

Youth News

Work Camp Registration

Lots of Travel happening this Summer

It seems we were all successfully worried about getting online at 8:00 PM on Jan. 9 to register for the Brethren Work camps. As parents and youth waited nervously to begin registration, there was a flurry of similar activity across the US. As predicted, several camps closed registration in the first 20 minutes after the web site opened. The Jr High camp at Harrisburg and the camps in Kyle, South Dakota and Caimito, Puerto Rico closed quickly.

With a little extra effort on the side, we now have everyone who desired to register, going to the places we had planned to go. And an additional plus, we have advisors who have volunteered to make the trips too.

Our current totals are: 12 will be attending Jr High camp in Harrisburg, PA and 17 Sr High will travel to three different camps.

The camp in Harrisburg begins June 20. Attending from Lancaster CoB will be: Ava Bowser, Kaitlyn Heck, Stephanie Kline, and Justin Shertzer. Additionally, from the Maranatha Fellowship are: Giovanni Phillips, Elliot Ramirez, Emil Ramirez, Edison Rodriguez, Gabby Rodriguez and Odett Rodriguez. Laura Bowser will be the girls advisor and we are currently in need of an advisor for the guys. (we have the registration but now need the advisor)

Going to Caimito, Puerto Rico on June 26 to work with the urban Christian Community Center on the outskirts of San Juan will be Ashley Kline, Grant Turkki and Tristan Turkki. Ricky Reynolds will be the trip advisor.

Heading out west to the Pine Ridge reservation near Kyle, South Dakota on July 22 will be Mason Byers and Sarah Shearer. Linda Byers plans to join them. This work could include construction and cleaning plus getting to learn more about the Lakota culture.

Our Largest group of Sr High men are traveling to Camp Colorado 40 minutes south of Denver. This camp begins July 30 and they will work doing light construction and clearing of fallen trees. This group includes: Colin Betz, Cory Betz, Alex Bookman, Matt Brubaker, Shane Heck, Chris Holsinger, Lucas Murray and Connor Snyder. Their advisors will be Jay Murray and Mike Snyder.

Thanks to All

This work began for me on June 1 of last year. I started with excitement in my heart and enthusiasm in my spirit. Little do most know how this opportunity has been a long time coming in my life and an answer to many prayers over years of learning and challenge. Maybe some time in the future I'll have the chance to share all of that journey with you but, for now, I want to remind you all how thankful I am for the thoughts, love and support I have witnessed at the Lancaster Church of the Brethren.

I am thankful for each youth who is in any way involved in our ministry and the families who bring our young people to share in the events and activities. I am even thankful for those youth who find it challenging to be active. They too are an extension of our family of faith even if they can not attend the stuff we do. (Note: If you are in this category, you are also "the youth" of our church and are not forgotten about! I'm here to support you in your faith journey too so I'll try to check in from time to time)

Additionally, I'm thankful for our volunteers. It is great to be a part of the relationships being built and continuing to grow among the parents, youth and members of our congregation.

So now we are 8 months in to this "youth adventure" and I am still feeling so blessed to do this work.

- Linda B.

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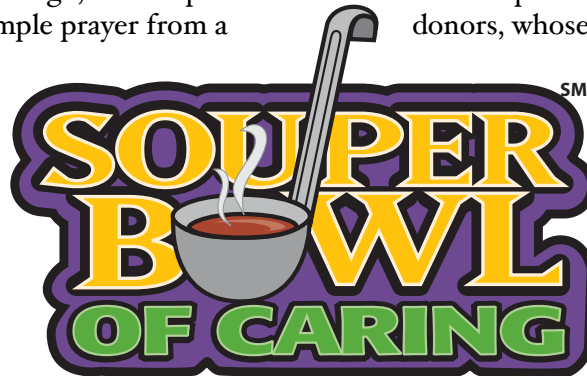
Total of Twenty-Two Soup Bowls on the Auction Block

Lancaster Church of the Brethren Youth are one of 690 groups nation wide that are using Super Bowl Weekend to help tackle hunger. If you go to their website, you can see the entire list. There are at least 240 "Brethren" churches listed there from across the country. You can even enter our local zip code and see the list of all of the area churches who are making donations. Once we know our auction total and food donation count we will enter it to the site to help meet this years goal of \$11,000,000.

More than twenty years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."

Since that day, more than \$81 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



Through this mission, we are making a positive difference in the world by collecting food and raising money. We may be planning a future visit to the food bank to get even more understanding about what they do to help those in need in our community.

You can learn more about the organization Souper Bowl of Caring at: tacklehunger.org. Youth donate 100% of their Souper Bowl of Caring collections **directly to local charities**. The \$600,000 needed to cover the program costs are raised separately each year thanks to generous donors, whose gifts supported the program costs.

