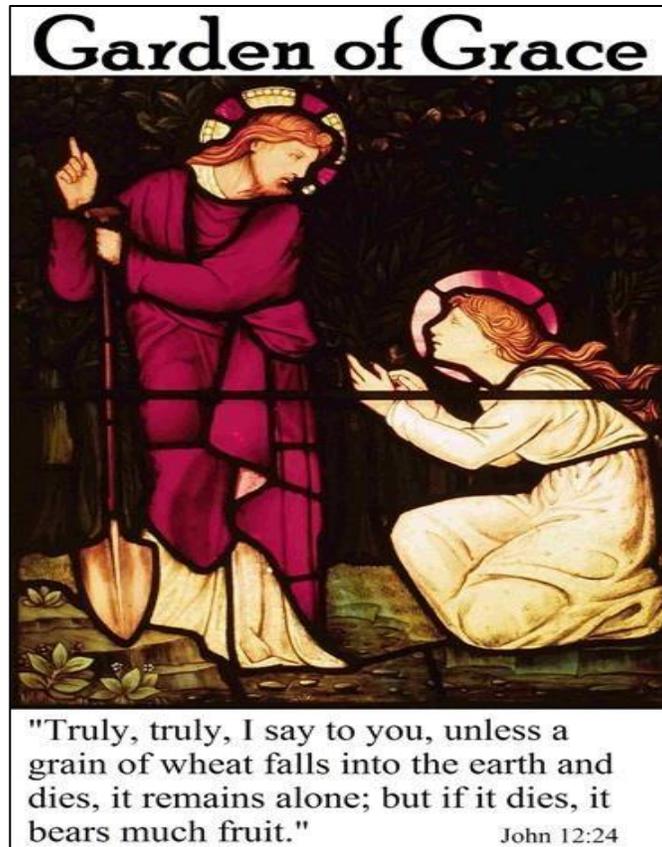


90th SELC District LUTHER LEAGUE YOUTH GATHERING



July 20 - 23, 2017

St. John Lutheran Church Bound Brook, NJ

New Jersey is known as the "Garden State", so what better theme for the SELC District "Luther League" Youth Gathering than "Garden of Grace"? Join us as we journey from the Garden of Eden, to the Garden of Gethsemane, and ultimately to the garden tomb. The youth gathering is hosted at Fellowship Deaconry Camp in Basking Ridge, NJ by the youth of St. John Lutheran Church, Bound Brook NJ. The weekend will include a trip "down the shore". Interested in getting on the Western Circuit bus? Contact Tim Hasko 262.497.0496.

REGISTRATION MATERIALS ON OUR WEBSITE: www.lutherleague.org

EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO MAY 31st!!!!!!!

Luther League East Retreat - "Our Feet Follow Jesus"

The Luther League East Winter Retreat was held on President's Day weekend, February 17, 18, & 19, at the Fellowship Deaconry retreat center in Basking Ridge, NJ. The theme of this year's retreat was "Our Feet Follow Jesus" which dealt with being a disciple of Jesus. Opening devotion and banner making followed some ice-breaker games in the



Youth Center gym on Friday evening. Saturday started with breakfast at the retreat center dining hall and then morning devotion. Three teams scoured their Bibles looking for clues for the Photo Scavenger Hunt. After lunch, we gathered for a Bible study about discipleship based on Matthew 8:18-22 & Matthew 5:3-10, and discussed what discipleship looks like

in today's world along with the importance of committing our lives to Christ. After dinner, we were entertained by watching skits based on the calling of the disciples from Matthew 4:18-25, and committing to following Jesus based on Luke 9:57-62. A hilarious round of Family Feud followed. The "honorable judge" Pastor Joe Weatherell presided over Kangaroo Kourt where there was no shortage of infractions. Vinny Cerpa of Redeemer Manchester, NJ was the recipient of the most citations. The youth apparently didn't like the "creative ways" he broke up the youth into groups for games and activities. A total of \$170.00 was raised from fines to go towards the Luther League Scholarship Fund. Saturday's activities were closed out with an evening devotion and a round of "glow-in-the-dark" dodge ball in the Youth Center gym. Sunday morning after breakfast the youth prayed the Litany before packing up for the journey back home.

