

Council Report for Youth Ministry
Peter Fox
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Greetings in the name of the Lord. Peter here with what will be my last council report for Trinity. That said, this report will be a little different. I am sure that everyone has heard the news by now, and it is certainly with a heavy heart that I leave. I have run Trinity's Youth Ministry program since September 1999, and we have impacted so many lives and served to shape countless peoples church experience. In that time we have impacted hundreds of people with our youth programs, so I feel blessed to have served in this way for so many years. Not only did we create the strongest Youth Group experience possible, but an impactful Sunday experience for students of all ages as well. Our Confirmation class is one of the best around, and lifted up as a model for other churches. We kept engaging through their college years with servant opportunities and leadership involvement every year. Thinking of it all, we have done sooooo much! It is really hard to break 21+ years down to just a paragraph. The pictures hanging on the walls of the YG room tell the story a lot better.

All of these things said, here is my hope for Trinity's future. My hope is that the Youth Program will become better respected within the church. This was an ongoing struggle of mine through the years, and a factor in my departure. It has felt at times that the Youth Group is on the side-lines, and that should not be the case. We have awesome kids and great leaders who want to serve, not just be used as the clean up crew, or to sit on a committee to fill some youth quota. But to actually serve alongside adult members feeling just as needed and part of the whole church body. Our youth ministry program and what we created is second to none, and is hailed within our synod (and much further) as the model for successful Lutheran Youth Ministry. I just want that same respect for our youth to be echoed in the halls of Trinity better. These youth are not the future, but rather the "now", and they need served and engaged better. As a church council, I definitely hope that this is strong priority as you move forward. Please don't lose these youth, they are way to important.

As I leave, my prayers are for the youth, their families, and Trinity as a whole. I am certainly going to miss the YG most! I am blessed to have served for so many years lifting up our youth and creating young leaders. So many youth have become great leaders as adults in their careers (even 1 pastor and 1 priest), thanks to our programs. That is awesome, and extremely humbling. I want to lift up all of the advisors (to numerous to mention) and all of the teachers who I have served with me through the years. Know that you have impacted me, just as I have you. Many of you have also served as youth advocates through the years, and that is always needed.

Lastly, I am not leaving Trinity empty handed, I have 2 advisors and a college student prepared to step up for the remainder of the YG season to keep our youth strongly connected. They have worked with our youth though several seasons and the kids are comfortable with them. They want to serve and are certainly qualified to do so. As a council, please help to ensure that this happens. Ditto, for Faith Formation; all of my teachers have expressed a willingness to continue at least for this season to keep their online classes going. This is a good testament to their service and commitment. I guess as I leave, I want to do so with one of my favorite verses in the bible. 1 Timothy 4:12 says, "Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." These words ring true just as when they were written. This is what our youth can do, if given the chance. Nuff Said...

Yours In Christ,
Peter A. Fox
Director of Youth & Student Ministries