

Youth and Family Ministry Team 2009 Annual Report

Team members: Steven Hemmer, coordinator of middle school youth & family ministry; Alli Van Roekel, coordinator of high school youth & family ministry; Pastor April Dietz; Deacons Alan Baldwin and Paul Bretsen; Sarah Boaz, Bev Branchaud, Kevin Johnson and Lisa Westra.

High School:

Our ministry to high school students has been through a lot of spontaneous relational work by staff and team members. Our organized activities have included:

Cell Groups - ongoing student-led weekly small groups gathering in homes for fellowship, Bible study and prayer

Xcell Gatherings - consisting of worship, games or service projects.

Summertime opportunities - Michigan workcamp, Quaker Ridge camp, Mexico Mission, and various local recreational outings.

Retreats - Purity Retreat, Dare2Share, Ski Trip, 30-Hour Famine, 20/20 Vision Casting Retreat

Building / Grounds improvements - New sand volleyball court at West Campus, new couches for East Campus youth room

Other noted activities - Easter breakfast, Graduation Recognition

Middle School:

Organized middle school programs and activities include:

Confirmation - Weekly ministry in which the pastors rotate teaching responsibilities between the East and West Campus, and 15 small group table leaders lead 114 students (a growth of 21percent from previous year) through small group discussions. We added a fourth option for Confirmation; now students can attend at 4:30 or 6 p.m. Wednesday nights at the East Campus or the West Campus.

Revolution - consisting of fellowship, life applicable lessons and game time.

Student Leadership Team - this team was implemented in the summer and consists of 12 students who are committed to the middle school ministry and want to have a say in what happens in their ministry. It meets for an hour before Revolution.

Summer Opportunities - Vacation Bible School at the East and West campuses and Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp in Iowa

Retreats and other special events - Okoboji spring and fall recharges, 30-Hour Famine, Purity Retreat, Halo-ween Lock-in and diaper drive (125 pounds of diapers donated to the Lydia House), bonfires, Christmas caroling at Montclair Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Romans & Christians, Family Night at Thunder Alley

Other points of interest:

We experienced a significant shift in Confirmation students this year.

2008-2009 - 51 students EAST, 39 Students WEST

2009-2010 - 41 students EAST, 73 Students WEST

Our students are doing a fantastic job of outreach.

About 30 percent of attendees at special events are friends of LCM students.