

Youth News

Sr High Lenten Study

The season of Lent was not a big focus of the Brethren of the past as much as other Christian denominations. However, today there is a greater emphasis to use this time leading in to the Celebration of Easter, as a time to think more deeply about our faith, our commitments, and our path as Christians. Some make plans to give up things like chocolate. Others make sacrifices like giving up television or fasting.

Our Sr High Sunday School class will be using the season of Lent to continue discussing our faith. The study invites us to journey through reflection, prayer, celebration, and engagement in the ministry and life of Christ during the next six weeks. The material was created by the ministry of World Vision.

As part of the study each week we are asked to share a donation as a reminder of those in need. It is not required that everyone participate in this way - but even calculating the cost would be worth doing to understand the value of the things we take for granted.

Our lessons will continue our focus on the awareness of issues of hunger, and local and global food needs. The work in Youth Time, to raise funds for the Lancaster County Council of Churches Food Bank, and this years Christian Citizenship Seminar theme of Childhood poverty have a similar point.

Each Sr High family has been given a study guide to follow along. We welcome you to continue the conversation at home.

The Waters of Baptism

Youth interested in exploring what it means to join the Christian faith and the church through the act of baptism should contact Linda Byers. A service of baptism will be held on Palm Sunday. 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 begin on this journey.

Hearts Made for Love

If you Google "February" the first images that appear are of hearts and the colors red and pink. Valentine's day is smack in the middle but the whole month carries this theme of love. The greatest love we should all know is the love of God. We should all know that God's love for us is beyond measure and without end. God desires our hearts. He wants us to desire to follow Him and deeply know how loved we are so we can love others.

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13: 34-35

The English language fails to have words that describe different types of love - love of friends, love for parents, love of that special someone - we just have one word, "love". My favorite definition for love is found in 1st Corinthians chapter 13. It defines what it means to love beyond the love that just makes us feel good and defines love by the way we should behave.

"Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand it's own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when other do wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him." - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Holding ourselves to this standard is difficult. Do we love as God would have us love? Let us work to practice this love as a reflection of the Love God has for us.

- Linda B

Sr High Youth Sunday

It's not too far off to begin making plans for our **Sr High Youth Sunday - May 5**. This year the theme is - "In God's Image" and we will be sharing during the Morning Psalm services. Sharing during Morning Psalm usually means that our group will need to present the message twice.

Youth Sunday is a celebration for all Brethren youth across the country. The theme, ideas and scripture readings are developed by the National Youth Cabinet. This idea material is available on the Church of the Brethren website as a resource for church youth groups to use as a tool to begin planning the service.

All Sr High Youth (grades 9 to 12) are invited to participate. **If you attend any worship, or Sunday School or youth activity at Lancaster CoB - you are invited to participate.** There are parts to read, sometimes a skit, we'll need a few to take offering, play music or sing or dance, plan the service, or share something creative that applies to the theme and message for the day. Participation does not mean you need to be up front. We could even use a volunteer to help behind the scenes with the power point slides. This Sunday should celebrate God's message through the leadership of our youth and there are lots of ways for you to express yourself.

We'll need to begin by forming a core group of Sr High to create a vision for the services. We'll look at the parts of worship (call to worship, prayer, invocation, music...) and help to encourage each other to find roles we are comfortable to share. In the past, youth who felt called were invited to write and share a message based on the theme. We'll look first for those willing to volunteer for this role but

there are many ways to include a time of ministry - by inviting someone who inspires youth to speak or find or create a video message. There are any number of ways to share the message and create a worshipful service. This can be as simple or as complicated as we have willing participants and ideas that support the theme of the message.



Any youth willing to volunteer to help in arranging and organizing this service - please get in touch with Linda (before the end of Feb.) so we can meet together and begin to plan. We will also need to know who is planning to participate on May 5 and if you are willing or not to be up front or to have a speaking role. Watch your email for the request to participate. This will help the planning volunteers to know how many roles to fill and fit the parts to skills. Also, think about the theme and if you have any creative ideas you could envision for the service including music or art. Current material does not include a "scripture jam" or a video component - but anyone willing to work on that would be welcome to give it a go.

At Youth Time in March (March 3) we'll take our first 30 minutes to begin focusing on Youth Sunday.

Brief News You Can Use

Messages of Thanks

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

Thanks to our Jr High Sunday School teacher, Mark Forsha and to Linda Husted for teaching Sr High.

Thanks to everyone who helps at our Jr and Sr High Spaghetti lunch: Betz's, Snyder's, Murray's, Snyder's, Brubaker's, Shearer's - and many others who helped in setting up tables and cleaning up.

New Youth Faces

We have a few new youth who have been regularly attending our Sunday School and WNL program. If you see them around be sure to introduce yourself. There are three siblings, Nancy, Kevin and Julie. Nancy and Kevin are juniors at McCaskey and younger sister Julie is in 8th grade at Hand Middle School. Also, they have already brought along a couple of friends: Juan and Jammie (her nickname). They are both in middle school at Hand also. All of these youth get a ride to our church with neighbors who are attending the Maranatha Fellowship.

