

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

“Christmas Time - Already?”

Is it that time of year again, already? As I walk through stores whose decorations seem to have instantly jumped from Halloween to Christmas, I feel like my mental calendar accidentally got set to “fast forward.” This Sunday, “Christ the King Sunday” (Nov. 21), marks the end of our church calendar year. We begin with the first Sunday in Advent on Nov. 28. as we once again prepare our hearts and minds to make the trip to Bethlehem to encounter the Christ, whose birth is our promise of “Joy to the World.”

The observance of the end of the year and the celebration of new beginnings, always causes me to pause and reflect. My (relatively) new position as Associate Pastor for Youth and Family Ministry and the recent resignation of Kristina Garabedian from her work as a part of our church staff and particularly from her role as director for much of our children’s ministry program. has caused me to think in a new way about our ministry to youth and families.

First of all, I would like to thank Kristina for all of her good work in guiding our Sunday School program. Kristina stepped in at a time of significant anxiety following the departure of Ann Aakre and has served this church faithfully. As Kristina leaves our staff, to pursue her law school studies and career aspirations, we wish her well.

As the end of every season is marked by the beginning of something new, Kristina’s departure pushes our ministry to youth and families into a new season as well. While my wife was worried that the work of directing our Sunday School program would be added to my other responsibilities, she was relieved to learn that this would not be the case. I am happy to announce (though many likely already know) that our church council has offered increased hours (and compensation) to Alison Quinn in order to maintain momentum and excellence in the area of children’s ministry. Alison takes on these responsibilities in addition to her continuing work as the Assistant for Youth Ministry. I

have had the privilege to work alongside Alison for more than two years. I am confident that she will bring her usual passion, dedication, energy and enthusiasm to her work with the children of our congregation.

I mentioned earlier that these changes have caused me to think of our ministry differently. When I came to Hope, nearly four years ago, I came as “the youth guy.” In this role, I focused on our high school youth with some involvement with younger kids. With a high school youth group of four people, I quickly realized that I couldn’t just wait for kids to come—I needed to go out and meet them. As we’ve worked to create a youth ministry program that operates in a seamless and dynamic way, it has been rewarding to see the growth in community. I am encouraged by the relationship that have developed between elementary kids and our teenagers and among the parents whose children participate in our ministry programs. From the relationships that began during our “Refresh-Family Retreat” to the energy present when teenagers play and lead games for 1st-6th graders in the gym on Wednesday nights, it seems like community is happening, God’s love is being demonstrated and hope is being extended.

I am confident that God is working through you, the congregation of Hope Lutheran Church. I know that God has a plan for our ministry and I believe that God will bring us the right person to direct our ministry to children. Please join me in praying that God will continue to bless the youth and families of our congregation. As I enter into this new season of ministry at Hope, it is my prayer that God will help us to realize our ministry to all the people of God, not in terms of departments, programs and events, but as a vibrant and multifaceted community in which young and old experience the love of God and are transformed into people of hope. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve with you as we extend that hope in Jesus’ name.

Your Partner in Ministry, Pastor Adam



December 2010

**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
5 The Way Youth Group	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Hope Family Christmas Info. Meeting	13	14	15 Youth Christmas Extravaganza	16	17	18
19 The Way Christmas Cookies "Captured"	20	21 Food Pantry Christmas Party	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Regular Schedule
 Sunday School 9:30am
 the Life 6:00-8:00pm (Sun.)
 Primetime 5:30-7:45pm (Wed.)

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

Assoc. Pastor—Youth & Family
 • Rev. Adam D. Knudson
adam@hopelutheranfresno.org

Assistant for Youth Ministry
 • Ms. Alison Quinn,
 Discipleship & Events
alisonq89@hotmail.com

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Hope Family Christmas Dec. 12



We would like to invite all families and members to join us for this special Holiday tradition. **During the "Current" Worship Service (11AM) on Sunday, December 12, our Children's Ministry Program and Sunday School classes will help to lead our congregation in worship** as we prepare our hearts and lives to receive the coming of Christ.

Plan to join us in the Community Center, immediately following the service, for a festive and delicious holiday meal served by Barbara Cowart and her outstanding team.



"Big Trips—Big Plans" INFORMATIONAL PARENT'S MEETING Sunday, Dec. 12 –4pm Adult Classroom

Attention YOUTH and FAMILIES: We've got some exciting opportunities planned for the coming year, but we need to make sure that everyone is up to speed and on board. These are amazing chances for youth to grow in their faith and their understanding of what it means to be a Christian, but they won't happen without your help.

We are planning on:

SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIPS

- BreakAway (Fresno) Apr. 17-21
* Jr.High & High School
- Mexico (Mexico) Apr. 16-23
* High School & Adult

BIG SUMMER TRIPS

- Western States Youth Gathering (Cal Lutheran in Thousand Oaks) July 1-5 * 8th Grade & High School
- Shalom Camp (Mt. Cross) July 10-15 * Confirmation

Captured is a special worship opportunity especially for youth. Join us as we "rock out" and allow God to CAPTURE our hearts and lives.

CAPTURED
 My Beautiful Surrender
 Bittersweet Awakening

Featured Bands:
 A Current Affair
 My Beautiful Surrender
 Bittersweet Awakening

DECEMBER 19, 2010
 6PM @ HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 COST \$5