

Messiah Lutheran Church Senior Youth Covenant

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

1 Peter 2:9

As Children of God, He has called us to live our lives in a Christ-like manner, in all things, striving to be holy (*1 Peter 1:14-16*). This means that in all things we do, we should set our minds on “what the Spirit desires” (*Rom. 8:5-7*). We also understand that as sinners, we fall short of the glory of God (*Rom. 3:23*). In the light of this truth, it is good to define how we should live and interact with each other as a youth group. This group Covenant contains our promises and commitments to each other for how we will act, interact, and respond throughout all Senior Youth functions and events. Anyone who attends youth or one of our events, whether member, guest, or relative enters into this covenant with the entire group.

We agree to honor one another as members of God’s family by treating each other in the following Christian manner:

Central Idea: Treat others as you want to be treated (Luke 6:31)

- Show concern for other’s physical and emotional well being (*Matt. 19:19*)
- Use words that build people up, avoid put-downs and sarcasm at all times (*1Thes 5:11*)
- Treat others as you would be treated, say things that you would want said to you, and talk only in language that is appropriate Christian language
- Cease inappropriate behavior if anyone asks it of you; and dress in an appropriate fashion
- Have a positive attitude and be flexible when things go wrong or schedules change

We agree to care for each other in our group by helping each other in these ways:

Central Idea: Show humility, counting others needs above your own (Phil. 2:3)

- Show patience and understanding for others and their feelings
- Show grace towards others, even if it is not shown to you
- Always deal with others in love and kindness, the way that Christ first loved us
- Show respect, honor and obedience to adult leaders and “let them do this with joy, and not with groaning” (*Heb. 13:17*)

If a student does not follow the guidelines of this covenant, they will be subject to the Messiah Lutheran Church Covenant following consequences.

Central Idea: We are all sinful (Rom. 7: 18-20); Sin has consequences (Rom. 6:23);

Consequences are meant to restore in a “Spirit of Gentleness” (Gal. 6:1)

- Confiscation of item(s).
- Youth may be asked to consult privately with an Adult Leader or other youth involved
- Asked to spend all or part of a day under the direct supervision of an adult
- Damage to property will be the responsibility of the student & parents

- If an individual participates in any activities or others deemed severe, he/she will be removed from the situation immediately at the parents/guardians expense
- The following are examples of severe actions
 - Possessing an alcoholic beverage, narcotic, or tobacco product
 - Possessing a weapon
 - Breaking the law
 - Inappropriate sexual behavior

In addition, we expect our Adult Leaders to enter into this covenant as well, especially in the following ways:

Central Idea: Our adult leaders will keep watch over and guide our youth, providing transparent integrity, and modeling a christ-like attitude

- Model to everyone a Christ-like, servant motivated attitude worthy of imitation (*Heb. 13:7*)
- Abide by the same guidelines laid out in this covenant, just as the youth will abide
- Show patience and try to get the “whole story” before reacting
- Show a light-hearted, loving, and fun side of themselves
- Consult youth in decision making as much as possible (when appropriate)
- Follow this covenant fairly when dealing with problems

****When dealing with any conflict among youth members, we do our best to follow the model Christ outlined in Matthew 18 (v. 15-17).****

Above all, we strive to live according to the Spirit. Setting our minds on things of righteousness, in the scope of the sacrifice of God’s son for our sin. In this, we will show each other grace and mercy just as he showed us grace and mercy first. We will show love to one another constantly, and receive love graciously, just as he loves us.

This covenant binds us all together making us one body, unified in Christ’s love. All members are responsible for honoring and upholding this covenant, and all members are responsible to remind others of the importance of the covenant.

You have been blessed to be a blessing. Be a good representative of Messiah Lutheran Church!