

Youth Ministry Director

Report to Congregation Council

Peter A. Fox - September 2009

Greetings to all in the name of the Lord. The YG (youth group) season is back for 2009. With the advent of a new YG season upon us there is so much to do. The summer was truly a time of strong preparation for this season to begin. New meetings, new retreats, new events, and new friendships all await our YG participants. A lot of hard work has gone into this year to make a success. Hopefully it will all pay off. The calendar is the most jam-packed that it has ever been. There is truly something on almost every weekend. It felt good to have a break the last few weeks but it feels even better to be back for this YG campaign. It will be all good!

The summer was a good one for the YG all around. We had 3 successful POOL PARTIES which drew out about 15-20 YG and numerous advisors at each of them. We attended the HARRISBURG AREA CONFIRMATION CAMP in June. 10 of our YG plus myself and 1 other advisor were there for the week. This year's Confirmation Camp was definitely one of the best ones yet, everything was perfect. The highpoint of the summer was definitely our the ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING in New Orleans, LA. We had 9 YG and 4 advisors along for this experience. This was easily one of the best gatherings to date. We got to serve the people of the New Orleans community and even had an opportunity to do servant work with the St. Bernard's Project. We spent the day doing mold remediation for one of the hardest hit regions in New Orleans during Katrina. It was a lot of hard work on 100+ degree day, but the experience was priceless. We also had powerful large group experiences in the Superdome with over 38,000 people. We had many good times and learning opportunities in the interactive center. We got to sample all of the spicy seafood that New Orleans is famous for. We got to enjoy all of the culture that the city offers. All and all, it was easily one of the best National Youth Gatherings ever.

To continue with that theme of SERVICE, we are planning on attending a servant trip with LutheranHands this coming summer in the mid-west. One of my good friends runs a servant ministry called LutheranHands, and he plans and coordinates service opportunities for youth groups and churches from this area. I've been working with him to involve our Sr. High YG in a servant trip for awhile, and this summer it will happen. We do not have any of the details yet, as he is still working

with others to determine the greatest need for service. So what we know now is, it will probably be in the mid-west and we'll probably be flying. The estimated cost will be around \$800 for each youth to attend. We plan on getting this money through our church budget mainly, as well as through a few YG fundraisers. Since it is service trip, I'd like to keep the cost minimal (or next to nothing) for the actual Sr. High participants to go. Bottom line, we will need your help and support to make this trip happen. So please support our youth in making this endeavor a successful reality.

With that said, I must get back to work. I have a lot to do. I am looking forward to this YG year. It will be a definite busy one, but a good one all the same. The year will ROCK! I can't wait!!!

Yours In Christ,

Peter A. Fox

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