

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

Greetings to all in the name of the Lord. Let's not waste any time. With that said, here is what we did in the month of September. We started off with the 1<sup>st</sup> "BIG" YG for the season on September 10<sup>th</sup>. There were about 60 YG and advisors in attendance at this night of total faith, fun and fellowship. The overall YG theme for the year is "AGAPE (aka: God's Love)". Every time we meet up as a YG we will examine some all the aspects of this love entails. God's love is everywhere around us, and it's for everyone. We need to look to his example in all that we do and apply in our lives. The theme for this evening was GETTING TO KNOW 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 to get 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 17<sup>th</sup> we had our first Senior High. There were around 25 Sr. High YG and advisors in attendance at this night of faith, fun and fellowship. Back by popular demand, the overall theme for Sr. High this campaign is CURRENT. Every time we circle up in Senior we will look at a current event in the national news that we will then explore with a Christian perspective through lively activity and discussion. The theme for the evening was BAD TIMES REVEAL GOOD SAMARITANS and it focused in the all the tragedies that happen in our news today which shootings, terrorism, and senseless killing of others. We looked at that these bad things through a Christian lens and tried to make sense of them, noticing that in every case, no matter how tragic there are always good Samaritans who come to the fore. We looked at these heroes while using the original story of the Good Samaritan. Altogether, it was a awesome night filled with powerful discussion, time to get to know each other, time for fun, and a time of prayer. It was solid start for a group that will certainly grow physically, mentally and spiritual into a tight unit this season.

The weekend of the 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> was ALIVE 2017. This is synod-wide Jr. High event that takes place at Camp Nawakwa every year. We took down 10 Jr. High YG and 2 advisors for this weekend of faith, fun and fellowship. Around 250 youth and advisors attend the event this year. The theme for this years ALIVE was "Not Ordinary" and focused in on teaching the youth about how they are meant to live extraordinary lives in Christ, not just settle for the ordinary. It got them to realize and see all of the gifts and abilities that make them more than

they think are. Our Jr. High YG loved it, and they definitely learned a lot. One of the greatest aspects of this event, is that a weekend like this gives me a good opportunity to get to know our newest members of YG.

On another note, the Sunday School Hour for youth is going great. The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school is off to great start with 3 committed teachers and an active class of 10 -12 kids. They will learn about key figures and teachings in the bible this year through fun, videos, and creative activities. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation class is off to a solid start too! Adrienne and I are excited for what this year will hold for our 17 students. They are 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. The theme for them this year is all about service. Throughout this season, each month they will be serving in and around our church community. So if you see them working hard, say thanks. All these things said, the Sunday mornings are looking pretty good for our youth.

Lastly, we are officially registered for the 2018 ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING in Houston, TX next summer. We have 16 Sr. High YG and 3 advisors going. With that said, this will be an expensive trip costing a lot of money (about \$1,300 a kid). So we will need all of 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 of the YG fundraisers and endeavors in 2017 and 2018 to help pay for this trip. We will need all of 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! And with this Gathering being in Houston, we will have opportunities to serve others while we are there. The kids are excited to work hard and serve! Enough said...

Yours In Christ,

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