The Hottest and Coolest Event of the Winter *Western Circuit Ski Trip*

The Luther League Western Circuit Ski Trip on February 18th and 19th was both the hottest and coolest event of the winter. The hottest - - because we've never skied in 60+ degree weather before - - and the coolest - - because we were with our friends from the SELC and learning about Jesus!

Despite the 60 degree forecast for the weekend, Wilmot Mountain assured us they would have enough snow, and they delivered. The youth enjoyed skiing, snowboarding, and tubing, some in shorts and T-shirts!



After a day on the slopes, the youth traveled back to Pentecost Lutheran Church in Racine for a dinner of smoked pork sandwiches and chili.

Under the theme "Jesus is the Golden Ticket", Ian Barclay (Chaplain's Assistant in the US Army) led our opening devotion from John 14:1-14. He used parallels and differences to the movie "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" to illustrate the theme. The five children who received "Golden Tickets" to tour the chocolate factory represent our failings and disobedience before God. But unlike the "Golden Tickets" given out in the movie - - there were only five given

out at random - - the “Golden Ticket” of salvation is available to everyone through Jesus.

The ten-member youth ministry team from Concordia University Wisconsin led the youth for the rest of the evening in Icebreakers. During this time we were privileged to witness the youth show off their boy-band skills, sing their school songs, and do their best animal imitations in order to be unfrozen from the Gargons.

No ski trip would be complete without Kangaroo Court. As usual, there were no shortage of offenses committed. Some of the more notable fines included Kailey from CUW for telling us to break off into “pairs of three”; and Noah from Racine for impersonating Batman (although we all agreed he was a better Batman than Ben Affleck). Kangaroo Court raised \$200 for our mission and scholarship funds!

We closed the evening with a devotion led by the CUW YMIN team. Using Wikipedia, Trevor from CUW demonstrated all the different ways you could get to the word “pomegranate” from just about any subject. But not so with our eternal life in heaven. While the world may tell us all roads lead to heaven, Jesus tells us there is only one road: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

The morning brought a delicious breakfast of eggs, sausage, fruit, cereal, and Racine’s famous Kringle.

After the 9:00 a.m. morning worship, the youth said their goodbyes and headed home (probably to get some sleep). It was great having fellowship with our friends from Crown Point, IN; Whiting IN; Chicago IL; Racine WI; and Concordia University WI.

We know that our “Golden Ticket” to eternal life in heaven is Jesus, and that’s far better than any tour of a chocolate factory, even with a lifetime supply of chocolate!

It's Not Too Late to Apply For a Luther League Scholarship! DEADLINE IS JUNE 1st!!!

The Luther League Scholarship Fund was organized by members of the Luther League who realized how important it is for young people to attend universities to develop their talents as Christian leaders. These leaders are vital to an active, growing church and the continuing of the work of God on earth, and should be given every opportunity to attend a college for further education. The Luther League Scholarship Fund awards annual scholarships of \$750.00 at the District Luther League convention to active and deserving leaguers in partial payment of college tuition.

Who Can Apply?

Applicants must be graduating high school or must be currently enrolled in a college undergraduate program. Scholarships are granted on the basis of activity in both church and Luther League, desire to serve the Lord in a future occupation, and financial need.

APPLICATION AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: www.lutherleague.com

Want to Support the Fund?

Help us to keep giving kids opportunities to further their education! If you would like to make a donation, you can donate through mail or right here online! If through mail, please send them to:

SELC Luther League
c/o Kathy McGregor
2213 Coolidge Ave.
Racine, WI 53403

OR

Donate Online through our website: www.lutherleague.com

Just click on the "Scholarship" tab and then click on the "Donate button at the bottom of the page!

