



Luther League News



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Spring 2016

Frozen Fun Leads to Faith and Fellowship

Western Circuit Ski Trip – “You’ve got a friend in me.” John 15:13

What do you do in Wisconsin when it's 10 degrees outside with 10 below zero wind chills? Go skiing, snowboarding, or tubing, of course! The SELC Western Circuit youth met on Feb. 13 & 14 at Wilmot Mountain for some frozen fun. Groups from St. Louis, MO; Crown Point, IN; Racine WI; and Concordia University WI attended. Whether you were a first time skier or a ski-veteran, all the youth enjoyed a chilly day on the slopes. For those who preferred tubing to skiing, a separate hill with several tubing lanes and a conveyor system made for an exciting day.

After a day on the slopes, the group traveled to Pentecost Lutheran Church in Racine, WI for a spaghetti dinner. Opening devotions were kicked off by Ian Barclay, a Chaplains Assistant in the US Army, who was home for the weekend. We explored the friendships of Elijah and Elisha, Naomi and Ruth, and David and Jonathan. Ian reminded us what friends are; what friends do for each other; and how God has put friends

in our lives. He encouraged us to support each other during the weekend, make new friends, renew old ones, and enjoy our time together.



After opening devotions, our energetic group was turned over to the CUW YMIN team for mixers and icebreakers. The youth wore themselves out playing Trainwreck, Dodgeball, and our own version of the Hunger Games (kind of like flag-football).

Later in the evening, Kangaroo Court raised over \$400 for missions and the scholarship fund. Luther Leaguers were fined for cheesy winter hats, tardiness, and not knowing the lyrics to classic rock songs, among many other offenses.

Micah from CUW closed the evening with a devotion centering on Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch. Philip befriended the Ethiopian Eunuch who helped him understand the Scriptures he was reading.

The rest of the night was spent playing board games, hanging out in the youth room, playing video games, and eating every junk food known to man.

In the morning, Pentecost served a delicious breakfast of eggs, sausage, oatmeal, cereal, fruit, and Racine's signature Danish pastry: Kringle. Trevor from CUW reminded us in our closing devotion that Jesus is our best friend. While other friends may let us down or be unavailable, Jesus is always there and will never leave us.

The 9:00 a.m. worship service closed with the hymn “God Be With You Till We Meet Again”, a long-standing Luther League tradition.

As we said farewell to our friends, new and old, we were reminded of our theme for the weekend:

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:13

East Retreat

The annual Luther League Eastern Circuit Winter Retreat and Conference took place on President's Day weekend, which was also Valentine's Day weekend. The theme was Friends & Lovers, Brothers & Sisters. Eighteen youth and five chaperones attended from churches in New Jersey. After many years of the winter retreat being hosted at Camp Bernie in Port Murray, NJ, this year was the first time the retreat was hosted at the Fellowship Deaconry facility in Liberty Corners (Basking Ridge), NJ. Youth stayed at the Youth Center where most activities took place. Activities included banner making, skits, scavenger hunt, Bible studies and devotions, Family Feud, and Kangaroo Kourt presided over by "Judge" Andy Dzuravcik. Fines collected from Kangaroo Kourt raised \$140.00 for the Luther League Scholarship Fund. Everyone who attended was pleased with the facilities, and the food was fantastic! Next year's retreat will likely be held at the Fellowship Deaconry again.



bike, and playing with toy cars. Vitor is grateful to God for Him helping us, and Vitor would like us to pray for him that he keeps his faith in God strong. Joao Paulo is in his 6th year of school. His favorite subject is math, and his dream is to be a Veterinarian. He also loves to play soccer. Joao Paulo thanks God for having his family with him at the Holy Trinity Institute, and Joao Paulo would like for us to pray that God continues to take care of his family. If you are interested and want to help support the Luther League's Mission, you can mail a check of any amount to:

Pentecost Lutheran Church

Attn: SELC Luther League Missions Fund

2213 Coolidge Avenue

Racine, WI 53403

You can make checks payable to SELC District Luther League.



The Berti Family

The SELC Luther League Mission has been focused on the Berti Family. In 2013 during our Chicago Gathering, we decided to start sponsoring Vitor, the youngest of the five Berti children. The next summer during our Florida Gathering in 2014, we decided to also start sponsoring Vitor's second-to-oldest brother Joao Paulo. The two brothers live at the Holy Trinity Institute in Brazil with their mother and two other brothers Daniel and Leonardo. These brothers also have a sister that was adopted by a close family relative when the Berti Family started living at the Holy Trinity Institute. Vitor is a little boy that loves spending time with his brothers and mother. He loves helping with the yard work at home, riding his

LCMS National Youth Gathering

The next LCMS Youth Gathering will be July 16-20, 2016 in New Orleans, LA. The theme for the 2016 LCMS Youth Gathering, In Christ Alone, is based on the Apostle Paul's book to the Philippians. The 2016 theme selection process began by first considering the LCMS' triennial theme, 'STAND', in preparation for the upcoming 500th year celebration of the Reformation in 2017. For more information, visit 2016 LCMS National Youth Gathering:

www.lcmsgathering.com

Your SELC District coordinators for the gathering is Rev. Mark Moreno and Jenna Geyer, please contact them with any questions or to just let them know you are going! If you have youth interested, but don't know how to pull it together, please reach out to Rev. Moreno at pastor@hopebrevard.org or call [321-242-1610](tel:321-242-1610).

Also, for those groups going, our special SELC event will be dinner at the ACME Oyster House 6 PM on July 19th.

