

EBLYP Newsletter Article for April 2019

As we continue on the Lenten Road to Easter, may we all palpably feel God's presence as we walk the Way with Jesus.

* **EBLYP Annual Mardi Gras Fundraiser**, was held on Saturday, March 2nd at Trinity Lutheran Church-Alameda. It was a smashing success! The food was delicious, with one of our best menus in recent years! The silent auction was buzzing with excitement! The Kid's Mardi Gras Party was filled with energy! And our entertainers were wonderful. Special thanks to both St. Paul and Trinity Alameda's 'Joyful Noise' choirs who sang (led by Julie Hayden and Christian & Elenka Refsell respectively), to Ayla Swihart and her dad Eric who played Ukelele and sang, and to the Black Pine Circle Middle School band who performed Mardi Gras-themed music.

THANKS to you all who attended the event, supported us financially, or who supported us in prayer!

THANKS to all the volunteers who helped make this possible! Special 'shout outs' to my team leaders: Kitchen coordinator -Mark Halmi; Silent Auction Coordinator - Christine Sinnott; Reservations, door list, and silent auction checkout - Jessica Fleischman; Decorations & Silent Auction - Ima Ekong-Banjo; Youth band coordinator - Matt Werner; Youth Mardi Gras leaders- Kylie Halmi, Elenka Refsell, and Kiki Valenzuela; Balloon Artist - Michelle Ando; Cooks - Nick Hayes, Tim Carlon, Gayle Miller, Gretchen LeBold, and Mark Halmi; Bartenders - John Kofranek and Gunther Hofmann; pianist Roger Allsbrook; Florist - Susan Bell, and countless others!

THANKS to Trinity Alameda for hosting us and to Trinity Oakland for loaning us tables for the silent auction!

THANKS to our MYLK and SNL youth volunteers who served and worked in the kitchen!

It was a GREAT event the helped bring our five congregations together to support our youth.

"Laissez les bon temps rouler!"

* **EBLYP Family Ministry** - for EBLYP families and friends

The Kid's Mardi Gras (KMG) party at Trinity- Alameda on Saturday, March 2nd was a great success! Thanks to EBLYP SNLers Kiki and Kylie who worked with St. Paul parent Elenka Refsell to coordinate the KMG.

2. Parents' Night Out (PNO) Babysitting Fun Night at St Paul Lutheran Church (1658 Excelsior Ave., Oakland) on Friday, March 29th, 2019 occurred after the writing of this article. Please read about it in next month's article.

Next Family Ministry Event: 19th Annual EBLYP Easter 'Egg'stravaganza on Saturday, April 20th from 10-11:30am at United Lutheran (8800 Fontaine Ave., Oakland). Designed for families with children 10yo and under. This is a GREAT location, with lots of greenspace, and one of the best views of the East Bay around!

Bring your own Easter basket to our 'Egg'stravaganza. There will be crafts, songs, snacks, hear the story

of Jesus Resurrection, and there will be three age-divided egg hunts (pre-K, K-2nd, & 3rd-5th). This is a free event! Please feel free to invite friends and neighbours.

Please RSVP for this event with Pr. Craig at craigminich@gmail.com or 510.390.4045 by April 18th.

* **G.E.T. (God's Elementary-people Together)** - our upper elementary youth group.

Our Sunday, March 3rd G.E.T. meeting at St. Paul was a fun time where we learned about Mardi Gras and Lent and the importance of Jesus as the foundation of our faith!

NEXT G.E.T. MEETING: will be held on Sunday, April 7th from 12:30- 2pm at St. Paul Lutheran (1658 Excelsior Ave, Oakland). Each family is asked to bring a drink and snack to share.

G.E.T. *together*, G.E.T. *excited*, and G.E.T. *connected* with God!!!

* **MYLK (Middle Youth, Lutheran Kids)** - our 6-8th grade youth ministry.

Several of our MYLK youth were part of our set-up team, performers, and/or servers at annual Mardi Gras Dinner and Fundraiser on Saturday March 2nd, 2019. Thanks to Ayla, Nick, Cecil, Joe, and Charlie for your service leadership.

Our MYLK meeting on Sunday, March 24th was a great time. We had a great conversation about Jesus, Faith, and Baseball. We discussed how God is both like and unlike an umpire and we wondered if Jesus is both sometimes like a stern coach and sometimes a laid-back coach. I love using our Holy Imaginations in these faith-based conversations!

Next MYLK events: Our **Annual Snow Retreat**, originally scheduled for February 1st-3rd needed to be rescheduled due to treacherous driving conditions and weather related conditions that weekend. Our new date for this Annual Retreat is **April 5th through 7th** and will be held near Northstar Resort. Our chaperones will be: myself and Nate Pearson! We are VERY excited to experience God's grace in all that new snow!!!

Please note this new date and RSVP for this event with Pr. Craig at craigminich@gmail.com or 510.390.4045.

And our next regular MYLK meeting is: Sunday, April 14th from 12:30- 2pm at St. Paul Lutheran (1658 Excelsior Ave, Oakland).

* **SNL (Sunday Night Live)** - our 9th -through 12th grade youth ministry.

At our March 24th SNL youth meeting, we planned more for our Summer Trip 2019: We're planning to go to NYC where we will be participating in original youth group-written prayer services at 4-5 iconic and meaningful sites in New York City, making connections to the stories of our faith and their relevance for us today. So far we are looking at doing a prayer service at the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island (stories of people of faith on the move), the United Nations (stories of World Peace), at the Stonewall Inn & Museum of Jewish Heritage (stories of overcoming/oppression), and at Grand Central Station (stories of the bigness, depth, and interconnectedness of God's love). We, of course, are also planning service opportunities in the city, and will take in other cultural and festive activities while we are there. Please pray for us as we fine-tune the details of this aspirational trip.

Also, a huge 'Thank You' to all our SNL youth servers at the Mardi Gras Dinner: Chase, Charlie, Sophia, Jeremy, and Ivonna! We couldn't have done it without you!

NEXT SNL Events:

1. Our annual Snow Retreat - see details above.

Please note this new date and RSVP for this event with Pr. Craig at craigminich@gmail.com or 510.390.4045.

2. Servers at Trinity-Alameda Crab Feed Saturday, March 30th (1323 Central Ave, Alameda). Please dress nicely and arrive at 5:30pm. Event ends at 8:30pm.

3. Leaders at EBLYP Easter 'Egg'stravaganza on Saturday, April 20th. See details above. Please arrive at 9 am got setup. Event ends at 11:30am.

NEXT SNL regular meeting:

1. April 7th, 2019 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church (1658 Excelsior Ave, Oakland). Please bring a drink and snack to share.

PLEASE, y'all, mark your calendars for the following two EBLYP FUND-RAISERS for the SNL NYC trip:

1. **EBLYP Youth and Family Variety Show and Dinner Fundraiser** on Saturday, May 18th at St. Paul Lutheran (1658 Excelsior Ave., Oakland) from 6-8pm. Spaghetti dinner from 6-7pm and show from 7-8pm.

2. EBLYP Artisanal Cupcake Sale the weekend of May 17-19th. MORE DETAILS TBA.

Peace y'all,

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