

Divine Service Guidelines for Youth Service

Youth Services are recommended to be held quarterly. When planning a Youth Service, it is important to use the special **Divine Service Guide for Youth** that can be found at the end of the monthly Divine Service Guides. This guide can replace the regular Sunday Divine Service Guide for that day (if Youth Service is held on a Sunday) and should be used as the primary resource for the service.

The purpose of a Youth Service is to:

- Provide youth with a sermon that is clear, memorable, and meaningful to their lives.
- Involve youth in planning, preparing, and helping during the Youth Service.
- Foster connections between youth from within the congregation, district, and/or region as well as foster intergenerational connections, if the Youth Service includes local members.
- Reinforce the importance of the divine service while deepening understanding of the importance of a lived faith.

Planning:

- To ensure the youth and the congregation are prepared for these special services, announce them well in advance. Ideally, consider setting and sharing the dates for Youth Service for the entire year at the beginning of the year.
- The youth should be involved in the planning, preparation, and activities during the divine service such as ushering, preparing the altar, flowers, greeting, and participating in the choir.
- The minister conducting the divine service should be someone who can effectively communicate and connect with high school age adolescents. This could be any ordained minister including a youth leader, a young adult, or any minister who is willing to thoughtfully prepare for this special divine service.

When Conducting a Youth Service:

- Youth Services must follow the divine service liturgy.
- Youth Services should use the special Divine Service Guide for Youth.
- Youth Services can include the local congregation or only the youth.
- Youth Services can take place outdoors or indoors.
- Youth Services must be conducted by an ordained minister and only ordained ministers may assist during the Youth Service.
- Youth Services are not interactive. If an interactive experience is desired, it is recommended to have a short succinct service and an interactive discussion or Q&A session after the divine service. These discussions can be facilitated by non-ordained members.