



*By Kristi Duensing
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.

Happy New Year 2015!

Thanks goes to all Sunday School children and High School youth who presented programs and worship services this past year. It's fun watching these kids, seeing their faith grow and making memories that will remain forever.

Thanks to parents who gave up precious time with your kids so that they can practice and prepare for these services. Thanks especially to Connie Eitzmann, Cindy Mueller, Marla Maschmann and Pastor Cathi for all their ideas, time and dedication to our kids. I love the worship song, *Blessed be Your Name*. Lifting up Jesus high in our world is so vital. Others can have hope and see this peace in us by simply loving Jesus. We can make such a difference!

The Body of Christ is the primary vehicle through which Jesus is lifted up in our world. If He is truly lifted high in our world, can we have a greater impact across our nation? Do our collective voices make it loud enough to make a difference? Can we erase the hurts of people simply by loving them? Will just a smile make someone's mood change? I believe Jesus wants us to stay on this track. John 12:32 says "And I, when lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." This statement is dependent upon our actions. We don't have to beat anyone over the head with the Gospel. We don't have to compromise our beliefs to get along; we lift Jesus up. He will take it from there!

Every day, the opportunities God gives to us are just a step away. Take time to think about what we could do to lift up the name of Jesus this New Year. As I look forward to another year of watching my grandsons grow, talk and learn something new each day, I take a step back and say to myself; "How can I grow, talk and learn something new about Jesus every day? He has given me so much. I must stop to listen for his voice". Thanks be to God as we lift Him high in 2015!

Thanks to your donations, our congregation gave \$682.00 to Compassion International. Hurting people will now have livestock, newborn care, emergency feeding, shelter, support and parasite control. The Youth of Peace matched the congregation's giving amounts. Thank you for being a part of helping people in need!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN JANUARY:

January 7th Study night at YOP House, supper 6:30

January 11th PEPY Meeting in the Jr. High Class Room after church.

January 18th Movie Night at the YOP house 7:00 p.m.

January 25^h Annual Meeting with a meal following the meeting (sponsored by Youth of Peace). We will be serving Italian pastas, garlic bread, salads and desserts. Free will offering / Money raised goes towards our next mission trip, probably in 2016.

Blessings,

Kristi Duensing, Peace Youth Director