New Nephew

Stephanie Reynolds is an Aunt. That makes Ricky and Doris grandparents too. Ashley delivered her baby, Logan Robert on Jan. 9. May we all support the Reynolds family with our prayers as they welcome a new member and adjust to new change.

GO YOUTH - !

A couple of our youth are now licensed to drive. Cory Betz and Connor Snyder can now be in command of a motor vehicle. Way to go guys!

We have several student accomplishments to cheer. Ava Bowser (in the MT school district) was the "Student of the Month" in January and Paige Snyder made the Distinguished Honor Roll (in the CV school district). Giovanni Phillips achieved high honor roll in his class (in the Ephrata school district)

Senior, Chris Holsinger, was accepted to Juniata College, one of our Brethren founded schools in Huntingdon, PA. Colin Betz has been accepted to two universities (Pitt and Penn State) but he is still waiting to hear back from another before choosing.

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

Wednesday Night Live

Began again January 16. There is new and changing vision for the youth at WNL. The hope is to incorporate mostly musical into the time together. Matt Shenk and Jamie Nace will be leading the movement to teach piano, drums, music theory and music reading to all youth who come out on Weds. nights. This is a once a week group lesson. (at no cost) More instruments like guitar and bass may be added. Those interested in singing are welcome too. This effort is to support the music ministry of our church and encourage youth participation in that ministry.

Sr High All-Nighter

The date: March 8-9.

The cost: \$10 per youth.

This year it will be held at the Ephrata Church of the Brethren and the theme will be a little different than years passed. To bring some awareness to those who go without food, the plan is to collect non-perishable food items to donate to local missions/ food banks.

We will also hear stories throughout the night from those working in those missions and about how they are feeding individuals physical hunger and spiritual hunger. In light of this theme, we will provide a juice bar overnight, but no food. At the end of our time together we will serve a delicious breakfast to break the fast. To keep us busy during the night we will be bowling, playing games, and much more!

Safe Church Approval

We will be working to follow new guidelines for standards and practices that will affect everyone.

We will begin with a training session for ALL adults who are needed as volunteers so we can continue to support our youth in faith building opportunities. This need includes any parents who will volunteer as advisors or chaperones at any Jr or Sr High event. The standard requires at least two approved adults to be present at all events.

Parents, please plan to attend our training on May 4 at the Lancaster Brethren in Christ Church 8:15 to 12. An invitation will be in your mailbox. Please respond ASAP

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 Ski Trip to Big Boulder

February 23, Sr High will spend a day on the slopes. We will leave from the Church parking lot by 8:00AM. Be sure to bring money for Breakfast at McDonald's on the way up. Cost of a lift ticket is \$50 and ski or snowboard rentals will be \$32 - this does not include the tax. (helmet rental is \$12 extra) Price is a little less for youth under 16. Youth will be responsible for their own payment. We can expect (if weather conditions are good) to stay at the slopes until 4:30. From there we are invited to dinner at the cabin with Doug and Donna Lunger before heading home. Youth can also bring along dry clothes for the ride home. **We will be in need of another adult to travel along - to ski, snowboard or catch up on a book in the lodge.** The trip - of course, is weather permitted. If we get a blizzard or ice, we'll need to evaluate the risk. E-mail sign up will be forwarded two weeks before the trip.

Register NOW for the National Jr High Confer.

Parents of Jr High Youth - you must go online to register your youth for the **National Jr High Conference**. This is our trip for the summer. We are not planning to attend work camp as a group.

Youth total cost for the trip will be \$52. THE CHURCH WILL PAY THE DEPOSIT - but you need to send (forward the email) the confirmation to Linda.

The denomination needs a check to hold the registration within two weeks of registering - Please don't delay - We'd like to send just one check for the whole group.

We would like ALL who are going to register BY - JANUARY 18 - next Friday

Return confirmation to this email address:
lancob.youth@comcast.net
Linda will be at the church on Wednesday night - Jan 16 (after youth at 7:30) to help anyone with registration

REMEMBER ALSO:

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 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).

Brethren website to register is:
<http://www.brethren.org/yya/njhc/>

February Events

- Feb 3 - Sr High** "Souper Bowl of Caring" Collection Day
- Feb 10 - Sr High** Soup and Salad meet in the kitchen @ 9:00 Canned Goods Collection Day
- Feb 15-16 - Jr High** Lock-in @ LVC
- Feb 23 - Sr High** Ski Trip to Big Boulder - 8:00AM-9:00PM



Jr High Lock-in at LVC

Stay up all night long with about 100 other youth and youth leaders to play games, go swimming, watch a movie, or create something crafty. SOUNDS LIKE FUN ! It's the annual District Lock-in at the gym at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA.

Registration Deadline:
 February 11

Contact Linda to register. Parent permission slip is needed + medical form on file.
 Cost: \$10 per Youth.

March Events

- Mar 3 - Sr High** - Youth Time 11:30 prepare for Youth Sunday
- Mar 8-9 - Sr High** - ALL Nighter
- Mar 17 - Sr High** Soup and Salad meet in the kitchen @ 9:00 Green Deserts