

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

“Growth and Possibility”

With school back in session and our fall calendars nearly filled to overflowing, our youth programs here at Hope are all moving forward. It has been especially encouraging to see the energy and enthusiasm of our high school youth to be involved and to participate in events and regularly scheduled activities. Having a vibrant ministry to, with and for our high school youth has been a work in progress over the last several years. When I arrived at Hope in February 2007 our high school group was fairly small. With several freshmen and a few seniors regularly attending activities, it was a challenge to generate excitement for events and fellowship opportunities.

The commitment of this church to its youth ministry program and the addition of Arty and Alison to the church staff (June 2008) have given the ministry stability and energy, which has provided the foundation for growth. Those few youth who were freshmen in the spring of 2007 are now seniors. The stability of our program has allowed us to retain increased numbers of the youth who have been confirmed in this congregation each year. As you know, this past year (2008-09) we’ve had an active high school youth group. This was best seen in the 20 youth who worked, studied, worshipped and traveled together to New Orleans for the ELCA’s National Youth Gathering in July.

Traveling to New Orleans and participating in the National Gathering created a solid core group of youth who have had a wide range of shared experiences and common bonds that allows them to interact with, support and connect with each other in meaningful and formational ways. The youth group seems to have become a community and

serves in many ways as a stabilizing social structure within the lives of our youth.

The challenge for our ministry now is to make room within this close community for a new class of fifteen freshmen who have been waiting for their opportunity to be a part of the high school group. Oftentimes there is a normal “coming” and “going” within a group from year to year, but since none of the youth who regularly attended events and gatherings graduated with the class of 2009, we are confronted with a unique task. Our older youth are working to make room in their lives and in their relationships to welcome the freshmen and at the same time the freshmen have been faithful in attending, looking to see if they really can “fit in.”

It is the hope and prayer of our youth staff that these adjustments will be quick and that all youth will find that they have a place in this community known as “the Life” (our high school group here at Hope). This past month has been exciting. With an average attendance for Sunday night youth group of 20+, it is clear that God is at work in the lives of our kids.

We are working to put together a leadership team of youth who will participate in providing leadership and direction for this important ministry. Please continue to pray for our youth and especially for those freshmen who are preparing for Confirmation and making the transition to high school life. We are also taking a large group of youth to Mt. Cross for the Synod-wide gathering on October 16-18. Please pray that this weekend will further help to create unity and common bonds for our whole youth group.

Your Ministry Partner, Adam Knudson



October 2009

**Hope
Lutheran
Church**

Extending hope in Jesus!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
For more information on any scheduled event you can check the online calendar at www.hlcyouthfresno.org			1	2	3	
4 "the Life" - Youth Group	5	6	7 Primetime	8	9	10
11 "the Way" Youth Group "the Life" - Gym Night	12	13	14 Primetime	15	16 High School Retreat @ Mt. Cross	17
18 H.S. Retreat	19	20	21 Primetime	22	23	24
25 "the Life" - Concert	26	27	28 Trunk-or-Treat Outreach Event	29	30	31

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

Director of Youth & Family Min.
 • Rev. Adam D. Knudson
 adam@hopelutheranfresno.org

Assistants for Youth Ministry
 • Ms. Alison Quinn,
Discipleship & Events
 • Mr. Arthur C. Contreras,
Worship

Hope Lutheran Church
 364 E. Barstow Ave
 Fresno CA 93710
 Phone: 559.439.4320

Confirmation



Plan to join us in worship at 11:15 AM on Sunday, October 25 as we confirm through "Affirmation of Baptism" our confirmands for this year. Please pray for these youth who plan to be confirmed:

Alyssa Dodd, Emily Zimmerman, Tyler Woods, Kristen Horstmann, Jacob Wood, Megan Culbertson, Jacob Rangel, Ethan Duggins, Cara Burgan, Rachel Kyle, Courtney McBrien, Hannah Little, John Tanksley Jr., Aubrey VonBerg and Hans Hildebrandt.

We also NEED a gentleman who would be willing to serve as Confirmation guide for our 7th and 8th grade boys. This is a 1.5 hour per week commitment. Please contact Adam.

"The Way" Planning to Serve



On Sept. 13 we were blessed to have a room full of kids and parents for our planning meeting. Pizza was consumed, fun was had and some great events were scheduled for this age group. We are looking forward to an exciting year full of helping others, learning, worship and fellowship together. It's encouraging to see what God is doing in the hearts and lives of the youth and families at Hope.

The Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee's High School Retreat will be at Mt. Cross on October 16-18. Amy Berner, Andrew Wasemiller and Kyle Teague are youth from this congregation who will be helping to lead the event. Please keep them in your prayers as well as the following youth who will also attend: Cara Burgan, Alyssa Dodd, Katie Fisher, Robert Forbes, Kristen Horstmann, Hannah Little, Jennifer Little, Sara Martin, Jacob Rangel, Kaila Staggs, John Tanksley, Josh VanDeVelle, Emma Wheeler, Jacob Wood and Tyler Woods. Alison Quinn and Adam Knudson will be attending as leaders. We also need a **LADY FROM OUR CONGREGATION TO DRIVE AND ATTEND THE WEEKEND.** We have a great group of girls, you'll have a Blast! Please contact Adam if you're interested, there's no cost.