



*by Kristi
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Youth Director*

YOP MISSION: The goal of our student ministry is to reveal the truth to teenagers about God's love, equip them to have a Christ-like wisdom and offer themselves in service, in order to magnify God's holy name.

Easter Greetings to you! Jesus Christ is Risen today, Hallelujah!!! Thanks so much to Pastor Cathi and Pastor Nelson for their Lenten messages. We invite you to come to the Youth Sunrise Service at Zion Cemetery at 7:00 a.m. Breakfast will be served in the parish hall after the service. YUM!

Leading up to the Easter season is such a time of reflection, hope and joy. For me, anticipating and waiting for Easter is a similar feeling of how I felt when the county 4-H show was the next day! We were so excited, working so hard to please the judge and planning ahead. Practice and more practice! We gave it our very best. I feel that Jesus wants that every day from us. All glory be to Jesus who saves us from our sins, death and the devil.

How about a challenge? I heard about this on "Family Life Today" on the radio. We as Christians can make Easter more like Easter. The secular world is all about bunnies, Easter eggs and baskets. If we set our tables with centerpieces with a Christian theme such as a container with 3 crosses or a mini resurrection garden, we are sharing our faith and giving Jesus the glory and thanks for all he has done. Check it out on <http://wearethatfamily.com/2012/03/diy-mini-resurrection-garden>. It would be a great family project!

I want to thank everyone for the prayers and contributions made for our Mission project in Omaha. Everyone needs to visit a Mission sometime! As we walked into the mission, we saw a man being kind and helpful. He was cleaning floors, opening doors for people, asking questions and talking with people he met. This man later told us that he lived at the mission, but he was so glad to "give back" by doing all he could because the shelter has helped him so much.

How humbled we were by the way people coming through the serving line, so thankful and polite. People living at a mission are sometimes viewed as down-and-out individuals. Most of them are people just like you and me, wanting to be loved and appreciated. The Mission serves 172 people at one mealtime. They serve 2000 meals a day which includes breakfast, lunch, sack lunches for those going to work. The last meal is dinner. There are separate times when the women and children eat and times when the men eat. The men are not allowed to sit with the women and so they stand along the side of the room with their plates waiting for the women to finish. They have just built a new living facility for families, women and children. The hallways are narrow, the rooms small but nice. They do have a playground for the children and a "day room" for people to watch TV, read, etc. There is also a men's campus which we didn't tour. The mission also has an "over-flow" room with 80 sleeping bags on the floor. At the time we were there, the room was filled. I asked her what they do if someone new coming in needs a place to stay. She said they just can't take anymore than they already have. The residents have a "point system" when they have good behavior, they are allowed privileges through their points earned. Some of the resources were parenting classes, computer classes and working in the kitchen.

What do you think is an average age of homeless person? So sad, but it is a 7 year old. We saw many children there.

Where did we see Jesus working on our trip?

Kristi: During the tour at the Crisis Pregnancy Center, I saw Jesus working through the passion on the tour director's face as she told us how many babies are saved through their clinic. The employees pray every noon during their lunch break for the women who will be coming in to make a choice. Many babies are saved when the women see their babies for the 1st time through the ultrasound.

Adam Roth: I saw Jesus working through others at the Open Door Mission. It takes a lot of hard work to serve the meals. These people have an opportunity to serve others and they took the challenge.

Ethan Meerkatz: I saw Jesus when our group was putting things on the shelves at the homeless shelter store. The people kept digging into the box to find what they wanted, while we were trying to organize it. These people think they need things right away and can't just wait until we put it on the shelves.

Noah Mosier: I definitely saw Jesus working at Omaha shelter when we were serving them their food.

Tate Mosier: I saw Jesus working through all volunteers who helped serve every week at the Mission.

Ryan Brandt: I saw Jesus working through the special computer rooms that are set up at the mission for the high school kids to finish their classes to get their GED diploma.

Brady Fangmeyer: I saw Jesus working when we were helping at the Outreach Center. I especially liked the smiles we put on their faces.

Amanda Ostdiek: I saw Jesus working when we were at the soup kitchen through Laura. She was an up-beat, positive person and making sure everyone kept moving and busy; either with serving, preparing the food or cleaning up to provide for all those in need.

Tyra Mohrmann: I saw Jesus in the people at the diner. They all were smiling and joking around with each other. Even though they are in a tough position, they still seemed happy to be there.

Amanda Schultz: I saw Jesus working through the volunteers at the shelter. They gave up so much time and energy for the well being of the under-privileged. I saw Jesus in the way the tutors helped teach the kids who weren't doing well in school.

Kimberly Bargaen: I saw Jesus at the mission with all the people who were trying to get over addictions and those who were depressed. It showed how they were trying to make things better for their lives.

Braelyn Isernhagen: I saw Jesus working through everyone that was helping and working at the Omaha People's Mission. Their commitment and compassion for the mission was great.

Nate Brandt: I saw Jesus working by how appreciative the people were as they received a hot meal.

Youth Activities for April:

April 1: Youth night at the YOP house with supper at 6:30. We will then go to the Last Supper Pageant in Chester. If you haven't seen it, you will really like it, very meaningful.

April 5: Easter Sunrise Service starting at 7:00 a.m. Be at church at 6:15 a.m. to load up chairs.

April 18: Bingo 9:00 a.m. at the Nursing Home

April 26: Activity night. We'll be painting another Bible verse on the B-ball court.

Your sister in Jesus, the Risen Lord!

Kristi Duensing, Peace Lutheran Youth Director

