

Council Report for Youth Ministry

Peter Fox

May 2020

Greetings in the name of the Lord. Peter here with all the news on the youth front. Well, things are happening YG wise, but all in very different ways. It seems like everyday is the same but constantly changing with lots of updates. To put it mildly, times are a a little crazy. But we are proceeding full speed ahead. Here is what was happened this past month.

Every week, I have starting posting on YouTube a weekly video Prayer and Message to the Youth (and whoever else wants to see). I think that I am on number 7 right now. These are good and they have all generated a lot of views, I have received lots of praise from YG and parents on them. Also, several congregation members have reached out to me that they are watching them too, which is awesome. This makes me happy that people are checking them out. The YG has entered the world of Zoom as well. So far we have add 3 YG Zoom Chats, and they have all went well. Around 25 YG have been getting online for them. They are a great opportunity to tune in and talk, catch up, read scripture and pray together. We've even played a few games together on Zoom. It is great to see so many faces again. As the weeks go on, Zoom and other things will become more of a challenge as people get Zoomed out, especially kids. We have notices that with our YG Chats, with a few less YG every time. Zoom is all they see for school, and it seems in life now, so I am noticing and feeling some screen fatigue, as I know they are.

On my Confirmation Class front, We have concentrating our efforts on those classes most essential. The pastors and I are posting all the classes online, sending video lectures and giving them take-home worksheets to do with family members. So far we have 5 classes available online. Everything is being hosted on its own website. This is awesome, and we have been receiving rave reviews from students and parents alike. So far 100% of the kids have been doing the assignments and turning them in. You can't get much better than that. Every year, we close down confirmation in May with conversations with pastors and myself. We are hosting those very soon over Zoom. They should go well, as our class is quite responsive. We have moved the date of the actual Confirmation Service to September 19, 2020, so that's something to look forward too. All and all, Confirmation has not missed a beat, just changed the way that we do things. It has gone great.

Like I said in the first paragraph, things are constantly in flux. Confirmation Camp has been cancelled, as Nawakwa has ceased all summer activities. This is a bummer. Looking ahead, the Mission Trip to North Carolina is the next big thing that needs decided. If this trip gets cancelled, we will be working with LutheranHANDS to try to come up some more local service opportunities for our youth. I have some pool parties scheduled for the summer, so we'll see about them. Got my fingers crossed on these things, but only time will tell. Some good news, work has begun on the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN in summer 2021. This is a Sr. High event that takes place every 4 years in a major city. Normally, over 30,000 Lutheran youth, leaders, pastors, descend on the city for a week of faith, fellowship, community, and service. That said, it will be a BIG undertaking, especially in these times, but hopefully all goes well as we proceed ahead. And we need to raise a lot of money to make a trip of this expense happen, so please help out and support all of our future YG endeavors.

Peace,

Peter Fox

Director of Youth & Student Ministries