

Youth News



Families Out for Fall Leaf Raking

November 10, our Youth Families again had the opportunity to serve the church by raking the fall leaves from around the church grounds. Fortunately, we had weekend two after hurricane Sandy blew through. Most leaves were picked up the first week so it didn't take us long. Groups worked along the edge of the parking lot and loaded leaves on to tarps and piled them along the street. We cleaned them up too around the preschool play yard. Five Sr High youth (Lukas, Shane, Connor, Justin and Elliot) and six Jr High Youth (Ava, Kaitlyn, Andrew, Gabby, Odett, and Emil) attended. Several parents attended too. The Lines family brought along a power blower and the "Leaf Scoops" (every one needs a pair of these things) It was another great turn out! Thanks to everyone for sharing in the work (and to those who brought an extra rake or two!) Thanks to Dave Byers for the donuts, coffee and hot chocolate when we finished.

Advent-ure?

The Christmas season is here! Christmas parties, Christmas lights, Christmas decorations, Christmas trees, Christmas cards, Christmas dinner, Christmas breakfast, Christmas presents, Christmas movies, Christmas music - we are surrounded by Christmas. We anticipate it so much we even have Christmas Eve because one day is just not enough.

So where is the Christ in our Christmas?

We involve ourselves in so much preparation for celebration but do we all get wrapped up in just doing and lose focus on the whole point of what we are celebrating.

Advent is an opportunity to add back in some family time focused around our faith. There are resources you can find online. I found information at: Focus on the Family (<http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/holidays/making-meaningful-christmas-memories/celebrate-advent.aspx>) This is a daily counting down of the days but you can also celebrate each Sunday or even some other day of the week. It's never too late to begin a new tradition.

What do we know about the gospel accounts of Jesus arrival into our world? Which Old Testament book predicts Christ coming? Do all of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) include Jesus birth and the events surrounding that time? We hear the stories in church every year but how much is really in the Bible about the events. What is your favorite image of the Christmas story - angels? shepherds? wise men? Talk about it around the table.

Do you have a plan for being sure Christ IS the reason for the season? Take an "Advent-ure" this year!

- Linda B

They got to “Put On Love” for Jr High Sunday

The Jr High Youth celebrated the Brethren Jr High Youth Sunday, a national event, on November 11 by serving in the Morning Psalm services. Not only did they get to share in the service - they got to do it twice. It was also the day of the Hospitality Breakfast and we had the chance to eat together between services.

The service began with Paige Snyder sharing a familiar Brethren hymn on her flute. Paige is in sixth grade in the Conestoga Valley District and has been taking lessons for about two years. Another musician that offered his talent was Edison Rodriguez who covered the drum set for both services. Edison is an eighth grader in the Lancaster City District and he played along with the Praise Band. He has been taking lessons with Matt Shenk and was only called on to volunteer on the Wednesday before. A special thanks goes out to Jamie Nace for helping to coordinate the musical portion of the youth service. We are so blessed to have many talented youth willing to share their talents. I expect we will have even more musicians next year.

We had several youth volunteer for reading aloud. Performing in the scripture jam, litany and morning prayer were Andrew Lines, Ava Bowser, Edison Rodriguez, Emil Ramirez and Gabby Rodriguez. Another opportunity to serve was by taking up the offering where Kaitlyn Heck and Giovanni Phillips helped out.

Almost all of the Youth serving that day were involved in the “skit without words”. The Theme - “Put on Love” - was projected in the skit by our featured actress Odett Rodriguez. Odett is in eighth grade in the Lancaster School District. Using T-shirts labeled with words from the theme scripture, Odett modeled a “Christian” searching for the best shirt to exemplify a Christian lifestyle. Several youth took home the t-shirt props made from items picked up at Good Will. In addition to Odett, on stage were set dressers: Ava and Emil; clothing rack holders: Gio, Andrew, Paige and Kaitlyn; and shop keeper Gabby.

It was great to see our youth take part in leading the worship that morning. Thanks also for parent help for our short and quick practice times - Renea Snyder and Sue Lines.

