



# HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY BUILDING BRIDGES

## **Spring Retreat 2019**

### *Registration and Information*

Dear 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students and Families,

An important part of High School Ministry at Wayzata Community Church is having experiences together outside of our weekly gatherings. Retreats, trips and special events all provide an opportunity for building our class communities, which adds strength to the time we spend together on a weekly basis.

On the retreat, we will be taking some time to share about our year. Specifically, as it relates to our theme of being a Crossbearer, and our study of faith in practice this year. Through class time and during the Celebration Ceremony on Saturday evening we will have the opportunity to share about the work we have done as a class this year. It is our hope that each student will join us for this important step in the celebration of the year.

As a part of the retreat, **each 12<sup>th</sup> grade student involved in High School on Wednesday will share their faith talk.** This individual talk is intended to help them reflect and communicate about their faith development over the last four years, and over the course of their lives to this point. Each student is encouraged to be as creative, and personal, as they like in telling their own story and journey of faith. We've been discussing these faith talks as a class during the year and will be offering time on Wednesday and on the retreat for each student to consider what to share.

The opportunity to take time to celebrate our faith community and allow each high school student to share their commitment to their own faith is profound. We also believe that the support and presence of family and friends is important and vital, as we communicate to each high school student how much we care about the steps they are taking in their faith. **So, we invite families and friends to attend the Celebration Ceremony on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the DeGross Center at Camp Friendship, where each high school student will be recognized for their participation this year.** The ceremony will begin with the presentation of the 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade students at 6:30 p.m., a brief intermission at 8:00 p.m. and closing with a faith talk by each 12<sup>th</sup> grade student. The whole ceremony will wrap up around 9:30 p.m. Please RSVP to [Gabe Flynn](#).

The Spring Retreat is open to all High School students, regardless of their participation in High School on Wednesday. Only students participating on Wednesdays are asked to complete a Faith Talk. Please contact Gabe or Jordan directly if you have any questions.

In Faith,

Gabe Flynn and Jordan Masters  
Directors of High School Ministry

Nate McDonald, Britta Nyberg, Chris Olmanson, Andrea Swanson, and Mitch Workmon  
Class Leaders

## Crossbearer – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

### *Faith Talk Description*

Your Faith Talk is a public statement about where you are in your faith and how you will carry your faith forward in the next stages of your life. Each year you have been a part of High School Ministry you have been asked to create and present a project, reflecting and sharing about the development in your faith that year. As seniors, your project is a unique opportunity to share a faith talk with the entire group during the Spring Retreat Celebration Ceremony.

The Faith Talk is meant to help you (as you process and reflect on your High School years), your classmates and leaders, and to share your faith and wisdom to benefit the younger students and their experience in High School.

Each senior student will have 4-5 minutes to share. While this is not long enough to share a complete life story, it is sufficient to share a few key ideas. The sharing should be focused on each person's faith and spiritual development.

A Faith Talk might look like this:

- An opening - Your name, plans for next year, and something personal about yourself.
- **Main question to reflect on: At this point in your life what parts of the Christian faith do you find to be true for you (an updated creed or belief statement that incorporates your experiences and thoughts during your time in High School)?**
- Other thought starters to help you reflect on the main question above.
  1. Describe an especially impactful experience or person in your faith, from the last 4 years?
  2. Looking back at your faith development, how have your beliefs changed since you were younger?
  3. How has your faith community shaped/influenced your experience of High School, and beyond?
  4. What do you know about yourself and your faith now that you wish you had known in the 9th grade?
- A closing - Share a piece of advice, a favorite Bible verse, or quote that has been important in your faith development.