

Dear 4th & 5th Grade Fellowship Parents,

SuperStart! is an exciting opportunity for your student and we wanted to make sure you were as informed as possible before signing up your child to join us on this amazing weekend event specifically designed for preteen students.

In case you’ve never heard of SuperStart! before, let us give you a quick overview. It’s a weekend event produced by Christ In Youth, an organization that has been putting together age-intentional events all over the world for almost 50 years  (you can check out their website at www.ciy.com/superstart). It takes place in a large auditorium, where your child will worship alongside thousands of other students their age. It’s literally an experience they’ll get nowhere else. It’s also one of the safest and most well-organized events for students in the country!

This year’s SuperStart! theme will focus on the idea of generosity. We all know we need to share – it’s a basic life lesson that almost all of us are taught as toddlers. What doesn’t necessarily get taught to us is that everything we have to share belongs to God. As Psalm 24:1 says, “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.” This year SuperStart! will help preteens understand how God has been generous in their lives and how they can in turn be generous to others.

SuperStart! will be setting the table – literally – with both food and fun. SuperStart’s cast of characters will interact with food experts like Mallory the Food Stylist and Chef Basil as they explore the ways in which God has been generous, and how that shows us what we can be generous with and why generosity is such a big deal to God. When you know that someone has been generous to you, it’s almost impossible not to be generous back. And Jesus has shown us the ultimate measure of generosity. He has given us the recipe for generosity. And it’s a recipe that can change our lives.

SuperStart! also offers small group times in which your child can connect with adult leaders and other students. This is one of the most important things we can do as a youth ministry. Next to your influence as a parent, building those bonds between leaders and peers is the No. 1 thing that will help your child grow in their relationship with Christ.

**4th & 5th Grade Fellowship students are invited to the SuperStart! experience March 17-18, 2017 for $75 per participant**. (Cost covers registration, meals, and a t-shirt.) Student’s will meet at Gary on March 17 at 5:30 p.m. and go to Community Church in Naperville for Day 1 of SuperStart! Following the Day 1 session, students are invited to join Wheatland Salem UMC’s 4th & 5th Graders for a group lock-in at Wheatland Salem Church in Naperville! (Boys and girls will be accommodated in separate spaces and supervised by 4th & 5th Grade Fellowship leaders.)

On March 18th, participants will return to the SuperStart! site for a day of continued learning and fun! Following Day 2 activities, students will return to Gary at 3:30 p.m. for parent pick-up. To register, simply visit garychurch.org, complete a Gary Youth permission slip (if you have not done so already), CIY Medical and Liability Release Form, and submit your $75 payment by March 3, 2017.

We’re excited for SuperStart! and the amazing experiences we’ll have over the weekend. If you have any questions that can’t be answered by visiting [www.ciy.com/superstart](http://www.ciy.com/superstart) , contact the 4th & 5th Grade Leadership Team through the Church Office, office@garychurch.org.

Sincerely,

Your 4th & 5th Grade Fellowship Leadership Team

Ben Hafner, Brian Jones, Alexa Isaac, & Carey Bebar