

Report for Pastor Ryan: Annual Update

Youth:

- This youth year we have seen many new faces come to youth group and it has become a group of predominantly La Crescent based kids. This is part of an over-arching vision of reaching this town with the gospel.
- **Lessons:** We walked through a gospel material called the story. Focused on our identities as children of God and new creations. We called students to be servants of Christ and Ambassadors for Christ. We did a few lessons on technology and also apologetics. Nick Patchen and Caleb Lehman taught the youth, and we are currently walking through the book of Philippians and challenging the students to have a radical love that produces radical joy.
- We are also putting an emphasis on Bible reading this year and we have been encouraging the students to use the F260 plan which walks them through the grand narrative of scripture.
- Every First Wednesday of the month we have our youth group over at Kaddy's Kafe. Our hope is to reach unchurched kids in the La Crescent community.
- October was invite month and we saw many visitors come as a result.
- In December the students served at the WAFER Food distribution in La Crosse.
- In January we took 15 students to the Districts youth conference.
- In February we had our annual Guys/Girls nights. They were a great time of fellowship and fun for the students.
- In the fall semester I walked a small group of students through the book "Do Hard Things," by Brett and Alex Harris.
- This year I am again have been helping out the music program twice a week in the middle school and high school and I will be one of the huddle leaders for the FCA that meets at the high school on Thursday mornings.
- We are looking forward to ending the year strong as we finish up Philippians, have our end of the year party, and challenge the students to redeem the summer for God's purposes.
- Grace Mattie has done a great job over he past two years as the youth worship band leader. We will be sad to see her and Allison graduate this year, but we are excited for what God has for them next.

Other youth highlights include the following: We are excited about the summer youth program. **Ted and Kristin Everson will be leading the youth group while I am on Sabbatical.**

Worship:

- I continue to be very grateful for the other men who have stepped up to lead including: Andrew LeCleur, 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 (Sept-April): O Praise the Name, His Mercy is More, Rejoice, On Jordan's Stormy Banks, and Anchor of Hope.
- We will have a few of the members of our team taking breaks as they have new little ones joining there families. However, we are excited to have Zach Kuschel join the worship team as a keyboardist. He also has extensive sound knowledge which has already been of a benefit to the worship ministry. Also, Josh Mattie will return to the tech team for this coming summer.
- Also, I continue to be responsible for all the training and evaluating that happens within the ministry.
- **Andrew LeCleur will be the contact person for this ministry while I am on Sabbatical.**

It has been great to see God provide other leaders within this ministry. It is our in the coming 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 added some new faces to some groups and have over **70 people who are currently involved in a group.**
- I continue to follow-up with small group leaders for encouragement and training and will be trying to visit each of the small groups before I go on sabbatical.
- This year the groups have focused primarily on sermon review and I continue to provide those questions for them on a weekly basis. **John Young will write questions for the group while I am on sabbatical this summer.**
- **If you are interested in joining a small group please contact me and I will work on placing you in a group that will work for you.**

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 October meeting and this annual meeting can be found on the website under the drop-down heading **Documents** which is under the **Our Leadership** heading.
- I still currently head up the tech committee and we are responsible for assessing the tech needs of the entire church. **Caleb Lehman and Bill Schieche will be the contact people for this committee while I am on sabbatical.**
- I am also the elder over the Nursery: **Emily Ross is the main coordinator for that ministry so if you have any questions or are interested in serving please contact her.**
- Also, I enjoyed putting together and facilitating a mini-elder retreat we had in August and the annual elder retreat we had in December.