

Report to Congregation Council  
Peter A. Fox - January 2018

Greetings to all in the name of the Lord. 2018 is here! YG had gone great so far, and I'm sure it will continue to be awesome as this season continues on. There is something every weekend, and that is keeping everyone busy. With that said, let's not waste any time. Here is what we did to finish off 2017 in the month of December. On the very first weekend we had our YG WINTER RETREAT. There were around 40 YG and advisors in attendance for this YG weekend of faith, fun and fellowship. The theme of the retreat was PRAYER. This retreat was all about teaching our youth the importance of prayer in their lives. We looked at different kinds of prayers, and ways to pray, but moreover we focused on making prayers a conversation with God. To do this, we engaged in deep discussion, did exercises, experienced teaching activities, and enjoyed much conversation. Plus, we had a lot of fun! It was extremely necessary and powerful weekend, and the YG got the point.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> we had an ISSAC'S COMMUNITY NIGHT at the Isaac's in Lemoyne. Over the past 5 years this has become a YG fundraiser tradition in our church. It's easy and fun! For this night members of the congregation and YG, family and friends came out to have dinner and had 25% of the proceeds go towards helping to pay for our kids attending the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. We raised over \$400. It was great to once again have the support from our congregation. We closed down the month and year on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> with our ANNUAL YG CHRISTMAS CAROLING & PARTY. Around 50 YG and advisors were in attendance for this most special night. 6 college YG and 1 former advisor joined us as well for this event. We began the evening by walking over to Manor Care Nursing Home and singing Christmas Carols to all of the people there. It is always a memorable and powerful experience for our YG to bring some Christmas cheer to all of the good folks there. It was especially meaningful this year, because two of our YG have relatives at the facility. So we got to sing directly to them. After caroling, we walked back to the church for dinner, lots of snacks and some great YG Christmas games. We closed down the evening and the year with a large group prayer.

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 \$1,200 a kid). It will not be cheap! 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. Money should not hamper or be an

obstacle to families for an event like this. This is way too important. We have asked for more in the 2018 church budget in anticipation of this Gathering next summer. That said, please support ALL of the YG fundraisers and endeavors in 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,

Peter A. Fox

Director of Youth & student Ministries