

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES ANNUAL REPORT:

Prepared by Nicholas Fox— Coordinator.

2004 - 2005 Year.

Greetings to all in the name of the Lord,

This is a synopsis of the Calendar Year's Events for the **Mini & Middle SPY Group, JR. & SR. "GODSPY" Program**, and the **"Family Ministries" Program** that all primarily run in conjunction with the School's calendar year. There are many more Event dates than those that will be mentioned below, but I'm just aiming to give you a GOOD indication of all the goings-on of the St. Paul's Youth Programs and the Family Ministries.

Mini & Middle SPY Group (Grades "late-Kindergarten" & 1st--5th): The combined Mini & Middle SPY Group was headed up by the joint efforts and talents of Mrs. Amy Kaunas and myself. Amy has 2 young children of her own and did a great job planning the monthly meetings and filling them with fun, lessons, & crafts for all of the kids in attendance! I joined the group for all their events in '03, '04, & '05 and helped to lead the group along side Amy, our enthusiastic and energetic volunteer leader. We have continued our team leadership of the group into the '05-'06 year and are continually trying to grow & enhance the program. We were able to attract a good number of kids for all of our events in '04-'05, & we are aiming to do the same this coming year with combining some of the M&M SPY activities with other larger Family Events so as to attract more attendance as well as to reach out to some other children.

***GODSPY* Youth Group (Grades 6-12):** We have yet another Jam-packed Calendar Year of Events ahead of us!

- We had/have at least One Event almost every weekend for the Jr. & Sr. SPY combined Youth Group, known as "GODSPY." Nearly all of our bi-weekly "regular Meetings" had/have the time set from 5:30-8:00pm.
- All of the alternate weeks between regular GODSPY meetings from '04-'05 had/have a variety of Activities & Events that are open to all ages and Family configurations, as well as still being open to our GODSPY group.
- We again set-up, organized, and worked the 15+ games at the Annual Neighborhood Block Party, which has reached the height of it's success as a wonderful Community Event over the past several years!!
- 3 Junior High and myself attended the Lower Susquehanna Synod-wide Jr. High Retreat Weekend in September '04, and 2 joined me this September '05 for this wonderful "Alive-Alive" event at Camp Nawakwa.
- We had 2 more great Weekend Retreats for the combined "GODSPY" Group; in October '03 and April '04. The Fall '03 Retreat at the "Loft" had 9 youth & 2 staff, and the Awesome High-Adventure Spring '04 Retreat at "Kirchenwald" had 12 youth & 3 staff in attendance. We have another Retreat coming up this December!
- We're anticipating @10-15 of our Senior High will attend the "Winterfest" Synod-wide Retreat Weekend with myself and advisors in January '06. We had 12 youth & 4 staff in '04 and 9 youth & 2 staff participating in '05.
- We had our 3rd joint-youth-group Beach Trip to Ocean City, MD, this summer with 6 youth, 2 staff, & 3 groups!
- We have 13 of our youth & 4 staff registered to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering in San Antonio, TX.
- We've really narrowed down our Fund-Raisers over the '04-'05 year to just doing 3 Car-Wash events over the summer months. Our other attempts at fund-raisers, like the Pancake Breakfast, didn't get enough support to do. The money raised goes to support all our Youth Group activities & events, and helps supplement Budget funds.

FAMILY MINISTRY Programming (all ages): Our Family Ministry Program had another successful building year with an almost equally jam-packed Calendar of events through '04-'05! We still continue striving to expand & enhance our comprehensive and varied schedule of Family Events & fellowship opportunities here at St. Paul's.

- We had/have an average of TWO Family Events and/or Activities planned for each month of the Calendar year which included: Neighborhood Block Party, Bowling, Halloween Party, Day Hike, Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, St. Nick Party, Senior's Luncheon & BINGO, Snow-tubing, Dinner & Movie Night, Trip to "Godspell" Musical, Morning Watch Services, Harrisburg Senators Baseball game, Sports Emporium day, Tour De Cure bike ride +
- We kicked-off this Fall with some great Family events like Bowling, a Halloween Party/Movie Night, and a Day at Pinchot Park! ALL 3 of these events went great and had their best attendance ever! We're finally getting to the point of having some "annual" events that Families really look forward to, participate in, & tell

others about!

- We're always looking to expand & build on the St. Paul's Family Programming. I'm currently studying and working on some new and exciting fellowship opportunities & creating some other Family Ministry possibilities.
- We definitely NEED the support of all the members of St. Paul's to be able to advance & enhance our ministries!