

**An Informational Meeting Is Required**

**Sunday, March 4, 2012**

**2:00-3:30pm**

**Parish Life Center**

At the meeting (**for parent and student**) you'll find answers to specific questions about Thrive and all of Junior High Ministry at St. John's.

It is important that each family understand the program's structure, commitment, and goals for Thrive before signing up.

**Questions...**

Call Cheryl Park at 827-6121 x226  
(or [cheryl@stjohnsbloomington.org](mailto:cheryl@stjohnsbloomington.org))  
Or Rob Gieraltowski at x223  
([rob@stjohnsbloomington.org](mailto:rob@stjohnsbloomington.org))

**A \$30 fee is required per year.**

**A GREAT INVESTMENT IN FAITH**

The fees collected help buy supplies for Servant and Learning Events, junior high socials and monies to offset costs of other events and curriculum. Incoming 6th graders receive an NRSV Student Bible as well.



**St. John's Junior High Ministries**

1617 E. Emerson St.  
Bloomington, IL 61701

# THRIVE



**Small Group,  
Wednesday Night,  
Catechism,  
6-8th Grade Ministry**  
(Some of us "old" people would  
have called it confirmation)

**5th Grade Families and  
those new to Thrive!!!**

St. John's Lutheran Church

[www.stjohnsjrhigh.org](http://www.stjohnsjrhigh.org)

309.827.6121

### Monthly Schedule

**1st Wed.**  
Learning Event  
at Church  
6:45-8:30pm

**2nd Wed.**  
Group Building:  
Fellowship, Service  
or Team-Building  
Activities  
6:45-8:30pm

**3rd Wed.**  
Learning Event  
at Church  
6:45-8:30pm

**4th or 5th  
Wed.**  
Kids are off -  
Guides typically  
meet for training  
and fellowship!



## The Goal

THRIVE is designed to grow a junior high student in faith through the care and nurture of a small group. **Christian relationships** are the goal of Thrive.

## The Guide

Adults serving as Guides are more concerned with faith formation than information. They concentrate more on modeling the love of God than on talking about it. They do not serve primarily as teacher, but as: caregiver, advocate, mentor and processor of the materials that a pastor and presenter has taught.

## The Small Group

In large-group teaching situations, the quiet kid is often lost in the crowd. The special needs child is often left behind. The loud, obnoxious student has to act up all the more to get their attention needs met. In a small group, everybody knows your name. Trust develops more quickly. You are missed if you are gone. Accountability is automatically built into the system.

The small group is generally made up of 2 adults and 5-8 youth. **We will be looking for many parents to serve as Guides this fall for our 6th graders alone! We need caring adults!**

## The Presenter / Pastor

Wouldn't it be odd if the main job of the teacher was to teach? **Thrive** places our pastors and Rob Gieraltowski (Dir. for Jr. High) in the role they are best suited to. Presenters create the most interesting youth-oriented teaching talk they can muster and supplement their talks with small group involvement in music, skits, videos and other creative interruptions all based on the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism.



From the book of Matthew... "But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the one who hears the word and understands it. They produce a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."



We don't want 6-8th graders to merely survive their early adolescent years - rather to **thrive** in their Christian relationship with God and others.

## Junior High Ministry: A time for blessing and sending forth.

Our junior high ministry is unique in that it gives junior high students a wide-range of faith experiences and opportunities. Throughout your child's 6-8th grade experience, we will be encouraging your family to engage in Bible study, prayer, worship/worship summaries, Summer Camps, Faith-In-Life Interviews, service work and much more.