

Report for Pastor Ryan: October 2018

Youth:

- It has been great to get the new year under way. We have seen some new faces in youth group so far this year and have seen a nice increase in La Crescent based kids coming.
- We began the year by walking through a material called The Story. It is a way to share the gospel using the ideas of Creation, Fall, Rescue, and Restoration. I walked the students through it and gave them the task of sharing it with their friends. **We have heard some good stories so far of students saying that they shared with a non-believer and had a good response. We will continue to pray for lost students and push our students to go out and share the message of the gospel.**
- Also, be praying for students throughout October because this month is an invite month. We are trying to get each student to be inviting their friends every week to youth group.
- We are also putting an emphasis on Bible reading and Bible memory this year. Students have a Bible reading plan for the year and weekly verses to memorize.
- We are currently in a two part series on our identity in Christ that will lead in to a message on purpose and then three messages on how we live in light of our purpose.
- **Highlights from the summer:**
 - We took 15 students on the mission's trip to Rochester. This year was our third year going.
 - We had summer youth group over at the Wieser's again, and we had a great time talking about how God calls us to step out in faith and take risks.
 - I had a great opportunity to meet with most of my youth on an individual basis at least once over the summer. I also had to sadly say goodbye to 7 students this past summer because of graduation.
- In October, in particular we will be doing a Rake the Town day on October 27th and we will join with other local churches on Halloween for the local food collection that happens every year.
- I have the joy of not only teaching the youth weekly, but I am currently meeting with 5 students who are part of a youth leader's institute where we go through leadership books. We are currently reading "Do Hard Things," by Brett and Alex Harris.
- This year I am again 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.
- **I have also put a youth blog on our website called He Changes Everything. I am going to blog regularly to challenge students and be a resource to parents. Check it out.**

Other youth highlights include the following: Though I had to say goodbye to Andrew Cravillion as one of my leaders I am excited to welcome Sam Cravillion as a leader for the middle school boys.

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.**
- We took the summer off and did not introduce any new songs but we did introduce **Cling to Christ** back in June and this month we are introducing **O Praise the Name**. In November we will introduce the song **His Mercy is More**.
- We are excited to say that we have added Hannah Hatfield to the worship ministry along with Zuri Ostrander, Izzy Ostrander, and Tony Campbell to the tech team
- Also, I continue to be responsible for all the training and evaluating that happens within the ministry.

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 68 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. This year we will be meeting three times as leaders and I will continue to follow-up with each leader individually for support.
- The past year the groups walked through a study on work. This year they will continue to focus on sermon review as pastor Dan jumps into the book of John.
- **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 annual meeting can be found on the website under the drop down heading **Documents** which is under the **Our Leadership** heading.
- I continue to meet 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 when needed.
- I also continue to head up the tech committee and we are responsible for assessing the tech needs of the entire church.
- 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 have enjoyed putting together and facilitating a mini-elder retreat we had in August and I look forward to continuing that work into our yearly retreat in December.