

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

“Where’d the Summer Go?”

Seems crazy to say, but the summer days of youth lounging by the pool have been replaced with alarm clocks, books and backpacks. As I write this article, many of our youth are attending their first day of classes in Clovis Unified. As youth return to school, families return to being (too) busy and to the hectic schedules of sports, music, school, church and other social engagements. Those of you who have “raised” your families or who are not yet to this stage, please pray that God will protect our youth and families. Those of you who are entering into the stressful season of “back to school,” please know that we are praying for you.

As youth return to school, our youth ministry here at Hope returns to regularly scheduled programming. The goal of our ministry is to “Build relationships with and between students so that they can encounter a transformational relationship with Jesus Christ.” I am excited about the ways in which I see this happening. Through experiences like camp, VBS, scavenger hunts and youth group gatherings, our youth who are part of “the way” are establishing relationships, learning about Christian community and making faith a priority. Our confirmation kids have come together for learning, service and fun and through relationships with other youth are creating for themselves social networks that will

provide stability and perspective as they face the challenges of life as a junior higher in the 21st century. Our high school kids are forming strong bonds with each other and taking serious steps to sort out priorities amidst busy schedules and near-impossible expectations. Pointing each other back toward their baptismal faith when life gets hard, these youth are learning what it means to be the body of Christ—to be doing God’s work with our hands. With two dozen high schoolers coming together for youth group last night, I am convinced that for many, this community has become a significant part of their life.

I consider it a privilege to work alongside so many incredible youth and families here at Hope. Our ministry has come a long ways in the past two and a half years and I know there is much yet undone. I am excited about the opportunities for leadership and ministry for our youth and enjoy walking with them as they become the leaders, teachers, planners and dreamers. Please join me in praying that God will continue to protect the youth and staff of our program as we seek to be obedient to the will of God and responsive to God’s call on each of our lives. My family and I continue to appreciate your support and encouragement. Thanks for your confidence in entrusting me with such a significant ministry of our church.

Your Ministry Partner, Adam Knudson



We need you?

Having a vibrant and growing youth program is a great thing, but if the youth learn, worship and grow without building relationships with the other members of our congregation, we jeopardize our unity as the body of Christ. Our youth have stepped forward in recent weeks, reading in worship, presenting the children’s message, serving as communion assistants and leading in worship musically. Our youth have much to offer in terms of faith and passion. It is my desire for exchanges of faith and life between youth and adults here at Hope to be frequent and reciprocal.



So, what am I talking about? I’m inviting you to join us in youth ministry. Come alongside our youth, join them in their walks of faith, learn their passions, help them to be heard. In return I am confident that you will experience

their faith to be honest, refreshing and real. Alison, Arty and I can’t do it alone—these groups have grown too big.

Consider joining us for high school youth group one Sunday night each month. Come as you are or bring a snack (food is a quick way to make friends with teenagers). Offer to chaperone a youth event— an evening of fellowship or a weekend away, could re-ignite your own life of faith. Let me know if you could fill-in to teach a lesson, mentor a confirmand or lend your vehicle for an occasional youth trip. You won’t have to be in charge and you won’t be abandoned to manage on your own. Our youth staff is capable and passionate about our ministry and would love to work alongside you. We desire for the intimacy of community and passion for Christ that our youth enjoy together to pervade the character and culture of our congregation in a way that brings unity, healing and life.

Our youth website is a great way to observe what is happening and to discern how you might fit in. Please contact Adam and let him know how you feel called to join our youth ministry team.

September 2009

**Hope
Lutheran
Church**

Extending hope in Jesus!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Primetime	3	4	5
6 "the Life" - Youth Group	7	8	9 Primetime	10	11	12
13 "the Way" Pizza, Planning & Parents "the Life" - Youth Group	14	15	16 Primetime	17	18	19
20 "the Life" - Youth Group	21	22	23 See you at the Pole Primetime Unite 2009	24	25	26
27 "the Life" - GYM NIGHT	28	29	30 Congregational Meeting	For more information on any scheduled event you can check the online calendar at www.hlcyouthfresno.org		

Regular Schedule
 Sunday School 10:10am
 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



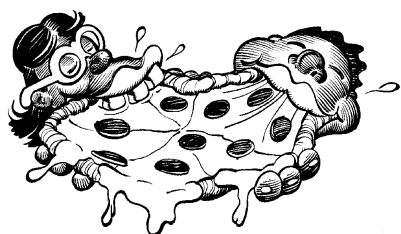
Wednesday Evenings at Hope

A time for your family to be part of our church family. We have fun, we have food and we have educational opportunities for practically everybody.

- 530 ♦ 4th-12th grade ♦ Chime bells
- 530 ♦ Anybody ♦ Dinner (\$2)
- 615 ♦ 7th & 8th grade ♦ Confirmation
- 630 ♦ 4th-6th & High School Classes

Our youth ministry programs include teaching, fellowship, worship, games and small group discussions. All activities are age appropriate and led by our staff or qualified volunteers.

"The Way"
Pizza, Planning & Parents
 Sept. 13: 12:30-2:30pm
 If you're in 4th, 5th or 6th grade, please join us in the youth room following the second service for fun, fellowship and food. We will discuss upcoming events for the year and parents will meet with Adam to plan and schedule activities while the kids play and learn with Alison and Arty.



The **Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee's** High School Retreat will be at Mt. Cross on October 16-18. Mr. Arty Contreras will be leading worship and it's sure to be a great time. The cost is \$125 and you must sign-up by Sept. 13. Registration materials will be available on the youth website or pick one up at church. Total or partial scholarships are available, just talk to Adam. Don't miss out!