

Youth Ministry Director  
Report to Congregation Council  
Peter A. Fox - February 2010

Greetings to all in the name of the Lord. 2010 is in full swing and the YG calendar is the most jam-packed that it has ever been. New YG Nites, new retreats, new events, and new friendships all await our YG participants. A lot of hard work has gone into this year to make it a success. There is truly something on almost every weekend. It will all be awesome! Before we get ahead of ourselves, let's take a look back at what we did this past month.

The month of January was a blast from start to finish. We started the month off with WINTERFEST. This is a synod wide Sr. High event held every year at the beginning of January. This event is in its 19<sup>th</sup> year of existence and I've taking groups there for 16 of those years. This year, 14 YG seniors and 3 advisors came for the weekend of faith, fun and fellowship. The theme for the weekend was to "LIVE SIMPLY". It focused in on ways that we can all be better stewards of God's creation by serving, conserving and preserving. There were large groups, small groups and workshops to teach the youth about the theme throughout the weekend. There was also lots of fun and fellowship time built in to the weekend with a sports complex, blow-up games, karaoke, music jam sessions, dance and even a movie. As usual this event was an awesome! I was especially excited because we had 9 new YG to this event, so they got to experience everything for the first time. All and all, this weekend was a blast and the Sr. High YG all had a great time and they learned a lot about taking care of God's environment.

The very next weekend was our 1<sup>st</sup> YG NITE for the new year. Around 50 YG and advisors came out for the nite of faith, fun and fellowship. The theme for the evening was MODERN CHRISTIAN. This YG NITE focused in on what it means to modern Christian in this world. We observed how we are viewed through the world's eyes and through the media lens. This nite evoked some of the best large and small group discussions so far this season! The YG learned so much and shared so much, it was amazing. We closed down the month with another YG NITE. Around 50 YG and advisors came out for the nite of faith, fun and fellowship. The theme for the evening was DEPRESSION. This YG NITE focused in what depression is, why it's caused, its many forms and what we can do as brothers and sisters of Christ to combat it. Depression is something that everyone goes through from time to time, and teens are no exception as this nite pointed out. Once again, the discussions were awesome and thought provoking. We reminded the kids that they are never alone to deal with bouts of depression, they always have God, YG and others to turn to in these dark moments. It was a powerful nite!

And there you have it, a fine beginning to the year 2010. With such a great start, I am truly looking forward to the rest of the year, I can't wait!

**REMINDER:** ALSO, PLEASE COME ON OUT AND SUPPORT OUR YG FUNDRAISERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. WE NEED TO RAISE A LOT OF MONEY FOR OUR SR. HIGH SERVICE TRIP THIS COMING SUMMER. COUNCIL SUPPORT AT OUR YG FUNDRAISERS IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED AND ENCOURAGED.

Yours In Christ,  
Peter A. Fox  
Youth Ministry Director