



October 2015 - by Kristi Duensing, Youth Director

Hello dear friends of Peace. What an awesome God we have – a possibility of a new Pastor for us! Prayers for a new Pastor, or whoever we do call later, will be experiencing many changes and adjustments, new names and faces to learn. As we continue to pray for all, we especially thank the Peace Call Committee for continued diligence and hard work!

Some of our Peace Youth have started a class by Dave Ramsey called Generation Change. It focuses on staying out of debt during college. By sticking to God's plan of how we are to manage our money, we are able to give to God first, and then think of ourselves. In our class, we each calculated individual budgets. Then, we were to adjust our budget by pretending we had a \$300 student loan monthly payment to make. It was

challenging for the kids to change figures to make their budgets balance. Ouch!...having to cut back on their favorite items, like entertainment and clothing, that's hard. What about a credit card? At college, many will try to offer you a credit card, PLUS you might get a FREE T-shirt! You may think that sounds like a good deal, but it is not! Just having a credit card in your pocket is too much temptation. Also, thanks to Pastor BJ Fouts, Sarah Werner and the Friedensau students for participating in the classes.

At the August LCMC District Gathering in Sioux City, IA in August, Connie Eitzmann and I joined 91 other LCMC members for some very good discussions on youth of the church. The main speaker was Dr. Rich Melheim, who has appeared on at least 50 TV network news programs. He is promoting a new project for families at home entitled "The Faith Five". Dr. Melheim has invested his ministry in creating Christian education systems that pull parents into the core of their children, youth and family with this ministry "every night in every home". We will be telling you more about this in the next newsletter. Also, Pastor Doyle Karst told us of the work being done on a study for the past year entitled "Heartland District Youth Survey", coming up with some great ideas for youth gatherings and Bible studies. One study found that the age at which most people leave the church is in their high school and college years. What can we do to stop this trend? Many in attendance shared their own church's ideas of how to keep young people involved. Here are a few:

- 1) Dr. Melheim taught us how the combination of Scripture, prayer, and touch causes a chemical reaction in the brain which naturally engages us.
- 2) After 40 days of doing something, it naturally becomes a habit. Maybe we could make a daily call to an elderly or sick person. Wouldn't it be fun? Think how that person would look forward to that call and be refreshed!
- 3) A Bible verse is naturally learned by reading it together at the beginning of the class, filling in the empty blanks during the class, and re-reading the verse at the end of the class. So, those memory verses are always available in their minds.
- 4) Blessing someone. For instance, we bless each other such as 'have a safe trip', or 'be careful', or 'how can I pray for you?' These blessings often happen in a circle. When we bless someone, it comes back to us. Words are powerful!
- 5) Start a buddy-talk with a younger member of the congregation. Take them out for a Coke, a cookie, or attend an activity. Just 10 minutes will have lasting effects on the conversation you share. Continue to visit with them at church.
- 6) Put up a prayer box for prayer requests at the County Fair. Someone will be available to pray with them and later send them a card, so they know they are still being prayed for.

There are many ways we can help keep our young people loving Jesus. I believe that personal interaction is missing in this generation. If we communicate face to face, more memories of that experience will stick with them.

ACTIVITIES COMING UP:

Wed., Oct. 7 after practice, about 6:15 p.m.: Youth night with supper at the YOP house

Sunday, Oct. 11, Annual Youth noon fund-raiser meal in the Parish Hall (food donation lists will be coming out next week)

Sunday, Oct.25, Activity night at 7:00 p.m. at the YOP house

Thank you for praying for our youth. They are indeed blessings to me!

Kristi Duensing, Peace Lutheran Youth Director