Can't wait to find out how much we will raise for the Souper Bowl of Caring! Eight youth families and twelve individual youth painted soup bowls to donate for our auction. They have been on display at the church of two weeks and there is quite a buzz going around that some folks are preparing to bid high!

Donations of food collected at the "Meal with Jesus" and at the Soup and Salad will at to our total donation to the Lancaster County Council of Churches food bank.

Lock-in at LVC for Jr High & Sr High ALL NIGHTER at Skippack

This event is always a favorite among youth and leaders. This year it was moved to a later date to attempt to avoid blizzards and ice storms. So far both the District youth retreat weekends (Jr high in Oct and Sr High in Jan) included a fresh blanket of snow.

Jr High youth can meet by the church van at 9:00 PM on Friday evening March 2. Advisors going this year are Jamie Nace and Ricky Reynolds. Cost is \$10 per youth. Money and signed permission slips are due to Linda by Feb. 19. Permission slips will be available

from Linda or watch your church mailboxes. Activities will include: swimming, indoor recreation (basketball and more) movies, creative art and food! What to bring: comfy indoor clothes, modest bathing suit and towel (no bikini's - if you only have a bikini - you must wear a t-shirt over top) sleeping bag (or blanket and pillow).

Sr High ALL NIGHTER will began at the Skippack CoB Mar 16 and then move to the local bowling alley. The fee for bowling is included in the registration.

There is a theme to this years event - It's "NERD" bowling. so come dressed in your best nerd attire. Sign up, \$10 and signed permission slip is due to Linda by March 4. David Byers will be the attending advisor.

SAVE THESE DATES

Reminding you of these dates on the Event Calendars and NEW events:

April 1 - Palm Sunday baptisms

FORMS DUE FOR
WORK CAMPS

April 5 - Love Feast

April 21 - District Service Project

Brief News You Can Use

Messages of Thanks

Thanks to all of those who have volunteered in to help in Youth Ministry.

Todd Bookman, Dan Hufford and Donna Lunger for helping out at Weds. Nights.

Becoming a Member

For many youth, Jr High is an age we see lots of kids thinking more deeply about their relationship to God and the church. Learning about the history of the Brethren Church in Sunday School and talking about the "Basic Beliefs" as a focus can help to inspire those thoughts too.

Or, maybe your passed that age and in our Sr High youth and would like to learn more about the church views and what membership could mean for you.

The Brethren faith ties our "believers baptism" to membership in the church. As a Biblical example early Christians entered a faith community at baptism. The commitment to be a follower of Christ requires us to be engaged with others not just a lone believer. Our faith is not just about our own heart, will and desire but how we love others, how we are called to share concerns with others and how we grow through encouraging each other. (Love isn't love until you give it away). Maybe you've felt God calling to you to share this public statement of faith.

If you have the desire to enter into that commitment to love and share and serve in the body of Christ at the Lancaster Church of

the Brethren, (or at Maranatha) let's talk ! If you are a youth - talk to your parents about it. If you are a parent - ask your youth if they may be interested to be baptized into the faith. Then, let me know and we'll set aside some time to talk about how to prepare.

There is an indoor baptism being planned for Palm Sunday (April 1) and plans for an outdoor baptism late in the spring.

Spaghetti and Salad

Our meal was another great success. With the addition of the Jr High to help in January our work brought in donations of **\$1,022**. Thanks to everyone who helped. It was a busy day for the Soup and Salad Team of parents learning to make a different meal but there was plenty to eat and everyone enjoyed.

Work Camp Papers

If you are registered for work camp you should be receiving an envelope in the mail from the Office of the Church of the Brethren. Included (usually in multiple colored pages) will be the following forms: information form, health form, participant covenant/waiver and travel form.

Please consider completing these as soon as you get them and return them all to mailbox #9. Only the travel form can be returned incomplete. Just include the information at the top of the page and the rest will be filled in and returned to the work camp office.

There are still several youth who need to forward a copy of your health insurance card (both front and back) to me.

YOUTH, please be sure you read and follow all of the requirements on the covenant - including dress code and technology policy. If you have any questions about them please let me know.

Male Work Camp Advisor Needed

Ricky Reynolds was planning to use up several days of vacation this summer attending two work camps. Unfortunately, during the Harrisburg work camp with Jr High - **June 20 to 24** - his work can not schedule him for vacation at the same time as another employee. So, we are asking for someone to volunteer to be an advisor with Laura Bowser during that week. Please let me know if you have any questions or would be interested in attending the camp.

Summer Jobs

For senior high youth thinking about getting a job this summer, now is the time that many seasonal employers begin reviewing applications. Remember the people you have worked with at church can be a good reference. Your time in helping at Soup and Salad and other activities like work camps are good experiences to use too on an application. If you plan to use Linda or someone at church as a reference, please contact them first so they are aware to expect a possible call. It's just good policy.

