

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

“A New Year - So, what else is new?”

Over the past several weeks, I’ve had the opportunity and privilege to step outside my normal work with the youth at Hope and I’ve had the chance to spend some time studying. After graduating from seminary more than five years ago (with a Master of Divinity degree), I’ve now “gone back to school” to work toward a Doctorate of Ministry with a focus on “Ministry to the Emerging Generations.” I’ve spent these past two weeks at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary (GCTS), just north of Boston, Massachusetts. I’ve spent these two weeks learning, thinking and growing together with fourteen classmates, a group of men and women who are each involved in ministries in a wide variety of contexts all over the country. Our studies have been guided by our faculty mentors Walt Mueller (founder and director of the Center for Parent Youth Understanding), Duffy Robbins (youth ministry guru and professor at Eastern University) and Adonis Vidu (Professor of Theology at GCTS).

These have been a great couple weeks where I’ve learned a lot about the concepts of ‘worldview,’ postmodernism, the nature of cognitive, moral and faith development in the life-stage know as adolescence, and the questions and passions of the “Emerging Church” movement. If I didn’t just put you to sleep and you have interests/knowledge in any of these areas – consider this an invitation to talk with me further. While studying near Boston, I got to experience my first real Noreaster which led to experiencing my first “snow day.” A “snow day” is when schools in the area are closed because there’s too much snow and it’s better for people to just “stay off the roads.” When snow falls...I found that many things come to a screeching halt.

When snow falls...I found that my day looks radically different than I had anticipated. Instead of spending eight hours in the classroom learning and talking with classmates and professors, I had an entire day to sit in my hotel room, read, write and think. In fact, this entire experience has provided me the space and time to set aside my “work” as Associate Pastor for Youth and Family Ministry at Hope Lutheran Church, and has allowed me to reflect on that ministry in some very helpful ways. Like most of you, I’m a person who is very busy. I’m

really busy and I really like getting things done. Since it always seem like I just can’t get everything done, I find myself forced to decide “which things do I need to do now and which can wait until later?” I’m sure many of you know the feeling. The problem for me is that there are many things in my life that are urgent (someone thinks they need done right away), but not all of these things are important (things I should give priority to in my schedule). I feel that when I allow myself to be “bullied” by the urgency of other people or tasks to the exclusion of focusing on things that are actually important (like the goals and purposes behind what I’m doing), I feel frantic, anxious and BUSY. Perhaps when snow falls we have a chance to pause for reflection and redirect our energies.

In Fresno where I (and many of you) live, we don’t have much snow and I don’t think there’s EVER been a snow day. We have fog and we remind each other to “drive slow and be careful,” but we rarely (if ever) have a day where the mayor of the city asks people to stay home from work. This is too bad, because I think snow days can be a good thing. Are there things in your life – maybe things like reading your Bible, spending time with your kids or with your parents? Are there things that you know are important, but you just can’t seem to find the time for them? I would encourage you to make these things a priority, because even though they don’t seem “urgent,” if we ignore them we will still have to live with the consequences.

As I look out of my hotel room door this morning and see snow falling, I wonder “Are the airports going to be open today? Am I going to be able to return home on schedule? Is this going to be a major inconvenience?” I have no idea how my day will unfold (and in reality we never know what is going to happen), but I’m thankful for the snow because it reminds me to: 1) slow down and pay attention to what God might want me to be doing, 2) remember that God is in control (and I’m NOT) and 3) notice the beauty in the world around me. I pray that whatever the outside temperature is for you today that you might enjoy the blessings that come... when snow falls.

Your Partner in Ministry, Pastor Adam



February 2011

Hope Lutheran Church

Extending hope in Jesus!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Jr.High Dodgeball	12
13 Youth Group Bake Sale	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 All Youth Snow Trip!	22	23	24	25 SPSYC Elementary Retreat	26
27 "SPSYC Cont"	28					

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

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

Hope Lutheran Church
 364 E. Barstow Ave
 Fresno CA 93710
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SPSYC

(Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee)

4th-6th Grade RETREAT

Mt. Cross in **Felton** will once again be the location for the annual 4th –6th grade Event! Our theme is "**Mission Outer Space—Shine Like the Stars.**"

Cost: \$120 (scholarships available) *Talk to Pr. Adam*

Registration: Turn in Permission Slip (available online or at Church) and money to Adam by February 6th to register before prices go up.



ALL YOUTH—SNOW TRIP!

Monday, February 21

All interested youth and families are invited to join us for a fun time of playing in that frosty cold white stuff. We will plan to depart from the church around 9AM and we will travel up to one of the snow parks above Shaver. We will plan to be back by about 3pm. We would invite you to pack a lunch or a picnic, bring a sled, your gloves and the rest of your gear and come and join us. WE REALLY NEED PARENTS TO HELP MAKE THIS DAY HAPPEN! Please give Alison a call to let her know that you plan to participate, especially if you need or can provide transportation.



What?

An amazingly awesome citywide DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT!

Who?

Jr. High Youth

When?

FEB 11 / 6-10PM

Where?

Peoples Church (NE Corner of Cedar & Herndon)

How Much? \$3

Can I bring a Friend?

We recommend that you do!

Questions? Talk to Pr. Adam

