

Children, Youth & Family News



Reflection for the Journey (Godstock 2017 thoughts)

In case you didn't know, in November I had the pleasure of taking 5 of our high school youth to Eau Claire for a weekend retreat where, along with about 250 other NWSWI high school youth, we spent the weekend hearing from speakers, worshipping, learning, eating, and growing in faith.

This weekend has had such an impact on youth through the years, we even had 3 college freshmen come back for a few hours.

One of the highlights was the speakers we had. Missy Buttry Rock & Andrew Rock are both champion runners. Andrew won an Olympic Gold medal in 2004. This married couple shared stories from their running careers as well as stories about their experiences with adoption.

For me, it was listening to Andrew that meant the most. While his story is not my story, there were things that I could relate to.

"God surrounds us with people" Even in our lowest points, when we might think we are so alone. God surrounds us with people, if we open ourselves to them. He might even surround us with family we never expected.

"I represent all the people who got me to this point" We are not alone. Every person that has impacted you, taught you, walked with you. While Andy was talking about at the Olympics, this is true in life as well! Every person that has given of themselves, left a little piece with you.

"When we step out in faith...we can learn from the journey" The Bible says

over 365 times, "Do not be afraid". This journey is scary! We are asked to follow God's call on our lives, to step out in faith. That could mean leaving the comforts of home, that could mean moving to a place where you know no one. Even if we fail, we can learn and grow.

"It was hard. It's not easy now. But it's worth it!" God never promised that this journey would be easy. But we all know that the things we work hardest for have the greatest impact. Are we ready to put in the work?

I'm going to leave you with a question that Andy asked himself, one that we all can ask ourselves every day:

"God has blessed you with an opportunity, what are you going to do with it?"

Save the Date: (more on the back)

- ☺ Dec 2—4:30pm Christmas Parade 12-4pm—Xmas Prog. Props
- ☺ Dec 3 @11:45am—NYG Mtg 2:30p—The Star @Micon
- ☺ Dec 6 @5:30pm—NWSWI Cross+Gen Generosity Project HSYG at Irvine Park
- ☺ Dec 9—9a-3p Bell Ringing 3:30-8p—Xmas Prog. Props
- ☺ Dec 10—11:30a Youth & Ed 7-8:30p—Friend in Faith
- ☺ Dec 16 @9am—Cookie Bake 1p—Xmas Prog. Rehearsal
- ☺ Dec 17 @10:15am—Xmas Prog.
- ☺ Dec 20 @5:30pm—Xmas Caroling
- ☺ Dec 26—Movie Night: Star Wars
- ☺ Jan 7 @1:30p ECCT Show
- ☺ Jan—Noodles & Co. Benefit Night
- ☺ Jan 31—Guest Speaker: Dave Ellingson "Paddle Pilgrim"
- ☺ Feb 1—Theology on Tap
- ☺ Feb 14—Ash Wednesday

Education

Are you wondering what we will be using for curriculum this year? Well here you go!

Elementary classes will be again following the Whirl! Lectionary Curriculum from Augsburg.

Middle School classes will be following the CoLABorate curriculum from Augsburg.

High School Bible study will be focusing on a year with Jesus.

Film & Faith has a wide variety of movies that we will be looking at!

Adults just finished a book study. Watch for information on what is coming next!

NO YOUTH MIDDLE HOUR on November 26

Come help decorate the sanctuary

A new part of midweek!

On the first and third Wednesdays families are invited to join us for a different experience.

The first Wednesday of the month will be a family focused evening, with activities for all ages!

Dec 6: Cross+Gen NWSWI The Generosity Project

The 2nd Wed of the month will be a learning event!

Dec 13

The third Wednesday of the month will be a focus on service. There will be opportunities for all ages to practice serving!

Dec 20: All Church Christmas Caroling

We will catch the bus at 5:30pm and back about 7pm.

Midweek Program Schedule

Afterschool Program (MS/HS)	3:45-4:55pm
Dinner—\$3/meal (ALL ARE WELCOME)	4:55-5:45pm
Education Hour (Elementary/MS/HS)	5:30-7pm
*Worship	6:30-7pm
High School Youth Group	7:05-8:25pm



If you would like to get the weekly emails and you do not, please email Shannon ASAP! They go out every Tuesday night!



Youth Ministry Stuff

TACO Tuesday

We will be continuing TACO Tuesday this year on the 2nd Tuesday of the month for the high school youth. This month will be SOUP!

