

# FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY TEAM

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## YEAR END REPORT 2008

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

We began a new program in September. After trying the computer generated Akaloo series, we decided to go back to a more conventional program. Witness is a traditional Bible-based program with student lessons and a teacher guide. It is divided into 2 semesters. Our K-6th graders are involved in this program. Our 3 and 4 year old class is doing age-appropriate materials of Bible stories, songs, and playtime. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation class began in October during the Sunday school hour and consisted of 21 students and we will confirm 14 8<sup>th</sup> graders on Sunday, May 3, 2009. The senior high Breakfast Club grew in attendance this year. We had a fairly large group of active 9<sup>th</sup> graders joining them. We had our annual Sunday school Christmas program during the Sunday school hour in December. It was a musical show and involved our Sunday school students from 3 years - 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

### YOUTH

This year was filled with exciting anticipation of the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA in July 2009. We have 31 youth and adults accompanying us on the trip. Many hours of meetings and fundraisers were tackled to accomplish our goal. We attended Winterfest (a Lower Susquehanna Synod event) with our senior high youth at the Lancaster Host last January. Our Souper Bowl of Caring raised money for the ELCA World Hunger fund and our local food bank. Again, we traveled to Susquehanna University for Lutheran Youth day with a group of 7th-12th graders in April 2008. Youth weekend was held after Easter with a concert by Shawn Smith, dinner and a youth Sunday service preceded by a congregational breakfast. We had a junior high lock-in and spent many hours into the early morning at the Laser Dome followed by some free time at the church before breakfast and attending the worship service. The senior high attended a lock-out where we spent the entire night traveling from event to event until returning to the church about 6am for a hot breakfast and the worship service.

### VBS

This year our VBS program was held at the end of July. Titled Rainforest Adventure, it brought us into a "green" mindset and offered many exciting stories, games, crafts, science projects and snacks. We averaged around 50-60 students and helpers. Our praise band "Devotion" helped us each evening with songs and fun to get us started. We had a great week and plan to have the same week for VBS next year. (Discovery Canyon)

### MISCELLANEOUS

We had an outdoor service and church picnic in June. We worshiped outdoors and immediately following the service partook in some good food and great fun. There was a covered dish picnic and lots of games for every age. We also offered an Advent wreath kit available to all families to take with them and create together for their family Advent celebration at home. Kits were handed out in the narthex on the first Sunday of Advent.

SUBMITTED BY:  
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