

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

"Growth and Possibility 2"

In my last monthly newsletter I spoke of the challenge and hope that I had for our high school group. We've confronted the challenge of integrating our group, and bridging the gap between Seniors, Juniors, Sophomores and our new class of Freshmen. I think the photo that you see here illustrates the ways that God is working in the hearts and lives of our youth.

Allow me to tell you about this photo. The credit for the picture goes to Alison Quinn who was the photographer, fittingly so, since she is also the one who works tirelessly to support and encourage these girls (and many others) that you see here. The picture was taken during a weekend retreat at Mt. Cross, hosted by the Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee (SPSYC). There were 18 youth from our church who attended the weekend; in this picture you see 9 of the girls. To see who these girls are (more clearly) you should check out a better version of this photo on our youth website (www.hlcyouthfresno.org).

Instead of telling you *who* they are, I'll tell you *about* these 9 young ladies. Four are freshmen, 2 are sophomores and 3 are juniors. They represent 5 different high schools. Three of them ran for leadership positions on SPSYC and 2 were elected. Two of them recently applied for and accepted positions of leadership within our youth ministry program at Hope. Some of them have been friends for years, two are sisters and others just got acquainted this past weekend.

These are busy ladies. Two play golf for their schools, 2 play volleyball, 1 cheers competitively, 1 plays tennis, 2 sing in school choirs, 2 dance, 1 just won a blue ribbon at the fair for her quilting and that's just what they've been up to this past month. Why do I mention all of this? Because despite everything else going on in their lives and everything else they could have chosen to do with their weekend (attend homecoming, spend

time with friends, play in a volleyball tournament, relax), they chose to spend their weekend with their youth group. They wanted to grow in their relationship with Christ and with each other. This is significant and one reason that this picture is so striking to me.



The picture is spectacular, because it was taken at the instant when all these girls, hand in hand, leaped into the air together. This serves, for me, as a focal image of the goal of our youth ministry here at Hope. Through this ministry, young people from different families, different schools and of different ages, come together because they have encouraged each other to make faith a priority. With God as their common bond, they embrace new friendships, knowing that they need each other for balance, encouragement and support. United by the waters of baptism which they share, they are strengthened and empowered to face the challenges of life. With this security, they can take that leap of faith, knowing that the hands that hold them will be there to help them up, should they stumble or fall. This is life in the body of Christ

My goal for our youth ministry is to "build relationships with and between students so that they can encounter a transformational relationship with Jesus Christ." With your support and encouragement, this has been happening. Continue to pray with me that God will keep moving in the lives of these brothers and sisters in Christ. God bless you.







Your Ministry Partner, Adam Knudson

the answer

A MINISTRY OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH



Extending hope in Jesus!

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|-----------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 "the Life" - Youth Group | 2 | 3 | 4 Primetime | 5 | 6 | 7 New Life Band Concert  |
| 8 "the Life" - Mystery Night  | 9 | 10 | 11 Primetime | 12 | 13 Junior High Retreat @ Mt. Cross | 14 |
| 15 Jr. High Retreat | 16 "the Way" Christmas Play "the Life" - Gym Night | 17 | 18 Primetime | 19 | 20 H.S. Senior Retreat @ Morro Bay | 21  |
| 22 "the Life" - Youth Group | 23 | 24 "the Way" Food Pantry Outreach & Bowling  | 25 | 26  | 27 | 28 |
| 29 "the Life" - Youth Group | 30 |  | | | | |

Regular Schedule
Sunday School 10:00am
the Life 6:00-8:00pm
Primetime 5:30-7:45pm

the Way ~ 4th-6th grade
the Truth ~ 7th-8th grade
the Life ~ 9th-12th grade

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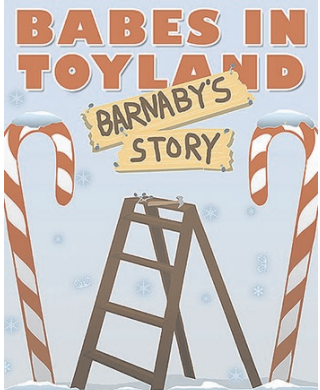
For more information on any scheduled event you can check the online calendar at www.hlcyouthfresno.org



Confirmation

Our class of Confirmands who affirm their baptisms on Oct. 25 at the 11:15AM service, would like to thank the entire congregation for all of their prayers and support. We would especially like to thank those who served as mentors during the past months. The mentors have been Pam Campbell, James and Barbara Cowart, Marie Duggins, Andrea Knudson, Russ Kramer, Tom Lindstrom, Donna Little, Alison Quinn, Nancy Ritterbush, Bob Teague, Richard Tugwell, Gina Walker, Mark Woods and Laurie Zimmerman.

Special thanks also to Shirley Kreul and Susan Quinn for their work on the dinner, to Janice Kramer for her work on the certificates, to Alison Quinn for the beautiful "letters" for the kids and to Kristina Garabedian for her work in making sure "everything else" was covered.



Sunday, Nov. 15 @ 2pm

We have reserved 50 spots for this Christmas classic, performed by the Good Company Players at Fresno's "2nd Space Theater." Seats can be reserved through Hope, on a first come-first served basis. Act fast and take advantage of this opportunity to spend some time with our church family and yours.

(More info on website)

The Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee's Junior High Retreat will be at Mt. Cross on November 13-15. Amy Berner, Jennifer Little, Kyle Teague, Andrew Wasemiller and Emma Wheeler are youth from Hope who will be helping to lead the event as members of the SPSYC. Let's keep them in our prayers.

This is going to be an incredible weekend and a great chance to strengthen bonds and friendships with other youth. If you are not yet signed up, but you would like to attend, please contact Adam ASAP. There are scholarships available; please don't let money keep you away.

If you would like to be a part of what God is doing in the lives of these youth, we could use an adult or two to assist with driving for the weekend. Please contact Adam.