

Report for Pastor Ryan: April 2018

Youth:

- This youth year we have seen some new faces within the youth group and have seen the group gel into a consistent group of 20-25 students.
- Highlights from this year include serving at the Wafer Food Fair in October, taking a group of 17 to the Districts youth conference in Green Bay in January, Our prayer Night, Guys/Girls night in February, and our annual involvement in Neighbors Day coming up on April 14th (we will probably have a group of 12-15 students involved).
- This year has been different than others as we switched up our format. We still met at Kaddy's Kafe once a month, but instead of always having messages ever Wednesday that students would then discuss in their small groups, we also included some Bible studies that have require the students to think deeper about a biblical text or idea. In the Fall we did a 6 week Bible study on the Sermon on the Mount that was taught by leaders and students, and then this winter we have been walking through a Bible study on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood. It has also been great to have Caleb Lehman and Nick Patchen come and teach the youth on various subjects and scriptures this year. **I am looking forward to May when Tod Kowalski will teach the youth about the importance of Work in the Christian life.**
- As I said above, we still continue to meet at Kaddy's Kafe once a month and it has been great to continually have an off-site place to invite students who may not want to step insight the church building, and my students have done a better job this year of inviting friends to youth group. **We hope this practice continues to grow.**
- A couple things we are looking forward to in the coming months. On April 18th we will be having a questions night at youth group where the students can ask anything about life and faith, and we will also have our annual Shenanigan's trip in June and our missions trip from June 24th-29th (**We currently have 20 people signed up to go**).
- I am excited that I finally have an opportunity to get into the local schools. I have become certified as an FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) huddle leader and I get to be a part of their bi-weekly meetings which happen on Thursday mornings at the High school. I am also helping out the high school choir teacher by preparing her students for concerts. This gives me opportunities to interact with students in the schools and to build a relationship with the teachers and hopefully the administration. **Pray that God would bear kingdom fruit in these relationships.**

Other youth highlights include the following: My leaders have done a great job following up with their students throughout the summer and year. I have met regularly with a couple students for discipleship purposes and whenever possible I try follow-up with and resource the parents with good articles and materials.

Worship:

- I am continue to be very grateful for the other men who have stepped up to lead including: Andrew LeCleir, Kevin Hop, Nick Patchen, and John Olson. **This gives me more time to evaluate the ministry and to help my current leaders grow in their leading abilities.**
- New songs that we have introduced recently include: **Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery, He Will Hold Me Fast, Praise the Invisible, The Same Power, and O God of Our Salvation (coming mid-April).**
- Our night of worship in October was a great success and I want to thank everyone who was involved in making that night happen.
- We are said to announce that Emily Hop has left as she felt called to go serve over at Bethany Free. We will miss her but we are excited for what God has in store for her there.
- Also, I continue to be responsible for all the training and evaluating that happens within he ministry. We will have some sound and visual trainings coming up in the next couple of months.

It has been great to see God provide other leaders within this ministry. It is our hope over the next few months to see some new additions both within the tech area and upfront within the band. **Also, if you are interested in this ministry please let me know.**

Small Groups:

- The small group ministry continues to be strong as we **currently have roughly 70 plus people involved**. Also, others continue to be interested and we are trying to filter people into groups slowly but surely.
- I continue to follow-up with small group leaders for encouragement and training and we have been meeting as leaders on a bi-monthly basis to make sure that everyone has the resources they need and to make sure that these small groups are helping people to grow in their love for Jesus and one another.
- I have also been working to attend the small groups over the past six months. I still have a few to finish up here between April and May, but as a whole it has been neat to see the discussion and the relationships that God has built within these groups, and to hear stories of how people are being challenged and are growing in their faith.
- These groups have been walking through a study on work that started in January and it has really challenged us to think of our work as something that glorifies God and as something that he is using to make his great name known.

It has been great to see this ministry unfold over the past year. Though I know group formation has been a slow process it has been intentional so that the groups will hopefully stay together for a long time and God will bring spiritual transformation through them.

Membership:

- Eric Mattie and I led the three week membership class in February and we are excited that we continue to have people interested in becoming members here at LEFC.
- **If you are interested in membership please see either myself or Eric Mattie.**

Other Areas:

- It has been great to give the website over to Joanna Olson and she is doing a great job. If you have not checked out the website lately then go to www.lacrescentfree.org. Also, all the documents from our annual meeting can be found on the website under the drop down heading **Documents** which is under the **Our Leadership** heading.
- I have also been meeting with a group of guys on Monday mornings for Bible study, accountability, prayer, and scripture memorization. The goal is to help them grow into mature Christians who then are future leaders here at LEFC.
- I continue to review material for the Library.
- I also head up the tech committee and we are responsible for assessing the tech needs of the entire church. We did change over to a new phone system, and put in some new Wifi hotspots, and will be updating our computers soon.
- I am also the elder over the Nursery: **Emily Ross has fully taken over the nursery so if you have any questions please contact her.**
- Also, I have enjoyed putting together and facilitating our elder retreat this past December as well as walking our group through materials on discipleship as we continually assess how God is calling us to live out our vision here at LEFC.