

YOUTH & HOUSEHOLD MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 2011

As the Youth and Household Ministry (YHM) is shepherded by Deaconess Kristen Baltrum, I direct you to her annual report for a more detailed, cohesive summary of 2011. We continued to bring the four keys to almost every single activity: Rituals and Traditions, Service, Caring Conversation, and Devotions. We have also continued to bring the leadership and direction of YHM to serve both Middle School and High School Students.

FUNDRAISING - We continue to use our system for permitting all youth from Middle School to High School to earn credit for their service in fund-raising events towards activities of their choice. This fairly rewards those students who support Youth and Household Ministry at Bethlehem. Thanks to Council for approving 2012 fundraisers which will in large part support youth to travel to New Orleans in July 2012 for the ELCA Youth Gathering.

SERVICE – Our youth is growing in their interest and commitment to Service activities that benefit both YHM and other BLC ministries. How wonderful to watch lives changed in both large and small ways – we’ll never know the extent of this influence, but pray all involved continue to be blessed.

FUN – Never underestimate the power of caring conversations between youth and their leaders in settings other than worship. This network is a key component of youth faith formation and maturation. Activities throughout the year offered our youth recreation and excitement as well as meaningful conversations, dialogue, and support.

FAITH MOMENTS / CAMPS – from Middle Schoolers meeting in Colorado Springs back in January 2011, to High Schoolers meeting in Estes Park in November 2011 (in a “warm up” to New Orleans) the year has flown and been filled with chances to see the kind of adults our youth will become. What a journey – and again we are blessed to be contributing along the way.

A thank you to all the adults who visited the “wall” of youth activities (drama, dance, sports, etc) over the year and took your time to watch and cheer on our youth. Going to where our youth are is a small but significant act that tells our youth how important they are to us...especially outside of worship. It is my hope this will continue and grow in 2012. Just think if every adult in the church went to just one activity in 2012? Hm.....

Another specific THANK YOU to Justin Dirkes who has been YHM co-chair for the past two years. He will graduate from Skyline High School in May with a bright future ahead of him! Please welcome Dalton Aker, replacing Justin, to YHM giving voice to the youth of BLC on church Council.

Submitted by Beth Mills, Youth & Household Ministry Co-Chair