Shameless Plug!

Please let me know if you have any interest in hosting an international exchange student - I'll help you find one! - Linda B.

February Events

- Feb 1 - Jr. High & Sr. High**
WNL (Weds. Night Live)
6:30 - 8:00 Sr High room
- Feb 4 - Jr High** Volleyball 12-2
at the church
- Feb 5 - Sr High** Soup and Salad
AND Super Bowl Party
Jr High help with
the bowl auction.
- Feb 7** - YMOT meeting 7:30 @ church
- Feb 8 - Jr. High & Sr. High**
WNL (Weds. Night Live)
6:30 - 8:00 Sr High room
- Feb 12** - All Church Breakfast
- Feb 15 - Jr. High & Sr. High**
WNL (Weds. Night Live)
6:30 - 8:00 Sr High room
- Feb 19 - Jr High** \$10 due for Lock-in
Sr High must be signed up
for the ski weekend
- Feb 22 - Jr. High & Sr. High**
WNL (Weds. Night Live)
6:30 - 8:00 Sr High room
- Feb 24-26 - Sr High** Ski Retreat
- Feb 25** - Volleyball @ church 12-2
- Feb 29 - Jr. High & Sr. High**
WNL (Weds. Night Live)
6:30 - 8:00 Sr High room

Sr High Ski Trip

So far several are listed on the sign up sheet in the Sr High room to go on **Feb. 24 -26.** (last year 9 youth and 5 adults attended) According to the JFBB website: <http://www.jfbb.com/plan/snow-passes-and-rentals>. (that's Jack Frost Big Boulder) the following are the prices we can expect to pay to ski, snowboard or go tubing:

- lift pass - \$50 (\$40- 15 or <)
- rentals - \$32 (\$28- 15 or <)
- BB tubing - \$25 - 3 hours
or \$45 all day

We'll plan to leave from the church parking lot on Friday evening after dinner. Once we arrive at the Lunger's cabin, we'll

all help unload and play some games. Saturday after breakfast we'll divide into groups to head to the slopes or the chutes. Each youth will need to bring their own way to pay for passes and rentals. Lunch on Sat. will be at the ski lodge so plan to cover the cost of lunch there too. Saturday evening after dinner we'll have some time for "Church Chat", then maybe a movie. Sunday AM quick breakfast, pack up, clean up, and head home. We will arrive home by noon (in time for the start of the Daytona 500 - I promise)



NEW THIS YEAR WORK CAMP MEETINGS

Work Camps are a lot of fun. You meet new people, do some work, share some creative thinking and hopefully - deepen your faith through the experience.

This year, to prepare ourselves for the task, we are going to hold a few **mandatory** meetings for all Jr High and Sr High youth and advisors attending work camps.

These meetings will take place on a Sunday evening and we'll have a time to share and talk about our relationship as work teams, our relationship to the other work campers, and our relationship to the church and how they share in our experience.

Our meetings will last about 45 minutes and are meant to help

prepare us to get the most out of these journey's. We have have this great opportunity as a gift from a truly supportive congregation to be sent. We don't want to miss what God intends for us to learn.

Our first Sr High meeting will be on **March 11 - at 7:15** in the youth room. Please, let Linda know if you are not able to attend so you can schedule another time to meet.

Additional tentative dates for Sr High Work Camp meetings are:

- April 1 (or March 29)
- May 6 (or May 13)

If you are a Sr High youth NOT going to work camps - you are still welcome to join our discussions. The things we go over you will be able to apply to other similar challenges in team building.

The first Jr High meeting is not scheduled at this time. We will schedule once we have arranged the male advisor of the trip. There will only be two meetings for Jr High.

March Events

- Mar 2-3 - Jr High** Lock-in @ LVC
meet @ church 7:00 PM
- Mar 4 - Sr. High** \$10 due for
All Nighter
- Mar 7 - Jr. High & Sr. High**
WNL (Weds. Night Live)
6:30 - 8:00 Sr High room
- Mar 10** - Volleyball @ church 12-2
- Mar 11 - Sr. High** First Work Camp
meeting 7:15 in the Youth
Room
- Mar 14 - Jr. High & Sr. High**
WNL (Weds. Night Live)
6:30 - 8:00 Sr High room
- Mar 16-17 - Sr. High** All Nighter
@ Skippack CoB
- Mar 18 - Sr. High** Soup and Salad
- Mar 21 - Jr. High & Sr. High**
WNL (Weds. Night Live)
6:30 - 8:00 Sr High room
- Mar 24** - Volleyball @ church 12-2
- Mar 28 - Jr. High & Sr. High**
WNL (Weds. Night Live)
6:30 - 8:00 Sr High room