

Youth Ministry Director

Report to Congregation Council

Peter A. Fox - October 2009

Greetings to all in the name of the Lord. The YG (youth group) season is definitely back for 2009. The YG calendar is jam-packed with so much stuff; New meetings, new retreats, new events, and new friendships all await our YG kids this season. There are junior High events and Sr. High events, all age events and everything in between. So make sure to get on out to YG if you're in grades 6-12 and give it a try. There is truly something on almost every weekend and it will "all be good!"

The month of September served as a great introduction to this YG season. We kicked off the YG season on Sunday, September 13th with our first YG Nite of the year. Around 75 people, advisors and YG were in attendance on this nite. There were a lot of new faces there and some old ones too. The advisors and I were really stoked at the turnout, especially from younger YG. The YG Nite ran really well. This YG Nite is always a laid back one that introduces kids to YG and all of our various traditions. Much faith, fun and fellowship was had by all in attendance. One week later, on the weekend of September 18th through the 20th, we attended the synod-wide JR. HIGH EVENT called ALIVE, ALIVE at Camp Nawakwa. 11 of our Jr. High youth and 2 advisors attended this awesome weekend. It was a blast from start to finish! Around 300 youth from our synod gather for this event every year. There is large group, small groups, music, speakers, and tons of faith and fun. Plus, it gives me a chance to really get to know our younger YG. 50% of our YG who attended ALIVE, ALIVE this year were brand new to this event, so it proved to be a great bonding weekend. We had a blast! Our 2nd YG Nite was the very next weekend on September 27th. Around 75 people, advisors and YG, gathered for a "getting to know you" type meeting. With the group being so big, it's important to get to know people as well as we can, so that's what we did. We accomplished this through games, fellowship, large group, and small groups bonding time. We had our first small group sessions of the year at this meeting. This is a favorite part of most YG kids and it served as a good introduction to some of our newer advisors. Everyone had a great time at this YG Nite and they learned a lot about each other in the process. Well, that was September for you, and it was a great start for what promises to be an awesome year!

This coming summer, we are planning on attending a servant trip with LutheranHands. 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 to do service trips all over the U.S. I've been working with him to involve our Sr. High YG in a servant trip for awhile, and this summer it will happen. Some details are starting to come in, but nothing definite, as he is still working with others to determine the greatest need for our service, prices, cost, etc. So what we know now is, at this point, it will probably be in the New Orleans, St. Bernards Parish area. This is where Our Sr. High helped out while at the National Youth Gathering this past summer. There is still so much to do down there, especially in that area, which was one of the hardest hit during Katrina. The only other possible option for service with LutheranHands might be in mid-west, Iowa, helping rebuild from flooding there. Though at this point, New Orleans seems like the

most viable option (all factors considered). Regardless, my friend will let me know everything as he finds and figures it out. 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 the rest of 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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