

EBLYP Newsletter Article June 2019

Pentecost Blessings are coming soon as is the close of most school years! May our youth find rejuvenation and new adventures this summer. May God's graceful fire kindle our hearts for justice!

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

On Saturday, May 18th we held our ***EBLYP Family Variety Show and Spaghetti Dinner*** at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This was a fundraiser for our Senior High Youth Group's, SNL's, "Prayer and Service Immersion Summer Trip to NYC June 17-21, 2019." Kylie and Kiki were our MC's organizing our 17 acts with jokes, videos, and skits in-between for this full house! Pr. Stephanie led us off by singing a song accompanied by Gunther Hofmann. We had a stand-up comedy act by graduating senior Johnathan, Olivia performed a song in sign language, Little Miss J did an interpretive dance, Maggie and her Dad performed a special song for their mom & wife respectively, Chase gave a speech about the ministry of the SPSYC (of which he serves as president), Kate and Emma did a messy skit, and Little Miss A told 'Dad Jokes' while sketching yours truly(!). There were many other acts as well, in addition, to a delicious spaghetti dinner by Chef Mark Halmi! It was a FUN night filled with laughter, and even some talent emerged! 😊 Mark your calendars for next year!

We also encourage our families with youth 4yo -10yo to attend one of the ***BASE [C.a.m.ps](#), Family FUN Weeks, and Vacation Bible Schools*** connected to EBLP this summer:

- *Swahili Kids Day Camp* at Resurrection Lutheran in Oakland, day camps running each week all summer, starting June 10-August 16, 8am-3:30pm. \$90 for 5 days/week M-F for two each two week theme session.

- *Vacation Bible School* at Faith Lutheran in Castro Valley (a new check we are working with), July 22-26th from 9am-3pm M-F (led by Mt. Cross!).

- *B.A.S.E. Camp* at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Oakland, July 29 - August 2nd from 9am-12noon M-F.

- *Family Fun Week* at Trinity-Alameda: TBD

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

We pray for our young people attending Mt. Cross camp this summer and encourage or families with youth 4yo -10yo to attend one of the ***BASE [C.a.m.p's](#), Family FUN Weeks, and Vacation Bible Schools*** connected to EBLP this summer (see 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.

Our ***EBLYP Confirmation Class*** met May 17-18th 2019 for our second sleepover. We completed a lesson on Biblical Literacy and Biblical pronunciation, and we looked at the first two books of the Hebrew Scriptures (focusing on Creation stories). We also explored Luther's Explanation of the 10 Commandments from the Small Catechism and did "Emoji Theology" where the youth broke up into teams and translated the 10 Commandments into emoji. It was fun, creative, and the very act of translating from one "language" to another helped the youth do deeper level learning about those foundational maxims of our faith. It also helped them contextualize the Commandments into more modern and relevant-to-them terms. After sleeping, we had a review session the next morning with Matt Werner, the self-named "breakfast dad" as we ate much appreciated bacon and eggs. We finished our sleepover with a junior chaplaincy visit to

Crown Bay Healthcare Center in Alameda with the help of Mary James (see her article below). Our next Sleepover is May 31st-June 1st and will occur after the writing of this article. Read about it next month!

SUMMER CAMP: We have 9 youth signed up, and we are all looking forward to 'Adventures on the Coast' Middle School Confirmation Camp on June 23rd-28th. Please pray for all our youth to have a transformative experience!

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

Our Summer Trip 2019 to NYC is only a few weeks away! Plane tickets have been purchased; we found \$10 tickets to a Yankee game; we are working in small groups on our prayer services; and we are also planning service opportunities in the city. We would like to ask your help: we are collecting prayers to take with us that we will pray out loud each day. The prayer themes are based around the following topics: Stories of Liberation and Justice, Stories of Immigration, Hospitality, and Welcome, Stories of God's Limitless Grace, and Stories of Lament and Forgiveness. If you feel so moved to offer a prayer, we will include it! Help us stay connected to our home churches as we help connect you to our NYC adventure! Please contact myself, Pr. Stephanie, Pr. Andreas, and any of our youth delegation with prayer offerings.

IMPORTANT: We are still raising funds! Even though we have kept our expenses just under budget, we still have a ways to go. Please see the attached flyer describing our "Shareholder in NYC" program and prayerfully consider supporting us at one of three levels. We appreciate every cent and prayer!

* **SUMMER CAMP:** We have 3 SNL Youth and 1 alumni signed up to serve at ***Special Friends Camp*** working with adults with mild to moderate developmental delays at Mt. Cross June 23rd-28th. Please pray for our young people giving of themselves in service.

And lastly, an All-group announcement: **New EBLYP Logo Revealed!** Here it is, hot off the proverbial presses: Our new EBLYP LOGO!



May you be inspired during this Pentecost Season (remember, it's more than just one day)! Have a great summer!

Peace y'all,
PC

PS: here is the article by Mary James from Trinity Alameda that I mentioned above.

Delighted by Joy at Crown Bay Nursing Home - May 18th, 2019

Five of our charming youth from the EBLYP and Pastor Craig and I visited Crown Bay Nursing Home on the morning of Saturday, May 18th, this time with lively expectations of seeing God's fingerprints there.

An early surprise for us was that we were there on "Nursing Home Week." Who knew?!

The youth who were able to come, (straight from a faith building overnight event at St. Paul), included Amalie, Iris, Elsa, Lauren and Charlie.

We gathered together to explore thoughts and prayed for each other before starting our visits... which started off a little slowly this time and then built up.

One of our first visits was with a woman named Rita who seemed at first reluctant to chat, but then she surprised us with the news that she was 102 years old. At that point we were so intrigued that we started to talk with her more and learned all kinds of bits and pieces of her life including the great support she receives from her son, Al, who was named after her loving husband Al.

As it turned out, Al later met us in the hall with concerns that we had flustered his mother with having too many people present. When we showed him the group picture that we took with her at which point she seems quite delighted, he realized that our visit with her had been more upbeat than he realized. We shared that photo with him. And let him know how very much she appreciates him.

We also visited with Eulodia who was born in Chile and had moved back and forth from there and has several loving children living in the Bay Area.

We had a rollicking great time with Roberta who was celebrating her birthday - don't think we learned which one. She was wonderfully spunky - a real live wire, who also managed to ask us some pointed faith related questions. Unforgettable!

We were happy to meet again with Mary Woods who glows with a very vibrant faith and was reading in Hebrews when we arrived. She's the one that taught us additional verses to "This little light of mine" the last time we were there. Since we had wonderful memories of Bruce from our previous visit, we looked him up. He was delighted to see us. We had heard him singing "This little light of mine" in the hall by himself after we had sung that with him on the last visit. And we also met again with Mary who had told us several times last time that she was 92 and that in her lifetime she had never seen God forsake the righteous. Powerful message. That was from Psalm 37 verse 25 which she had been reading on our prior visit.

In our reflections afterwards, there were comments on how this visit while it started out a bit coolly, warmed up quickly. It was noted how the people we met were strong in reflecting their gratitude for their lives rather than expressing desires to be somewhere else, which we would have understood.

Wonderful reminders of God's presence everywhere. So fabulous that we are planning to go again on 6/1. 🍪

Hugs and blessings, Mary