



January 2016 *by Youth Director, Kristi Duensing*

Happy New Year 2016! I couldn't be more proud of our youth for the Black Light presentation, "It's all about the cross" on Christmas Eve. After many hours of practicing, we were blessed to hear how many of you were inspired by the presentation. As I sat and watched the kids perform, I thought a lot about my sin and how much Jesus loves me despite my mistakes. What an awesome God we have! Thanks for all who helped put the program together. We hope to do it again this winter during the Lenten season.

As we anticipate a new year, let's stop and think about how much God wants us to spend time alone with Him. In Sunday School, we were discussing how God longs to satisfy our hunger. He knows EVERYTHING about us. He's counted every hair on our heads, and thinks about us more than the grains of the sand. God calls us His beloved, and longs for us to know, to greater depths, "the breadth, and length, and height, and depth" of His great love for us (Ephesians 3:18). Also, in John 10:27, it says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, they follow me". Doesn't that just give you goosebumps!?! Do we stop to think about our senses when we pray? What do we feel? How aware are we of His presence? Do we recognize when He gives us a thought, or a nudge to do something for Him? Are we conscious of how He leads us? We pray that God would renew us, consume us and bless us with His never-ending love!

In January, youth activities planned are:

Wednesday, Jan. 6: Youth Night with supper at the YOP House;

Sunday, Jan. 17, following worship: **PEPY meeting** in the basement for parents and youth who are going to the LCMC youth gathering in Des Moines this summer.

Sunday, Jan. 17: NO ACTIVITY NIGHT (as kids are so busy with basketball games.)

Thursday, Jan. 21, 6:45 p.m.: Winter Jam Concert, Council Bluffs, IA. Do any parents want to help drive? It's a great concert with only a \$10.00 cover charge. Some of the groups are: For King and Country, Matthew West, Crowder, Newsong, Sidewalk Prophets, and KB, among other artists and speakers. We will leave at 4:00 p.m. from the High School parking lot. Bring \$10 for the show and some extra money for a quick supper on our way. Bring a friend along if you like!

Sunday, Jan. 24: Youth of Peace Fund-Raising Noon Meal following the Annual Meeting

Blessings to you in this new year of our Lord 2016! ~ *Kristi Duensing, Youth Director*