



Youth Ministry reflections from October 2011

By Pr. Craig "PC" Minich

* **Family Ministry** (For all of God's children, especially for families with children 11 yo & under) & **W.E.B.S:** (our 2nd – 5th grade group which stands for **W**elcome, **E**xperience, **B**elong and **S**hare) WEBS met on 10/2/2011 at St. Paul. We had 8 youth attend! We ate lunch together (preceded by our "Jaws" singing table grace). We played an ice-breaker game of the old school video game Ms. Pacman – playing cooperatively. We answered some getting-to-know-you questions, making sure we knew everyone's name and welcomed everyone. We went to the sanctuary to learn some guided prayer techniques and talked about what God looks like, how we pray, what prayer is, and we shared our prayers with each other. We also played the game 'sardines'! Fun! Next Event is our WEBS meeting on November 6th at St. Paul Lutheran. Bring a friend!

The family ministry Halloween party & Haunted House hosted by St. Paul Lutheran occurred after the writing of this article – check us out next month for updates about our "spook"tacular event!

* **M.Y.L.K** (our middle school youth group or **M**iddle **Y**outh - **L**utheran **K**ids): Our Middle School Youth Group met on October 9th where we ate lunch, prayed, talked about what we were going to be for Halloween, had a Bible study, and energetically and frenetically planned our portion of the Haunted House.

On October 21st & 22nd we had a "Double Impact" service sleepover at Trinity-Oakland. We ate dinner, carved pumpkins (Pr. Craig had, astonishingly, NEVER before carved a pumpkin), and we helped prep food for the nursing home dinner that Trinity-Oakland parishioners and MYLK volunteers would prepare for staff and residents at Willowtree Rehabilitation and Nursing Care Facility in Oakland. We peeled yams for sweet potato casserole and cleaned greens on Friday night. Later, inside the semi-circular communion area, at the foot of the altar, we had a Bible Study where we discussed God's grace and loving forgiveness for us. Each student received a set of professional artists erasers to show how God 'forgives and forgets' us when we miss the mark. In God, our mistakes are erased. We also talked about how there are no mistakes when it comes to artwork (you don't just throw away your project if you make a mistake, a true artist adapts their creation, incorporating the 'mistake' into the piece). Accordingly, God helps us transform our lives creatively with beauty, even when we miss the mark. God is the divine artist and we co-create with God! We ended the evening by playing in harmony together with the video game, Rock Band! On Saturday morning, I cooked bacon and eggs for breakfast and then we helped cook the meal (soul food!). It was a full event, and we created many bonds between our group, our community, and God! Next Event: October 11th -13th MYLK retreat at Mt. Hermon.

* **SNL** (our Senior High Youth Group – **S**unday **N**ight **L**ive): Next Meeting: November 6th from 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM at Trinity-Oakland. We had an EBLYP record breaking 13 youth work in service at Rebuilding Together-Oakland on Saturday, October 8th. We helped remove debris from overgrown sidewalks in North Oakland and we even met (and got a picture with) Mayor Jean Quan!

On October 14th – 16th 14 SNLers attended the Synod Senior High Faith Development Retreat at Mt. Cross in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Our theme was "Leaving Neverland for God's Foreverland" where our speaker and musician Jonathan Rundman led us in discussions about how the youth could leave a child-like faith for an adult faith as a child of God. We took part in worship, workshops (like "soul collage," "trust walk," "making sanitary packs for Homeless shelters," & "time with Jonathan"), went to the beach, and held elections for the Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee (SPSYC). Carrie Carpenter and Kamila Jernigan were elected to the committee as District C representatives. Congratulations Carrie and Kamila!

Below are our November events. Please encourage any youth you know to check us out and remember friends are always welcome! Don't forget to come to our 1st annual Trivia Night Fund-raiser. See below for details!

- May God's Peace be with you all, Pr. Craig Minich

November 2011 Youth Group Events

SNL (Senior High Youth)

- * **Nov. 6th**: **Sunday Meeting** at **Trinity Oakland** (650 Alma Ave., 94610) from 4:30–6:30 pm. **Hannah Johnson's family is on to provide dinner for the SNL group.**
- * **Nov. 18th** from 7-9 PM: **Trivia Night! Fund-raiser** at St. Paul Lutheran (1658 Excelsior Ave, Oakland 94070). \$10/student, \$20/adult, or \$30/family.

MYLK (Middle School Youth)

- * **Nov. 11th - 13th** **SPSYC Synod Retreat** at Mt. Cross. Cost \$140/per. **Theme:** “www.TheFaithBook.God” Meet at St. Paul at 4:21 pm to leave for Mt. Cross. Return to Oakland by 1PM Sun.
- * **Nov. 18th** from 7-9 PM: **Trivia Night! Fund-raiser** at St. Paul Lutheran (1658 Excelsior Ave, Oakland 94070). \$10/student, \$20/adult, or \$30/family.
- * **Nov. 20th** from 12:45 - 2:30 PM **MYLK Meeting** at Trinity Lutheran-Alameda (1323 Central Ave, Alameda, 94501). **Catie Norboe's family is on to provide lunch for the MYLK Group.**

W.E.B.S (For Kids in 2nd-5th Grade)

- * **Nov. 6th** from 12:45 – 2: 30 pm: **WEBS Meeting**. Meets at St. Paul Lutheran, 1658 Excelsior Ave, Oakland, 94602. **Paul Herman's family is on to provide lunch for the WEBS group.**
- * **Nov. 18th** from 7-9 PM: **Trivia Night! Fund-raiser** at St. Paul Lutheran (1658 Excelsior Ave, Oakland 94070). \$10/student, \$20/adult, or \$30/family.

Family Ministry (intended for all of God's Children, but especially families with Children!)

- * **Nov. 18th** from 7-9 PM: **Trivia Night! Fund-raiser** at St. Paul Lutheran (1658 Excelsior Ave, Oakland 94070). \$10/student, \$20/adult, or \$30/family.