T-shirt design contest

The votes are in! Our winning design was #God. If you did not pre-order your gear on your education registration, you can order now until December 11. Order forms available at the youth table or with Shannon.

Movie Night: Star Wars

Calling all you movie fans. If you are looking for something to do over Christ-

mas Break, want an excuse to get out of the house, or just want to see the movie again, we will be going to the \$5 Tuesday movie of the new Star Wars movie on 12/26. Time TBD. Talk to Shannon if interested.

Cookie Bake

This fun day of playing with chocolate, singing Christmas Carols, and putting together cookie orders is one you won't want to miss! It is a fundraiser, but all youth are welcome to participate. Saturday, December 16th starting at 9am. Talk to Shannon or Toni if you are planning on being there!

SAVE THE DATE: Cont'd

High School Snow Trip Overnight

Save the Date! February 9-10. We will have more information including cost, details, and registration/sign-up available Dec. 10.

Middle School Dells Overnight

Save the Date! February 24-25. We will have more information including cost, details, and registration/sign-up available Dec. 10.

Elementary Recharge Overnight

March 2-3, for youth in grades 3-5. We will have more information including cost, details, and registration/sign-up available Dec. 10.

Spring Lock-in

This year's Spring Lock-in will be April 21-22, 2018. This is open to all youth in grades 6-12. More information will be available as the date gets closer!

Brewers at the Twins

I know it's early... but schedule is out. We will be looking to take a group to the game again on Friday, May 18 for the 7:10p game. If you are interested, please see Shannon!

Timberwolves game

We are looking into dates for a game. We won't get to see the Bucks, but more info coming soon!

Youth & Ed Committee

The youth & education committee is essential to keeping the youth ministry going at Our Saviour's. This group plans, organizes, sets up, serves, leads, supports, reviews, budgets, and so much more! If you are interested in being a part of the board or in helping to support this board, please email Kim Helgeson.
Next Mtg: Dec 10 @11:30am

Family Ministry Stuff

Cross+Gen Generosity Project

The NWSWI partners with congregations in the synod to put on events catered to all ages about generosity. Join us after dinner on December 6 for this free event. The synod asks for equal numbers youth and adults, and adults of all ages.

Christmas Parade: Downtown

If you are wanting someone to watch the Christmas Parade with this year, join us at 4:30am coffeehouse at 4:30pm to get seats together and have some hot chocolate!

Family day @Micon: THE STAR

We will be going to see the animated film "The Star" about the nativity from the animals perspective. Cost is \$15/person to cover movie, snack & drink, w/ pizza buffet to follow. Text Shannon if you are interested so she can RSVP.

Bell Ringing for Salvation Army

There is plenty of room on the sign up sheet for people to help us ring the

bells at Downtown Gordy's on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9am-3pm. Sign up for a shift with friends and family!

Christmas Program

If you are interested in being a part of this year's LEGO Christmas, contact Shannon, Jared, or Toni. The Christmas program will be Sun Dec 17 @10:15am. We will be working on props Sat. 12/2 from 12-4pm and Sat 12/9 from 3:30-8pm. Rehearsal will be Sat 12/16 at 1pm.

Christmas Caroling

All are encouraged to come catch the bus at 5:30pm on Wednesday 12/20 after our 5pm dinner of Hot Dogs at church. We will then go out caroling at a couple of places, to be back by 7pm.

EC Children's Theater: Jan 7 @1:30p

All are welcome to join us to see the production of "And Then They Came For Me: Remembering Anne Frank" Sign up no later than Dec 13 to get your spot. Students w/ ID and youth 12 and younger are \$8. Adults & Seniors are \$14.

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering: Houston (June 24-July 2)

Fundraisers & Important Dates:

Cookie orders on sale
NOW-Dec 10

Cookie Bake—Sat Dec 16
Cookies ready for pickup Dec 17

January—Benefit night at
Noodles & Company

March 15—St. Patty's Day
Dinner & Auction

April 8—Spring Breakfast

May—Wall of Giving



We have a great group signed up to go to Houston this summer. (If you are still interested, talk to Shannon. Deadline is 1/3).

We are now going to focus on fundraising, group building, and planning for our week in Texas.

Please don't miss the monthly meetings. We want your input!

Dec 3 @11:45am
Jan 7 @11:30am