

Report to Congregation Council

Peter A. Fox - May 2009

Greetings to all in the name of the Lord. The YG (youth group) is winding down for 2009. The SUMMER YG CALENDAR is now out and dates are being set for the fall. Wow, this YG season went really fast! First and foremost, the YG have a mission statement. A little history lesson is needed first to explain the statement. Actually the YG mission statement was developed over 2 years ago on our PRAYER retreat. It's kind of funny that the churches mission statement sounds strikingly similar to what the YG developed 2 years ago. I guess we were on the right track then without even knowing it. Anyway, we choose to use the mission statement that the kids developed then, because it still easily holds true with what we are about today. Our mission statement reads "With unity in Christ we will serve as disciples, proudly walking and sharing our faith, as one body throughout the world. Ten now and forever." This mission statement has been readily available outside the YG room for two years. All YG actually know it by heart since we say after prayer time at every YG NITE. So there you have it, I think that its great (especially since the kids totally created it from start to finish :) Just so you are in the know, here is an overview of what we did in the month of April.

The month of April is always one of the busiest. We started off the month with EASTER EGG COLORING followed by a YG NITE on the 5th. Over 50 YG and advisors came out for the Nite of faith, fun, and fellowship. The theme for the evening was SELF IMAGE and the Nite focused in on getting kids to see that's it's o-k to live the way God sees them rather than the way that they are judged by those around them. It was a powerful Nite full of great discussion and activity in large and small groups. On the 11th we had our ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT for the little kids. Around 15 youth and advisors helped out with fun event. The Easter bunny was in attendance as well. Around 30 little kids and there parents came out for the hunt. Little hunted for candy and eggs and received prizes. A good time was had by all. We had another YG NITE on the 19th. Since this was the second to last YG NITE, it is a tradition to go outside. Since 1999 we've went outside for our last two YG NITES of the year. We did our announcements, ate our dinner and prepared to go outside. We made it to the portico and then the rain came. BLAH! So we played games and enjoyed fellowship back inside with one another. We closed down the Nite with candle prayer. We wrapped up with the month on the weekend of the 24th with our YG SPRING RETREAT at Camp Nawakwa. Around 40 YG and advisors were there for the weekend. The theme was GROOM YOURSELF

and it focused in on teaching the YG that we are all in need of constant renewal to be "in the world, but not of it." It is a daily challenge not to give into temptation. "Grooming" ourselves in God's loving presence can help us handle the daily challenges that we face. This retreat was awesome from start to finish. The weather was fabulous! Small groups were amazing. Large group discussions were incredible. All and all, it was definately one of the best YG retreats to date. And there you have it, the month of April. With that said, I must get back to work, a lot of planning still needs to be done._

REMINDER TO ALL: PLEASE COME ON OUT AND SUPPORT OUR YG FUNDRAISERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. WE NEED TO RAISE A LOT OF MONEY FOR THE ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING THIS SUMMER IN NEW ORLEANS.

Yours In Christ,

Peter A. Fox

Youth Ministry Director

THE YG FUNDRAISER CALENDAR

* YG FIESTA NITE on Sunday, May 31st, 2009 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

* YG CAR WASH @ KILLIAN'S on Saturday, June 6th, 2009 from 9.00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.