

# MIDDLE SCHOOL HAPPENINGS!

## 5-8TH GRADE



January 2012

### Did you get a cell phone for Christmas?

Many of you received cell phones for Christmas or have recently joined Facebook. They can be a great way to communicate with parents and friends. They can also be used in very hurtful and destructive ways. Please read though the list below. Think about it. Pray about it.

Reposted from [ConnectSafely.org](http://ConnectSafely.org)

#### Don't respond

If someone bullies you, remember that your reaction is usually exactly what the bully wants. It gives him or her power over you. Who wants to empower a bully?

#### Don't retaliate

Getting back at the bully turns you into one and reinforces the bully's behavior. Help avoid a whole cycle of aggression.

#### Save the evidence

The only good news about digital bullying is that the harassing messages can usually be captured, saved, and shown to someone who can help. You need to do this even if it's minor stuff, in case things escalate.

#### Talk to a trusted adult

You deserve backup. It's always good to involve a parent but – if you can't – a school counselor usually knows how to help. Sometimes both are needed. If you're really nervous about saying something, see if there's a way to report the incident anonymously at school.

#### Block the bully

If the harassment's coming in the form of instant messages, texts, or profile comments, do yourself a favor: Use preferences or privacy tools to block the person. If it's in chat, leave the "room."

#### Be civil

Even if you don't like someone, it's a good idea to be decent and not sink to the other person's level. Also, research shows that gossiping about and trash talking others increases your risk of being bullied. Treat people the way you want to be treated.

#### Don't be a bully

How would you feel if someone harassed you? You know the old saying about walking a mile in someone's shoes; even a *few seconds* of thinking about how another person might feel can put a big damper on aggression. That's needed in this world.

#### Be a friend, not a bystander

Watching or forwarding mean messages empowers bullies and hurts victims even more. If you can, tell bullies to stop or let them know harassment makes people look stupid and mean. It's time to let bullies know their behavior is unacceptable – cruel abuse of fellow human beings. If you can't stop the bully, at least try to help the victim and report the behavior.

#### Practical jokes are cruel excuses for jokes

What is your motivation? If it's to embarrass or humiliate someone or to get revenge on somebody, DON'T do it. Practical jokes are careless jokes made for fun *at the expense of others*. Watching someone else's humiliation is hurtful and can be harmful.

### Remember the 8th Commandment: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

*What does this mean?* Do not tell lies about your neighbor (or friend), betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.



## Confirmation Update

We will be finishing with the 10 Commandments this month. Our next focus area will be Prayer.



## 7th Graders Release Day Adventure

### Early Out Servant Event :: February 8 :: 1pm –4pm

Early Out Servant Events are opportunities for 7th and 8th graders to **Connect with our Community**. Some projects done in the past are sorting at Common Goods (a 2nd hand store, whose profits benefit people in need in our community), playing games or giving manicures at Edgewood Vista (an assisted living community). They also count toward your service hours.

These events do have space limitations and will be filled on a first come-first serve basis. **YOU MUST REGISTER ONLINE TO PARTICIPATE!**

Use this link to register —

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?hl=en_US&formkey=dE92R3JgekFoRm5tR0llbzJyamdOY0E6MA#gid=0)

[hl=en\\_US&formkey=dE92R3JgekFoRm5tR0llbzJyamdOY0E6MA#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?hl=en_US&formkey=dE92R3JgekFoRm5tR0llbzJyamdOY0E6MA#gid=0)



*Religious Release is a program supported by the school district that offers churches the opportunity to use time within a regular school day for religious education.*

*It is considered an excused absence.*

*February 8 :: 8am-3pm :: Lord of Life*

*Permission slips are available at church or online.*

*More details will be in the February newsletter.*

### A Look ahead to this Summer.

We've had several people ask for the dates of our Middle School Ministry Opportunities for the upcoming summer. Here they are:

Summer Stretch—Thursdays in June and July, except July 5.

ServeCAMP—August 6-10, 2012

### We Need Parental Help

*Can you provide transportation and/or be a chaperone for the release day adventure?*

*Please contact Pastor Erika at 828-9374 or erika@lolbaxter.org*

## January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 7th & 8th grd Confirmation *Kevin Jensen	5	6	7
8 MSYGroup	9	10	11 7th & 8th grd Confirmation *Gail Brecht	12	13	14
15 MSYGroup	16	17	18 7th & 8th grd Confirmation *Lisa Garberich	19	20	21
22 MSYGroup	23	24	25 7th & 8th grd Confirmation *Kayleen Larson	26	27	28
29 MSYGroup	30	31	*denotes Supper Team Please be in the kitchen as close to 5pm as possible.			