

Worship Notes, Growing in Faith & Serving the Church

Students must complete the following **each quarter**:

- 2 Worship Notes
- 1 Serving the Church Activity
- 1 Growing in Faith Activity

Worship Notes

Worship Notes are taken during the worship service. These are not just sermon notes, but also contains questions that will help guide the student through different parts of the worship service, and will help them identify key parts that will also be discussed in class.

Students should complete at least 2 Worship Notes per quarter.

Zion's Mission Statement:
God's love works IN and THROUGH His people.

Serving the Church Activity
God's love works THROUGH His people.

The purpose of the Serving the Church Activity is to encourage students to become involved with service to the church. As Christians, we believe service to God's people is a vital part of the Christian life.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..." 1 Peter 4:10a

There are many things a church needs in order to run smoothly. This experience will help you learn what happens “behind the scenes”.

Examples of Serving the Church Activities:

- Serving as Acolyte, Greeter or Usher
- Volunteering to work the soundboard for worship
- Volunteering with Choir, Worship Band or special music in church services
- Helping the Altar Guild prepare and clean up for Holy Communion and change the vestments
- Assisting with various help needed around the church (for example, work days or volunteer opportunities at church)
- Helping with Vacation Bible School or Summer Camp

Each student must complete 1 Serving the Church activity each quarter. We encourage you to try different things each quarter!

Please Note: *Students who are Zion members will need to sign up for some of these volunteer opportunities ahead of time, specifically those which happen during worship services.*

Growing in Faith Activity **God's love works IN His people.**

The purpose of the Growing in Faith Activity is to encourage students to be in the Word and to grow in their personal faith with their Savior.

"Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." Colossians 2:6-7

We have a variety of opportunities here at Zion, and all are welcome to join! Our youth group schedule can be found in the weekly school newsletter, under "Zion Church Spotlight".

We encourage students to complete these activities at their home church as much as possible. The goal of these activities is to help students become connected to their youth groups and learn what it means to continue their personal faith journey after Confirmation.

Examples of Growing in Faith Activities:

- Attending Bible Studies, Youth Group or Sunday School
- Youth Group Hosted Events where a Bible Study is included
- Writing your own Devotion (see guide on page 322)
- Special Events that help youth grow in faith:
 - o Christian retreats
 - o Christian speakers
 - o 6th Grade Outdoor Ed, 7th/8th Gr Fall Field Trip

***Worship Note, Serving the Church Activity & Growing in Faith Activity Forms are by the church office and outside the 6th & 7th grade rooms. They are also available online at ZionBethalto.org**

How to write a Devotion

1. **Pick a topic.** There are 2 ways to do this:

OPTION 1: Choose a topic that interests you, such as Hope, Strength, God's Love, Kindness, Trust, Trials, Service or Forgiveness. The possibilities are endless!

i. Choose a Bible verse that goes along with the topic

OPTION 2: Choose a Bible verse that you enjoy

ii. Pick a topic that relates to the Bible verse

2. **Get your topic and Bible verse approved** by your Confirmation teacher.
3. **Pray.** When you sit down to write this devotion, before doing anything else, pray that the Holy Spirit would guide your writing. Ask God to speak through you.
4. **Read through your Bible verse** and write down the things that stand out to you. Try to use notes from a study Bible, or surrounding verses to get a full picture of what was happening while this verse was written. The more you understand the purpose of the verse, the better!
5. **Explain** the things that stood out to you based on the information you gathered.
6. **Make sure to center your devotion on God** (Old Testament) or Jesus (New Testament). What does the verse tell us about Him? Be sure to include Law and Gospel examples where you can! (Students will learn more about this in 7th & 8th Grades)

Your devotion should be around 300 words, and have a clear beginning, middle and end. Give your devotion a title, and write a short 1-2 sentence prayer at the bottom. The prayer should relate to your devotion. Devotions must be typed or clearly written.