



*Summer 2016 - by Kristi Duensing, Youth Director*

Yeah... school is done! I bet you are all looking forward to spending time doing something other than studying. Isn't it awesome, how God gives us different seasons in our lives to praise Him!

Soon, on June 19-25<sup>th</sup>, 6 kids and 4 adults will be traveling to Kansas City, KS, for our Youth Works Mission Trip. We will be doing projects such as: Serving with local organizations, nursing homes, food pantries, and helping with Youth Works' Outrageous Sports and Bible Camp for the local youth. Throughout the Bethel Neighborhood Center, we will also be painting, doing yard clean up, and community beautification. We serve in a soup kitchen and Food Bank, and visit a homeless shelter. Other work sites are La Paz Sports Club, Paul's Episcopal Food Pantry, and the Center of Hope. One unique aspect of this community is that we have an opportunity to engage with a strong Latino cultural presence. Our group

will take a tour of the Mexican consulate, hear a local community expert talk about immigration issues in the neighborhood, and also learn how to Salsa dance! As you can see, we will be BUSY!

Please pray for us! Pastor Rich & Anita, Kristi, Chandra Hillman, Mei Kirchoff, Anthony Hillman, Hope Reinke, Tyra Mohrmann, Meghan Brandt, and Mariah Motto thank you, as we are striving to be Jesus' hands and feet! Here are 5 specific ways you can pray for us, and the communities we will be working with:

**1. Pray for reconciliation for communities experiencing racial tensions.** In some of the communities we serve in, there is racial divides, creating barriers between people. Pray for unity among all people in these communities, and that these barriers would be broken down.

**2. Pray for indigenous leadership.** We desire the community to rise up, and lead movements in their own neighborhoods. We have seen through Youth Works, that their leadership is far more powerful, and effective, than outside leaders coming in. Pray that locals would see opportunities for change, and hope for the future. Pray that when a need exists, Peace Youth would be connected to the right resource.

**3. Pray against corruption within leadership.** Many problems and conflicts in this community are a direct result of corruption and manipulation, by those in a leadership role. Pray for accountability for leaders in these communities, to stop the cycle of corruptive leadership.

**4. Pray for resources.** Many of these Latino people are not connected to sustainable resources, such as healthy food, clean water, and everyday utilities. In many communities, there is a feeling of hopelessness. This hopelessness is coming from a lack of job opportunities, the cycle of poverty, the lack of educational opportunities, etc.

**5. Pray for energy for local leaders.** We work with many local leaders who do incredible things in their communities, but the reality is that they cannot do it alone. Pray that these leaders would not burn out, but rather be energized.

**Other Youth Activities:** June 13-17: Wednesday night is great fun, at Royal Family Kids' hot dog/marshmallow roast at Covenant Cedars Bible camp, near Hordville. This camp is for foster and/or abused children. If any adults would also like to come along, let me know. They are always looking for more people to experience the joy of this camp, and the satisfaction we have by making their young lives better. Thanks Women of Peace for the blankets! Such a blessing!

I want to commend these Deshler college-age students, who spend a week of their time, loving on these RFKC Kids: Gage, Emma and Elle Baker; Kyle, Luke and Dana Dlouhy; Adam Duensing, Ashley Hillman, Noah Mosier, Eric and Isaac Nielsen; Ashton Oakman, Katie Roth and Carlee Schardt. Peace Church should be very proud of their commitment to change the lives of these children, who come into camp sad and lonely, and leave as smiling, happy children, just by having the attention and love at camp they don't receive at home. Deshler's college kids are awesome! Tell them thanks when you see them!

Thank you for your Peace Pizza purchases! This money is being used to help fund our Compassion Child in Tanzania. We currently have a negative balance in our Compassion fund. We want to raise money, so we can continue to support her another 4 years. She is 18 now. Compassion International recommends we keep supporting her until age 21.

Enjoy the summer!  
Your sister in Christ,  
*Kristi Duensing, Peace Lutheran Youth Director*