

Director of Youth & Student Ministries
Report to Congregation Council
Peter A. Fox - October 2018

Greetings to all in the name of the Lord. YG is off to a great start, and there is something on every weekend YG related, So things are crazy busy. With that said, let's not waste any time. Here is what we did in the month of September. We started off with the 1st YG for the season on September 9th. There were about 40 YG and advisors in attendance at this night of total faith, fun and fellowship. It was raining terrible outside, but we had a blast inside. The overall YG theme for the year is "J.O.Y." (which stands for 'Jesus, Others, and You'). This is the way of life that we should all try to emulate as Christians. We should try to focus Jesus at the top of all that do, next we should think of serving others, and lastly we should strengthen ourselves. In our society, we pretty much do these things in reverse, so in this YG curriculum, we are trying to get the kids to re-focus on God and others first. All three parts are important, just need prioritized better. To begin the season, the theme for this evening was GETTING TO KNOW YG and it focused in on getting the kids to know all about YG and what we are all about and why we do the things that we do. The secondary focus of the evening was introducing the yearly theme, as well as, getting the kids comfortable sharing and bonding with one another in fellowship. It was a blast playing games, having pizza, learning about each other and getting used to YG on this fun YG intro night.

On the 23rd we had our second YG. There were around 45 YG and advisors in attendance at this night of faith, fun and fellowship. The theme for the evening was the J.O.Y. and it introduced the YG to the J.O.Y. theme highlight above. Through cool activities and active conversation the night provided a great start for the upcoming season. The weekend of the 22nd through the 24th was ALIVE 2017. This is synod-wide Jr. High event that takes place at Camp Nawakwa every year. We took down 9 Jr. High YG and 2 advisors for this weekend of faith, fun and fellowship. Around 200 youth and advisors attend the event this year. The theme for this years ALIVE was "Dear Hate" and focused in on teaching the youth about the many kinds of hate that are out there in our world. They learned how Hate really can infiltrate every area of our lives, in small ways to big ways. Through acceptance of this fact, that we all wrestle with hate in various ways to varying degrees, we need to realize the most important fact; GOD'S LOVE TRIUMPHS OVER HATE every time. Even though the topic was pretty heavy, our Jr. High YG loved it, and they definitely learned a lot about themselves and how not to let hatred spread in an age in which it's so pervasive. The bonus: The "Alive" weekend gives me a good opportunity to get to know our newest members of YG.

On another note, the Sunday School Hour for youth is going great. The 6th and 7th grade

Sunday school is off to great start with 3 committed teachers and an active class of 10 -12 kids. They will learn about key figures and teachings in the bible this year through fun, videos, and creative activities. The 8th grade Confirmation class is off to a solid start too! Adrienne and I are excited for what this year will hold for our 15 students. They are talkative and seem to be enjoying the class a lot. It should be an incredible class. I am stoked to say that the 9-12 class known as F.O.J. is off to an awesome start. The theme for them this year is all about service. Throughout this season, each month they will be serving in and around our church community. So if you see them working hard, say thanks.

Lastly, plans have started for our Sr. High Mission Trip this upcoming summer. We will once again be working with LutheranHANDS. We are going down south, either to help those in poverty in rural West Virginia or to the Carolinas, to help out with recent flooding. Either spot, we will be there to help. There will be more news in these next few months as we discern where God is calling us to serve. Please come out to YG fundraisers as they will benefit this mission effort regardless. That's all for now.

Yours In Christ,

Peter A. Fox

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