

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES ANNUAL REPORT:

Prepared by Nicholas Fox— Coordinator.

2005 - 2006 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 (aka: M&M SPY), the Jr. & Sr. High "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.

M&M SPY Group (Grades 1st--5th): For the past 2 years, the combined M&M SPY Group was headed up by the joint efforts and talents of Mrs. Amy Kaunas and myself. Amy 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 over the past several years and helped to lead the group and develop relationships with the younger kids. Unfortunately, Amy's new job requirements have her more tied in '06, so she's graciously stepped down from the position...we'll all be sad to miss her at M&M SPY...so we'll just have to say at worship! 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 again combining the Fall M&M SPY activities with other Family Events to increase awareness and attendance, then having some separate Spring activities. I have acquired the help of a former GODSPY, Heather Hartline, to volunteer to help head up the M&M SPY in '06-'07!

***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.
- Nearly all of the alternate weeks between regular GODSPY meetings from '05-'06 had/have a variety of Activities & Events that are open to the entire Family, as well as still being open to our GODSPY group.
- We again set-up, organized, and worked the various games at the Annual Neighborhood Block Party.
- 4 Junior High, myself and Heather, attended the "Alive-Alive" event at Camp Nawakwa in September '06. This was up from the 2 attending youth in '05 for this Lower Susquehanna Synod-wide Jr. High Retreat Weekend.
- We had 2 more great Weekend Retreats for the combined "GODSPY" Group! For our Winter '05 Retreat at the Loft, we had over 20+ youth in attendance—with many first time Retreaters! And then we kept up the great excitement with about the same attendance for our Spring '06 Retreat at Camp Seltzer! We will have had another great Winter Retreat by the time you read this & it looks like we'll get even more new faces to this one!
- We're anticipating about 15 of our Senior High will attend the "Winterfest" Synod-wide Retreat Weekend with myself and advisors in January '07. We had 9 youth & 2 staff participating in '05, and 12 youth & 3 staff in '06.
- We took down 12 of our youth & 4 staff to the '06 ELCA National Youth Gathering in San Antonio, TX. This was only possible through the generous support of our church in their budgetary giving in '05 combined with our own youth accounts & fundraising efforts! This is always an amazing experience for the youth who attend!

FAMILY MINISTRY Programming (all ages): Our Family Ministry Program had another successful year with an almost equally jam-packed Calendar of events through '05-'06! 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 2 Family Events and/or Activities planned for each month of the Calendar year which included: Neighborhood Block Party, Bowling, Halloween Party, Disc Golf, Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, St. Nick Party, Senior's Luncheon & BINGO, Snow-tubing, Dinner & Movie Night, Trip to *Sight & Sound's* Easter performance of "Behold the Lamb," a Bus Trip to Baltimore, MD., & 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 gained in attendance! 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. As I stated above, we've now built up some events into great "traditions" that families and youth look forward to, and then we always try to leave room for new & exciting fellowship opportunities & look to expand our Family Ministry possibilities.

~We definitely NEED (and THANK YOU!)=) for the continued support of all St. Paul's members to be able to advance & enhance our many and varied forms of Youth & Family ministries! We can't do it without YOU!~=)

