

Director of Youth & Student Ministries  
Report to Congregation Council  
Peter A. Fox - September 2017

Greetings to all in the name of the Lord. The YG (youth group) season is back for 2017. With the advent of a new YG season upon us there tons to do. This summer provided a good time of strong preparation for this season to begin. YG is back for the total Youth Group. A lot of hard work has gone into this year to make a success. The calendar is the most jam-packed that it has ever been. There is something YG related on every weekend.

The summer was a good one for the YG all around. The first event that I want to highlight is HARRISBURG AREA CONFIRMATION CAMP which took place in June. 16 of our YG plus a YG advisor were there for the week. This year's Confirmation Camp was a great experience as usual. There were large group campfires, small group time, cool worship experiences and so much more. This week was a blast from start to finish, and the YG get to make lifelong friendships in the process.

The second thing that I would like to highlight is the Sr. High MISSION TRIP to New Orleans. 12 Sr. High YG plus myself and 2 other advisors were in attendance. For this week of service, we worked on houses both fixing and demolition, we cleaned up houses, lots, churches, warehouses, and abandoned properties for future ownership. The service work that we did was very hard, but so rewarding. It was also rewarding to get to know the homeowners and live in the community of the people that we were serving. We closed each night with learning, singing and some group bonding time for our Sr. High. This was another powerful Mission Trip, we had a blast from start to finish in every way, shape and form.

Third, this summer we had two very successful pool parties. There were 15 - 20 YG and a handful of advisors in attendance at each of them. They were both a blast, and a time of pure fun and fellowship. Events like these help to keep the YG kids connected through the summer.

Lastly, September is the month that we will register for the 2018 ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING in Houston, TX next summer. This will be an expensive trip costing a lot of money (about \$1,300 a kid), and I know we'll have some interest from our Senior High. So, we will need all the help that we can get to keep costs down to our families, and to maximize attendance for this trans-formative week. That said, please support ALL the YG fundraisers and endeavors in 2017 and 2018 to help pay for this trip. We will need all the help that we can get. Most kids only get to go to a Gathering once in their lives, and it's worth it. It can be

life-changing! Enough said...

With that said, I must get back to work. I have a lot to do. I am looking forward to YG, Sr. High, Confirmation Class, Sr. High "F.O.J." Class, and the Jr. High Class. That said, it will be a busy year for all, but a good one all the same.

Yours in Christ,  
Peter A. Fox  
Director of Youth & student Ministries