

Director of Youth & Student Ministries
Report to Congregation Council
Peter A. Fox - October 2019

Greetings to all in the name of the Lord. YG is awesome so far this season! We are off to a great start. Things are super 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 8th. There were around 40 YG, plus some advisors in attendance on this night of total faith, fun and fellowship. The overall YG theme for the year is "Jesus". This whole year we are focuses in on all aspects of Jesus and his life. We are digging into his life, ministry, and teachings and why they are and should remain important to us. We are reflecting on how to be better disciples by using him as the example. What better person for us to emulate, not only this year, but always. To begin the season, the theme for this evening was WELCOME TO 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 40 YG and advisors in attendance at this night of faith, fun and fellowship. The theme for the evening was the LIKE JESUS and it introduced the YG to character of Jesus, our muse for the year. Jesus was sent to earth for many reasons. One of which was surely to give us an example of how to live an earthly life. This is how we are to model our lives. We should be more like Jesus. It's true that he lived in a totally different time period, but even if he would be living today he would still be shaking things up. He would not always do what you would think he would do. That was, and is part of his ministry. Healing on the Sabbath, building relationships with sinners, and his resurrection were just a few examples that shook believers and non-believers at the time. Just as he did then, he would do things that would surprise us today. We can not be intimidated or scared of what it would be like to be Jesus in today's world. He is the bar that we all need to reach for and look to as the example. Through cool activities and active conversation the night provided a great start for this season.

The weekend of the 27th through the 29th was ALIVE 2019. This is synod-wide Jr. High event that takes place at Camp Nawakwa every year. We took down 8 Jr. High YG and 2 advisors for this weekend of faith, fun and fellowship. Around 150 youth and advisors attend the event this year. The theme for this years ALIVE was "HOPE" and focused in on teaching the youth what HOPE is and why its so important to have hope in one another and in Jesus. They learned how having hope can conquer all things. We need to have hope in all aspects of our lives, it is just that important. Even though the topic was pretty heavy, our Jr. High YG loved it, and they definitely learned a lot about themselves and how to really let hope spread in an age in which hopelessness and despair is so pervasive at a young age. The bonus: The "Alive" weekend gives me a good opportunity to get to know our newest members of YG.

On another note, the Sunday Faith Formation hour for youth is going great. The 6th and 7th grade FAITH CONNECT class is off to great start with 2 committed teachers and an active class of 10 - 15 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 22 students. They are becoming 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. With a great teacher, this free-flowing class is all about lively discussion, group building, and service to the church and community. They will be involved of lots of diverse things as the year flows on.

Lastly, plans have started for our Sr. High Mission Trip this upcoming summer. We will once again be working with LutheranHANDS. 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

Director of Youth & student Ministries