

Council Report for Youth Ministry

Peter Fox
August 2020

Greetings in the name of the Lord. Peter here with all the news on the youth front. YG is still having a handful of events, just to keep everyone connected. Still everyday there seems to be full of new updates, and new ways to do things. Times are constantly changing, some for the better and some for worse. YG is adapting as best we can. Here is what was happened this past month.

In July, I several BIG events got cancelled. The first blow was the synod-wide event at camp Nawakwa called Alive. This Jr. High event has been going strong for over 25 years, and i have been a part of it since year no. 1. This is always such a great event to really get to know those new jr. high to our YG. This is a bummer, but, we already have the dates on the calendar for next September. SO hopefully there will be no problems then. The biggest blow was the moving of the ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING. This event is the biggest event in the Lutheran church. it is a Sr. High event that happens once every 4 years. It was scheduled for next summer in in Minneapolis, MN. Normally, over 30,000 Lutheran youth, leaders, pastors, descend on the city for a week of faith, fellowship, community, and service. We have always attended this event, and it can be a life-changing experience for our youth. Like ALIVE, this event has been moved forward one year, so instead of next summer, it will occur in the summer of 2022. But once again, another set-back.

We had one successful event in July, our YG FAITH WALK at Gifford Pinchot State Park. 14 of us gathered on a Sunday morning and walked a 3 mile trail, with different faith teaching stations at them. The purpose of this socially distant hike was two-fold. First, it was once again to simply get people together for a time of fellowship. Second, it was a opportunity of exercise and study. The theme of the walk was journeying with Christ, and how we can better keep him with us during all of life's up and downs. The morning was a total success, and a fall faith walk is now in the plans. Other than that, we had two more successful Zoom chats with smaller clumps of YG. We will keep doing these for the greater YG through the fall as another means to get-together.

Looking to the fall, things are full speed ahead. Planning has begun for everything, but we are taking things one or two months at a time. That is really the only way to schedule in these times. We have an outside events coming up just for the incoming 6 graders to get them excited about YG. And our first outside YG for the fall is in the works. Several other events will start of the the fall, so there is a lot coming up both safely in-person, and virtually for the YG as we move forward. Plans are also being made for the faith formation classes. These will probably (at least in the beginning) take the form of take home boxes that have activities and teachings for students to do. This gives them something physical to get involved with, other than computer, etc.. So hopefully these will be a success. Bottom line, there will be a lot happening as we move into the fall, it's just going to look a little different. Got to go now, more planning awaits.

Yours in Christ,
Peter Fox
Director of Youth & Student Ministries