

EBLYP Newsletter Article for December 2018

* EBLYP Family Ministry - for EBLYP families and friends

We have two EBLYP family ministry events this month:

1. Annual EBLYP Pancake Breakfast and Caroling with Santa on **Saturday, December 8th** from 9:30-11:30am at St. Paul Lutheran (1568 Excelsior Ave, Oakland). This is an all ages event, especially EBLYP Families and friends. Our Senior High Youth Group will be serving scrumptious pancakes, along with yummy bacon, vibrant fruit salad, and festive beverages. Santa will be making an appearance for meeting with kids who want to have a chat with him and of course folks can take pictures! Carol's will be sung! This is also a fund-raiser for our Senior High Youth Trip this Summer (2019), as free-will offerings will be collected for this event.

2. Family Ministry and All Youth Group Annual Ice Skating Extravaganza at Oakland Ice Center (519 18th St., Oakland) Sunday, December 16th, 2018 from 1-3pm. This event is sponsored with Trinity-Oakland and we will have hot chocolate, festive treats, and fun on the ice.

Please RSVP for either or both events with Pr. Craig so we can right size our food preparations and ice skating tickets group order at craigminich@gmail.com or 510.390.4045.

Special Request - Family Ministry Christmas Caroling with Lutheran Ministry to Nursing Homes (LMNH):

EBLYP is supporting LMNH Nursing Home Ministry, joining each of the caroling opportunities at the four Oakland and Alameda nursing homes which they sponsor and support. Here is the schedule of visits of which I'm aware:

1. Trinity Alameda - Sunday, 12/2 at 2pm, Crown Bay Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 508 Westline Dr., Alameda.
2. Trinity Oakland - Sunday, 12/16 at 2pm, Princeton Manor Healthcare Center, 2124 57th Ave, Oakland.
3. St. Paul, Friday, 12/21 at 2pm, Fruitvale Healthcare Center, 3020 E 15th St, Oakland.

Please RSVP with Pastor Craig. Come join us and spreading some holiday cheer and the grace of God and Jesus through our singing together and places that need to experience that light.

Family Ministry Events in the new year, January 2019:

1. Family Ministry and All-Youth Group Annual 'Bowled Over by the Spirit Epiphany Party' at Mel's Bowling (300 Park St, Alameda) on Sunday, January 6th, 2019 from 1-3pm. This event is co-sponsored by Trinity-Alameda and festive treats and beverages will be served. We will mark our celebration of Epiphany by praying in 'lane groups' after each game bowled. In Epiphany we are bowled over by the spirit of Jesus moving in our lives; we remember our baptisms and celebrate the spirit joyfully bowling us over as it did with Jesus in his baptism.

2. Save the date for our EBLYP all-congregation Inter-generational Trivia Night and Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, January 12, 2019 from 6 - 8:30pm. Details TBA with publicity coming out the first week in December.

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

At our November 4th meeting we reflected on the 'candy-crushing' fun of Halloween, shared what our favorite candy is, shared what costumes we wore, and we broke down the Lutheran perspective on Halloween (much like Day of the Dead celebrations, we poke fun at the reality of death because our faith tells us that Jesus has overcome it's sting and we are not fearful death, but rather hopeful in God's goodness on the Eve before All Saints Day). We also had time by the altar to remember the saints who have gone before us in death and to pray together as a group. It was a holy time.

NEXT G.E.T. MEETING: Sunday, December 2nd from 12:30- 2pm at St. Paul Lutheran (1658 Excelsior Ave, Oakland).

** Also, please see the plethora of Family Ministry all-ages, all-youth group events above.

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.

MYLK attended the Synod Youth Committee Weekend Retreat at Mt. Cross November 9-11, 2018. Five of our SNL youth leaders on SPSYC and MYLKER Charlie W. joined 60 other middle school youth and adults' chaperones in having a spirit-filled weekend in the redwood tree-filled mountains in Santa Cruz. We learned about God's grace, sang camp songs, took part in experiential rotation groups Saturday afternoon, and danced and prayed at our Prayve (prayer rave) on Saturday night. Each youth (!) helped plan and put on our Sunday Beach Worship. Even though it was a smoky weekend necessitating our being indoors most of our time together, the mountains and Beach were a welcome respite from the California wildfires.

Next MYLK meeting (New Confirmation Class forming): Sunday, December 2nd from 12:30- 2pm at St. Paul Lutheran (1658 Excelsior Ave, Oakland). Those families with confirmation age students (eighth and ninth graders) will be meeting to discuss our confirmation program gearing up to begin early in 2019. Please RSVP to Pastor Craig.

** Also, please see the plethora of Family Ministry all-ages, all-youth group events above.

* **SNL (Sunday Night Live)** - our 9th - 12th youth group.

At our November 4th youth group meeting we processed how the haunted house went this year, where we hit the mark and got it right and where we missed the mark, noting where we needed to make changes for next year. We also discussed our new mission statement for the youth ministry, our progress on new logo graphics, and began to plan for our summer service trip. We're shooting 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.

NEXT SNL MEETING: Sunday, December 2nd from 4:30-6pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Alameda.

** Also, please see the plethora of all-ages Family Ministry, all-youth group events above.

* Our All-EBLP congregation sponsored presentation on Mental Health First Aid training was a big success at St. Paul Lutheran on Saturday, November 7th. This is a continuing effort by EBLYP to offer resources to respond to the rising anxiety rates in our nation. 15 participants took part in this training; another will be held in early 2019, dates TBD. All EBLP congregants and friends are invited to take part in this training that could save a life.

This is a full time of year... We have many opportunities to experience and share God's light in our world. Blessings to you all as we move through this Advent season to the in-breaking of Christ with us...