gave you. Anyone can do that. But being grateful in all circumstances is radical gratitude.

People say they want to know God's will. They want to know what God wants them to do with their life. Well, giving thanks in all situations is God's will for you!

"Give thanks in all
circumstance; for this is
God's will for you in Christ
Jesus" (1 Thessalonians

INDOOR MINIATURE GOLF

DECEMBER 16



This event has been rescheduled from our October event. We will meet at Trinity School at 5:00 p.m. and we should return by 9:30 p.m.

Our destination will be Space Golf in Orland Park. We will have dinner beforehand at Red Robin. Cost for the event will be \$20 which includes golf and dinner.

It is important that you sign up by Sunday, December 10 so that I can plan for transportation. Friends are welcome to attend. Please add them to the sign-up

sheet. We will have more discussion on this at our Open Youth Room on December 3.

TRASH BAG SALE – NOW THROUGH THE END OF DECEMBER

There are still several boxes of trash bags to be sold. Remember that each box sold will monies raised will help you in future trips including retreats, youth gatherings, and mission trip. If you haven't picked up a box yet, please do so on December 3 at Open Youth Room. If you have sold all you can, please bring your money in.

Continue to be creative in selling. Use social media, buy them for family members for Christmas, or simply ask friends and neighbors to help you out.

All bags are recyclable and cost \$12 per roll no matter what size.



Open Youth Room -

December 3

Our only Open Youth Room in December will be this coming Sunday at 6:30 p.m. We hope that you can make it to enjoy each other's company and to catch up with what is going on with the Youth Group. We will conclude at 8:00 p.m.

Mission Trip Update



Our Mission Trips are coming up in eight months and plans are continually being made with our trips to Houston and Minneapolis. The airline tickets are purchased, the vans are reserved, and the deposit for the program has been paid. Here is what we have left to do. We need to continue to fund raise to cover the cost of the airlines, book our hotel for the first night, and eventually go through the pre-trip Bible studies. If you were on the original list and are not able to attend, please let me know. The last cutoff date is March 15.

Middle School students are reminded to sign-up for any remaining spots available for the trip to Minnesota. The sheet is in the classroom and the Youth Room.

WINTER JAM 2018

Just a reminder that Winter Jam 2018 is scheduled for Friday, March 30. This is Good Friday. The plan is to leave around 2:00 p.m. and the return time should be around midnight. The admission cost has been raised to \$15. This does not include any food or beverage you would purchase inside the arena. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Youth Room and the Seventh Grade Confirmation Room. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

ICE SKATING AT MILLENNIUM PARK

We will head downtown for our annual ice skating in Millennium Park on Saturday, January 13. Included in the trip will be a stop at Geno's East Pizzeria. Travel downtown will be on the Metra train. We will meet at the school at 8:00 a.m. to catch the train out of the Hinsdale station. Return time back to the school should be around 4:30 p.m.

The cost for the trip will be \$20 that will include your train ticket, ice skate rental, and lunch. It will not include Starbucks coffee or any extras you buy at the snack shop by the ice rink.

Friends are invited. If they are attending, a medical release form will need to be filled out. The sign-up sheets are up. Parents are needed to transport us to and from the train station. Any parent who would like to attend the event for the whole day is more than welcome.

PIZZA SALE

Our annual pizza sale will be conducted during the month of January. You will receive the order forms in the mail with instructions. With each kit you sell, \$5 will be put in your personal account to lower the cost of the major trips. The pizzas orders will be due by Wednesday, January 24. The pizzas will be here for pick up on Friday, February 2, from noon till 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. We need to sell 100 kits to have free delivery.

WINTER RETREAT

The sign-up deadline is this Sunday, December 3, at Open Youth Room time. If we don't meet the minimum number, we will cancel and come up with a one-day ski event. The cost for the retreat is \$150 and monies can be taken out of your accounts. If you have a friend who would like to attend, you can add them to the sign-up sheet.

Another mailing concerning this event or the ski day will be sent out next week.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Thank you to all who helped with the Thanksgiving Food Drive this year. We were able to help seven families in our church and school. Thanks to Mrs. Geaschel for cutting the feathers and Mrs. Kozik who did some of the shopping. We need to thank Thrivent for their donation of \$250 to help purchase the perishable food items.

We are currently considering possible dates to serve at the Chicago Food Depository and The Ronald McDonald House at Hines Hospital.

YOUTH GROUP DONATION

The Youth Group recently received a generous donation that will be split amongst the youth group members. This is a similar gift that we received a couple of years ago and comes with a stipulation. The money is to be divided up among those students who attend Sunday School or Youth Bible Class at least seven times between December 3 and March 25. We will check with Pastor Bob and Mrs. O'Shea on attendance. Sunday School is held in the church basement and the Youth Bible Class meets in the Trinity School Conference Room at 9:45 a.m.