

Youth Ministry Committee Report
January 2010

2010 Mission

The Youth Committee is even more committed to meeting BLC middle school and high school youth where they are in 2010. We will accomplish this by embracing the four keys of household ministry: caring conversation, rituals and traditions, devotions, and service. We also carry with us in 2010, the dedication to our experience at the 2009 Lutheran Youth Gathering in New Orleans, to feel “pokes” from the holy spirit to share compassionate justice with all people.

Youth Ministry Team

We thank Kevin Kelley and Jasmine Tesdahl for two years service as Youth Council chairs. My how time flies. We welcome Justin Dirkes (Two year) and Gene Tesdahl (one year) as new co-chairs for youth and the beginning of more youth influence in serving youth introducing a youth member of council for each session. The team continues to be anchored by Deaconess Kristen Baltrum, head of Youth and Household ministry, but also includes: Tony Britt and Mitch Cooper for Middle School, Jasmine Tesdahl, Janelle Wappel, Barb Paine, and Kevin Kelley for special events and more. We also welcome new member Bev Cody to the team. Yay!

Fund Raisers

Cookies & Soup in a Jar – Not Just for Christmas Anymore

The BLC youth have already done well in raising funds from this project for service, activities, and outings. But guess what? We still have about half of the cookies and soups in a jar – both of which coincidentally are delicious. In order for them to remain so we must move them while we can help us meet our goal. But wait you say, didn't many of them have holiday cloth on them? Right you are, but we wily young folks have gotten together new pieces of cloth with floral, birthday, and other themes to meet any festive or ordinary occasion. The jars remain in Kristen's Youth and Household Ministry Office, across from the main office, during business hours someone will help you purchase them. On Sundays youth or youth leaders can help. They remain \$8 or two for \$15, checks payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Our goal is to sell these well before Easter. Please help.

Fundraiser Meals

1. Sweetheart Breakfast - There will be none this year keeping this an “every three year” event.
2. **Easter**
 - a. Easter Lock-In – Due to the enthusiasm of youth and community members we will hold another lock-in, participating in Light of Christ's Easter Vigil, preparing for Easter Breakfast and leading the outdoor sunrise worship service. Justin and Kristen are leading this effort.
 - b. Easter Egg Hunt – Kristen will advertise the Middle and High school help in preparing for and organizing the hunt for young children. Egg stuffing and decorating will be Wednesday, March 31, and the event, Saturday April 3.
 - c. Easter Breakfast
 - i. Bev and Barb will lead this and have already purchased select food items on sale in advance. Tickets will be sold in advance though we will make enough food to have a 15% surplus for “at the door” sales.
 - ii. Menu will include casseroles, muffins, sausages/ham (Target has spiral cut on sale – buy and email Kristen to keep track of them), fruit
 - iii. Vegan option will be available but MUST be indicated at time of purchase.
3. Spaghetti Dinner – We tentatively suggest this for the evening of Oct 24th, 4-6pm. This could even be an inter-faith gathering with Light of Christ and a Halloween festival. Pasta is cheap and Iowa beef supplies from Tesdahl and Cooper connections will be delicious and inexpensive.

Youth Group Events

1. Urban Plunge - Five Youth and two leaders, Amy, Sarah, Justin, Ali, and Janelle, along with Kristen and Gene participated in the Urban Plunge through Urban Servant Corps, January 29-31. It was amazing. Justin has details. The experience was so positive that we have begun a relationship with the Network Coffeehouse. We will collect travel-sized: shampoo, conditioner, and soaps in the Narthex and arrange a delivery trip every two months that may include the opportunity to provide baked goods or caring conversation for the delivery crew. We are also considering a week-long plunge this summer for interested youth and leaders.
2. OUR – Five or more Youth and Gene will participate in the Social Justice activity serving the needy at the OUR center this Sunday, February 14. We will serve from 10am to 11:30am. We are a part of the congregation as a whole, not just our little corner. Thank you Jenny Kelley.
3. HS Rock Climbing – The Rock – Boulder, 4-7pm Sunday March 21, Gene will lead, new member and climber, Brian Carlson will accompany, all are welcome. We have at least five youth signed up.
4. Middle School – Sunday school and activities are growing well.
5. Taizé – Summer 2011
 - a. The Youth committee asks the council's permission to begin exploring an international cultural immersion trip to Taizé, France for the summer of 2011. It would be about a ten day trip, Thursday through Tuesday and would be open to current high school students and former BLC youth under the age of 25. Taizé is an inter-denominational Christian monastery and meditation center aimed at celebrating international Christian unity and encouraging peace and cooperation especially through students.
 - b. Visiting Taizé will give our youth new Christian and cultural world views, music, and relationships. The trip will likely cost less per student than attending the National Youth Gathering. Cost for food, lodging, and activities while at Taizé are by donation only: €5.50 to 8 per day for youth between 14 and 30 and €15 to 25 per day for adult leaders over 30. Find out more at www.taize.fr
 - c. We propose an informational and organizational meeting for April 2010 to measure interest, weigh projected costs, and look ahead to fundraising.
 - d. Since this is one year before the 2012 National Youth Gathering, fundraising and budgeting must be done carefully.

News

Extravaganza – Our own Kristen will return soon from the 2010 ELCA Youth Leader extravaganza, a convention that organizes regional and national youth events and programs and strengthens national church unity. Kristen was one of the national organizers for this one. THANKS! One of the things brought back is that as a sustained commitment to helping strengthen the culture, economy, and spirits of New Orleans the ELCA National Youth Gathering for 2012 will once again be in NOLA. Who dat!

**Thanks and God Bless,
Justin and Gene**