Sr High Sunday School

This fall our lessons have been around the book “Know What Your Believe”. We have been taking a look at what evidence the Bible gives us for our faith. The book itself is very intense and full of history, facts and examples about the Christian faith. The lessons are derived from each chapter in the book.

So far we have covered topics including the history of where the Bible comes from, who God tells us he is, and who is the man Jesus Christ. We have also had a guest speaker, Tim Dunbar, to share about his faith journey and how he has been changed by faith.

The intent in our lessons this school year is to cover the question: **What does faith have to do with my life?** We want to supply our youth with the tools to know how to seek God, where to find God, and understand how faith in God can give us direction, security and fill us with love.

Linda Husted has been serving as a teacher along with Linda Byers.

Jr High Sunday School

Our series this fall has been “Me and My Church”. Each week we have been inviting members of our congregation who serve on our many ministry teams to come to class and be interviewed by our youth. The youth ask the questions that they wanted to know about how members get involved and what they are doing in the life of the church. Our guests do get to see the questions before they arrive in class.

So far we have learned about the board and executive team, children’s ministry and children’s music ministry, education team, drama arts, how the church office works, and property team. In the future we have guests arriving to talk about traditional services, Morning Psalm services, hospitality team and communications ministry.

Mark Forsha has helped lead the discussions for several Sundays. Additional classroom leadership has come from Jamie Nace, Carol Deck, and Donna Lunger.

It has been a good time of discovery.

Brief News You Can Use

Messages of Thanks

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

Thanks to our guest speaker for Jr High Sunday School talking about their ministries: Bob Hopple and Doug Lunger. And to Tim Heck for teaching Sr High and Mark Forsha and Donna Lunger for leading Jr High. And a guest speaker in Sr High - Tim Dunbar.

Everyone who helped at Soup and Salad - Betz's, Snyder's, the other Snyder's, Brubaker's, Wendy Holsinger, Shearer's and Michele Shertzer.

Thanks to Tim Heck for being our attending parent at Youth Time. Also the Renea Snyder and Sue Lines for helping at Jr High Youth Sunday. AND all the families represented at Leaf Raking!

School Service Hours

If you need community service hours for High School graduation and/or for potential scholarships, remember your service at Soup and Salad could be included. Check to see how your school defines "community service".

There is another service opportunity in January to help at a meal to raise funds to support Jim Sebest.

Contact Donna Lunger to learn how you can help on Saturday night, January 26.

GO YOUTH - !

If your youth is doing something to cheer about. Let us know. - email Linda

Wednesday Night Live

NO WNL activities until mid January. Any youth at the church on a Weds. night will need to be supervised by an adult member of the church. The youth rooms are not going to be open.

Soup and Salad

November was our last Soup and Salad meal for 2012. The donations made to the Youth Fund will be over \$1,146 in generous giving from our congregation. Thank you Connor Snyder and Lukas Murray for sharing the prayer and announcement duties.

Our next meal to serve will be held on **January 13**. This will be Spaghetti and Salad. Chris Holsinger has volunteered to make announcements. No need to double up on deserts in the month of January.

Oversight Team

Youth Oversight Team meets once a month on the first Tuesday (usually) at 7:30 in the Youth Room. We are still seeking a new member in for a two year term. If you are interested in serving or think of someone who might be if asked, contact Linda or one of the members of the Oversight Team.

The Waters of Baptism

Any youth interested in exploring what it means to join the Christian faith and the church through the act of baptism should contact Linda Byers. Several youth have expressed interest and we will be planning a date to baptize most likely before Easter. There are no "classes" to join in but all of those expressing interest will be invited to discuss their thoughts and the meaning of baptism in a couple of personal conversations. There is a packet of information available to share with you to get started on this journey.

Spaghetti and Salad with the Jr High Youth

January 13 is the time teach our younger youth (and youth families) the tradition of fund raising at Soup and Salad.

