

Celebrating

the Missions and Ministries

of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church



This month's highlight:

Youth Ministry

What does Youth Ministry mean to me?

by Laura Swanson

When Penny Harney asked me to write about the Youth Ministry at Our Saviour's, I thought, "What do I know about Youth Ministry?" The more I thought about it, the more I realized, I know a lot! By the time the youngest of my four daughters finishes confirmation, I will have spent 12 consecutive years in the program. Reflecting back on all we have been through so far, I realize that this has been more than a Youth Ministry program; this has been a ministry for our entire family.

Growing up as an "Army Brat", I never felt that I had a home church; I never felt involved socially in the church and never had the opportunity to stretch and grow in my faith. Finding the right church for our family was a top priority for my husband and me. Our journey in youth ministry began when my husband dedicated his time to the Senior High group when our oldest daughter was less than a year old. That involvement continues today with X-team.

As my daughters have traveled from nursery to Sunday School to Confirmation and beyond, I have seen the development of faithful servants of Christ:

- I see a college student who frequently shares her faith through youth sermons, and articles for the church bulletin or Lenten prayer guides. She is also someone who can't wait to get home for Christmas break so that she can sing in the Christmas Eve service.
- I see a high school sophomore who has been a Sunday School helper/teacher, participates in bible study, and is excited to do X-team every week. She has shared her faith outside of church by attending Covenant Harbor Bible Camp as a camper and now will move on as a Day Camp Counselor.
- I see a high school freshman who has gone from being a shy, introverted girl to one who laughs with her friends and is willing to serve where needed, especially nursery and pre-school Sunday School. She too looks forward to sharing her faith at Covenant Harbor and will be attending the National Youth Gathering this summer, along with her sister.
- I see a sixth grader who is always looking for service opportunities and is enjoying the Confirmation program. You know it's good when she encourages her friends from the neighborhood to join our church so that they can attend Confirmation with her.

continued...

What does Youth Ministry mean to me? by Laura Swanson (continued)

As for me, what do I get out of all this? I get the chance to run bake sales, contribute to service projects, host home groups, provide input for sermon reports and so much more. I get to witness the presence of Christ in my children. I have found peace in my heart, confidence in my faith, and immense pride in my children. What more could I ask?

Opportunities in Youth Ministry at OSLC

Middle School

- *Weekly Confirmation for youth in 6th-8th grade*
Opportunities for Adults to act as mentors to our Middle School youth as small group confirmation leaders
- *Fall, Spring and Summer retreats for spiritual growth and fellowship*
- *Crosswalks Passion Play*
Opportunities for adults to assist with music, purchasing of supplies, providing snacks for the cast

High School

- *Weekly "Xteam" Youth Group*
Opportunities to supply a meal for our high school youth
- *Weekly 10:30 am Sunday Bible Study*
- *Weekly 6:00-7:00 pm Wednesday Bible Study*
Opportunities for adults to mentor High School youth by leading study as a part of a rotation once a month
- *Crosswalks Passion Play*
Opportunities for adults to assist with music, purchasing of supplies, providing snacks for the cast
- *Triennial ELCA National Youth Gathering*

***To learn more about (or get involved in) Youth Ministry,
contact Penny Harney, Youth Coordinator at
pharney@oursaviours.org, or
847-255-8700 ext. 240***

Over the years, the people of Our Saviour's have supported

Youth Ministry

through the annual budget (including staff leader salaries) as follows:

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009*
\$37,460	\$35,310	\$47,397	\$54,047	\$52,483
2.53% of budget	2.35% of budget	2.96% of actual	3.45% of budget	3.43% of budget

*proposed

*Additional information can be found on the church website:
www.oursaviours.org, or in the "Opportunities for Ministry" brochure
found in both narthex literature racks.*