

Getting to know - “the Answer” Youth & Family Ministry at Hope

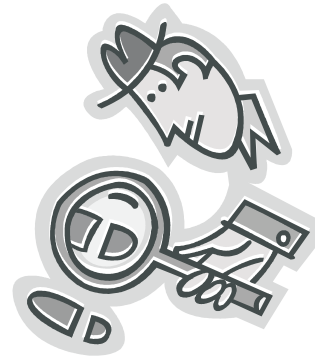
“Who done it? - Get a Clue!”

On the evening of Sunday, November 8th, our church offices and classrooms were transformed to provide space for an evening of elegance, mystery and intrigue. There were forty-nine high school youth who enjoyed the evening. You can check out our website for some great photos. The usual suspects (Adam, Arty and Alison) worked together to set the “scene of the crime.” The culprits, responsible for generating much energy and excitement leading up to the event are none other than the notorious Ms. Green, Miss Scarlet, Col. Mustard, Ms. Peacock, Ms. White and Prof. Plum (our newly formed youth leadership team - Cara Burgan, Jennifer Little, Jake Rangel, Kaila Staggs, Alyssa Walker and Garrett Wright).

The evening was hosted by Pastor Roger and Cheryl Thompson. The guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres by candle light, a delicious potato soup, fresh green salad,

a main course of chicken cacciatore and tortellini with alfredo sauce. Our host's toast was interrupted by “murder” and the guests sleuthed their way through a life-sized version of the classic board game, CLUE. It didn't take our guests long to solve the mystery and deduct that it was Miss Scarlet, in the lounge, with the candle lighter. With our minds set at ease, everyone returned to the dining room where empty dinner plates had given way to decadently presented brownie sundaes.

Many thanks to Barbara and James Cowart, Susan Quinn, Jeff, Donna and Jacob Little for all their work in helping to make this evening so memorable.



“God's Work Our Hands”

The words “God's Work our Hands” rings in my ears continuously as our Youth Ministry here at Hope continues to grow. With 49 High School youth attending our Mystery Dinner (11/8), and 15 Jr. High youth spending the past weekend at Mt. Cross for a retreat, and the SHINE Sunday School (1st-6th grades) “Opening” packed on a weekly basis, with little room to sit or stand, I just have to pause and smile. I just have to take a moment to step back and realize that *this is* God working in our Church.

Another new and significant way that God is working in our church and with our youth is the recent development of a Youth Leadership Team, consisting of 6 High School youth that have stepped forward and have said that they are “ready to lead!” The youth are Cara Burgan, Jennifer Little, Jacob Rangel, Kaila Staggs, Alyssa Walker, and Garrett Wright. Each applied for their position and is assigned to 3 different areas of ministry interest. These are “Community Life,” “Servant Life” and “Fellowship Events.” Each area of interest has its own responsibility and focus,

but together as a Leadership team we will work together for the good of the Youth Ministry at Hope and to the glory of God. These leaders will take on new challenges that come with a growing ministry, and will strengthen their own relationships with God by discovering more personally what it means to live as a follower of Christ.

It's encouraging to see the passion and excitement of each one of these youth as they brainstorm ideas to make our Youth Ministry at Hope grow stronger. The passion they have is obvious. During an interview, one youth said, “I've had such an amazing time and powerful experience in youth group myself, that I just want to be able to make that experience possible for someone else.” That, to me screams “LEADER.” She is on the Leadership team and she isn't the only one that is stepping forward to make Youth Group an unforgettable experience for all the youth who attend.

Each one of these High School youth showed amazing leadership skills during our most recent event, our “Mystery Dinner.” In spite of hours of planning, preparation, set-up, and clean-up there was not one complaint or problem. The outcome was a more than successful event that kids (and adults) are still talking about. This is only the beginning of a Leadership program that is ready to get busy doing God's work with our own hands and I feel privileged to be a part of it.

-Alison Quinn-

the answer



A MINISTRY OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 2009

Hope
Lutheran
Church

Extending hope in Jesus!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
			Primetime			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
"the Life" - Christmas Decorating			Primetime			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Hope Family Christmas "the Life" - Youth Group			All Youth Christmas Extravaganza			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Summer Camp Info Meeting "the Way" Christmas Cookies "the Life" - Voices of Presence		Food Pantry Christmas Party Outreach				
27	28	29	30	31		

For more information on any scheduled event you can check the online calendar at www.hlcyouthfresno.org

<p>Regular Schedule <i>Sunday School 10:00am</i> <i>the Life 6:00-8:00pm</i> <i>Primetime 5:30-7:45pm</i></p>
<p><i>the Way ~ 4th-6th grade</i> <i>the Truth ~ 7th-8th grade</i> <i>the Life ~ 9th-12th grade</i></p>
<p>Director of Youth & Family Min. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev. Adam D. Knudson adam@hopelutheranfresno.org </p> <p>Assistants for Youth Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Alison Quinn, <i>Discipleship & Events</i> • Mr. Arthur C. Contreras, <i>Worship</i> </p>
<p>Hope Lutheran Church 364 E. Barstow Ave Fresno CA 93710 Phone: 559.439.4320</p>

Back by popular demand, our youth ministry will again present **VOICES OF PRESENCE.**

This contemporary worship experience is open to EVERYONE. From contemporary worship music to dramatic readings and other special worship offerings, this service will help to "bring us back to the heart of worship." As we ready our hearts and minds to receive the coming of Christ into our world this Christmas, make this worship event a part of your Advent observances as we await the birth of our Savior.

Join us on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 6pm in the Worship Center.

SUMMER CAMP

Summer 2010 is going to be awesome! Our youth are all going to CAMP! Confirmation students will participate in SHALOM Camp at Mt. Cross and there will be various camp options for youth from 4th-12th grade at Calvin Crest. This will be a great chance for kids to connect with each other and strengthen their faith. We will have an **Info Meeting during the education hour on Sunday, December 20, at 10:00 am.** The meeting will be for kids and parents.

YOUTH WHO CARE

"The Way" is planning to help out this holiday season by serving together with our FOOD PANTRY. This next Tuesday, Nov. 24, will be a big day for our pantry as many people come for Thanksgiving Turkeys. Our youth would like to make it extra special by bringing clothes, toys and books to give away.

We have so much and we are blessed to be able to share with those less fortunate than ourselves. If you would like to contribute, please bring items to the church narthex on Sunday or to the church on Monday. We will sort items and have tables ready to go for Tuesday morning. Any questions, or to help with this great service opportunity, please contact Adam.