

Dear Leadership Team Candidate,

Middle School Ministry (MSM) at Prince of Peace is and has been a very successful and strong force in laying the foundation for further faith development among sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students over the years because of one team....The MSM Advisory Leadership Team or MSMALT. I'm writing in the hope that you will PRAY about serving on this team and/or being a mentor for a group of students on Wednesday nights.

**Middle School Ministry** does what it does by the grace of God and with a dedicated advisory leadership team who meets with staff to be advocates for parents, students, and Prince of Peace as a whole. The team is an opportunity to form, shape, and influence how the ministry is led, along with helping in minimal (or extensive) ways (depending on the team member's time, availability and gifts).

**I believe you would make an excellent addition to this leadership team and/or role as a mentor.** Your years of volunteer service at Prince of Peace and for **Family Ministry** demonstrate the experience needed in MSM. We're hoping to bring 5 new team members on board over the next few weeks and months as we gear up for the 2011/12 ministry year in addition to needing twenty Wednesday night mentors. Would you pray about it?

### **What exactly does the Advisory Leadership Team do?**

We meet twice a month every other Monday, either mornings from 9-11 a.m. or evenings from 7-9 p.m. depending on what works best for the team's schedule.

We vision, dream, and plan ministry initiatives, everything from what snacks are served at dinners and events, to where we should go on mission trips, how to handle pressing ministry needs like behavior or worship leading, or concerns about families and how to encourage students in their daily faith.

After the business portion of the meeting has been covered, we take time to share our lives together. We share with one another our highs and lows, our current struggles and joys, similar to how a small group checks in with one another and builds community.

Because we believe in a mighty, powerful and loving God, we pray for one another.

We serve at mentor dinners, MSM Wed. night ministry, weekly *F r e e s t y l e* gatherings, and even some Connect Events when needed. (The team participates in these as they are able – it is not required but opportunities will always be discussed based on people's gifts!)

Would you consider joining us for an upcoming team meeting on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. or on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in room 110 off of the Atrium of the CLC lower level? This will give you an opportunity to check things out and even give some input to the MSMALT. We're specifically hoping for new 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents but are open to anyone willing to serve and grow with the team over the coming years. Following are recommendations from past and current team members on why you ought to consider serving in MSM on this team or as a mentor.

Sincerely,



  
*Prince of Peace*  
Lutheran Church

**Middle School Ministry**

## What past/present individuals say about being on the MSM Advisory Leadership Team...

*Diane Maney, current member who has served two full years, writes:*

Being a part of the Advisory Leadership Team has been one of the most rewarding opportunities I have had at Prince of Peace. There is a true sense of community, fellowship and ministry amongst this group of men and women. The careful/prayerful planning and consideration that is given to each and every aspect of the Middle School Ministry program is a daunting task that requires the time and talents of our amazing POP staff. I have been blessed to be able to support and serve along side of them and see first-hand the work that God is doing through us. Planning and having the opportunity to be a part of service projects, small groups, campfires, snow tubing and mission trips, etc. with middle school kids is an experience that I never imagined would be so heartwarming. I would encourage you to be a part of this team, share the love of the Lord, and see the difference you can make in the lives of our sixth, seventh and eighth graders.

*Jill Ryder, who served for three years from 2003-2006, writes:*

It's been a few years since I served on the MSM team at P.O.P., but it was fun to be "in the know" while my son, Logan was that age. Also, spending time with a great group of "like minded" parents, was a lot of fun. I'm glad I had the opportunity to help out.

*Jan Dawson, current member who has served for over two full years, writes:*

After being a small group leader for many years, I felt called to do something different but still stay involved with my kid's faith journey at Prince of Peace. Jeff asked me to attend a MSMALT meeting just to see what it was like and to see if it would be something that I'd be interested in. I felt God nudge me to say "yes" and I'm now in my 3rd year of serving on the leadership team. It's been a wonderful experience to be a part of the team that helps to lead the Middle School Ministry and know that we are helping to plant seeds and grow Disciples. I feel very blessed to serve with other adults who not only have a passion for Middle Schoolers and their faith journeys, but also support each other in our own faith journeys and personal lives.

*Becky Cumming, current member who has served for four years with multiple children in MSM, writes:* "Serving on the MSM Adult Leadership team has been the perfect way to connect with other parents of middle school students and be more involved in my children's faith formation. The relationships I have formed are priceless!"

*Josue Castillo, who served for five years when two of his sons were in MSM*

*writes:* "Serving on the MSM team has been a blessing to me in many ways. I couldn't have imagined the impact that being on this team would have on me as we planned events, spent time together, served at Sonshine.. did I say Sonshine?.. Yeah... you have to go to Sonshine. I'll be there this year for sure. See what I mean? I'm still involved in various ways. It's really awesome to still see our students and and some of the parents and get a warm greeting from them no matter where they are. Sometimes people ask me if they're my kids... I just smile and say yes.

Remember that the giving is in the getting and the getting is in the giving. The more time I spent serving on this team the more this statement embodied what's in my life. So don't think... just jump in. It's not about what YOU can get out of serving on the MSM team.. it's about giving to others. The rest will take care of itself!

*Michelle Johnson, who served for four years, writes:* My time spent serving on the MSM Leadership team was my most rewarding volunteer opportunity at POP! Knowing that middle school can be a difficult time for kids, I wanted to become involved when my oldest entered middle school. Despite the fact that I had never been a Crosswalk Leader, I thought this would be a great opportunity to be involved in my daughter's religious education. I loved the fact that I was able to be involved in the planning and implementation, but did not necessarily have to teach a small group! The relationships that were formed with the other members of the Leadership team are priceless! Once my daughter entered high school and was no longer in middle school, I chose to stay on another year, as do many others, because this team meant so much to me.

*Linda Olson, president of Women's Ministry and longest serving member of six years, writes:* Having been a member of the MSMALT since it's beginning I have had the pleasure of watching this team come together to create a clear view of our children's future here at POP. There is great pride in the developing of our current curriculum, service projects, retreats, Mission Trips and other ways that have specifically been designed for the Spiritual growth and development of our children. Something which makes our team unique at PoP is has been the way the team has bonded to form something of a small group of adults connected outside of our leadership role. We pray for each others families and support each other through many of life's challenges and joys. Our group believes that we truly have the opportunity to change these children's lives through their faith journey and also on a more personal level. We work diligently to bring these kids together through various experiences so that each child may find a way to understand what Christ means personally in THEIR life. Come be a part of a team that is working to create our future leaders here at POP. We are touching lives, one child at a time.