Jr High youth will need to be in the kitchen - at 9:00 AM to begin with cutting the salad vegetables and preparing for the meal. They will work along side our seasoned Sr High and leaders to prep and serve the meal at 11:30.

Each Youth Family (both Jr High and Sr High) need to provide a desert to serve at least 10 people.

We expect ALL of our Jr High youth to participate. The funds raised go to support annual work camps and other conference/travel youth activities. Jr High parents - don't go too far away - we can use your services to help in setting up tables and chairs for the meal. Youth should expect to be there to help until 1:30

Youth Events

Please be sure to check your email for updated information.

This News Letter may not include all dates, times, meeting locations or registration instructions for all events.

If you are not receiving youth email contact Linda at:

lancob.youth@comcast.net

Sr High District RETREAT

January 18-20, 2013

Where: Camp Swatara

Registration Deadline: Jan. 10 see Linda to register. Parent permission slip is needed.

Cost: \$45 per Youth. Make checks payable to Lancaster CoB and place in mailbox #9

Details: Bekah Houff will speak on "What's Your Story?" Bekah grew up in the ANE District, at Camp Swatara and served on District Youth Cabinet. In fact, this district is where she first got excited about youth ministry! She is currently working as the Coordinator of Outreach Programs at Bethany Theological Seminary, facilitating and planning youth and young adult programs. **Everything Dear** will be bringing the music in our sessions and in concert for us Saturday night! To find out more about them you can visit www.reverbnation.com/everythingdearmusic.

January Events

Jan 4 - Jr High Sunday school used to practice for Youth Sunday

Jan 13 - Sr High and Jr High Spaghetti and Salad meet in the kitchen @ 9:00

Jan 18-20 - Sr High District Retreat

Jan 26 - Contra Dance for Youth over 13 - meet at St. John's Episcopal Church

Please join us as we explore our individual stories, how all our stories are connected, and how it all connects with God's story. We will talk about the many stories that influence our lives: school, church, our Church of the Brethren heritage, and the many stories that make up the Bible.

Jr High Youth Registration for National Jr High Conference

Before registering your junior high youth for NJHC, you must complete the [Parental Permission Form](#) at the Church of the Brethren Website. You will receive a parent permission number via email which you will

December Events

Dec 1 - Register for CCS online

Dec 9 - Sr High Youth Time - 11:30 (pizza)

Dec 16 - Sr High Parent meeting about Sr High Work Camps for 2013 - 11:30 in the Youth room

Dec 28-29 - Jr High tentative plans "Not New Year's Eve" Party

need to register your youth for conference. If you already filled out the Parental Permission Form, the number you received is applicable for any Church of the Brethren event (i.e. workcamps, NJHC, etc). Read about [Child Online Protection](#).

Sr High Youth Time

In November we learned more about the Lancaster County Council of Churches Food Bank. Each youth was given a copy of the latest LCCofC brochure that educates about the many services provided and how donating to the food bank helps those in need. The brochure includes an example of the difference

between the cost of food people give to the charity and how much more food they can purchase for the same amount of money. They can purchase so much more because they buy in large quantities.

We are working to set up a tour of the Food Bank at some time in the future.

Our next Youth Time is on December 9 (again - 11:30 to 1:00) we'll be planning how the Youth can inform the congregation about giving to the LCCofC Food Bank.

PLEASE, let Linda know if you are planning to join in by FRIDAY Dec. 7, so we order enough food. Bring a \$5.00 donation for lunch and soda. Youth who sign up to attend are expected to participate in all parts of the event. (meeting, lunch and 1/2 hour of activity - so far it has just been basketball) Food is ordered for everyone who signs up. If you eat out before, you still need to pay for your pizza and you are welcome to take it home. Basketball does not begin until 12:30. This gives our adult volunteers and chance to eat lunch too. Youth are not to be unsupervised in the FLC. If you are not interested in playing basketball the youth room will be open to play pool, games or ping-pong ONLY if there are enough adults to supervise. Safe Church calls for two adults present for all activities.

We can always use MORE volunteers! Volunteers do not need to pay for lunch but you do need to sign up by the Friday before.