

THE YOUTH REPORT

VOLUME II, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2008

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Dates for Your Calendar

- January 13th—Tubing at Gorgoza Park
- February 24th—TBA
- July 15h-18th—Youth Conference, Irvine, California

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday School

Attendance has been great, but could be even better. Come and join us in exploring God's Word and how it relates to your life and the world. We will be looking at issues that high school students deal with on a daily basis. The class meets in the 8th grade classroom from 9:15am-10:15am every Sunday.

P.S. Bring a friend!

Tubing

On Sunday, January 13th the Youth will be heading to Gorgoza Park (up Parley's Canyon) for some tubing fun. We will leave the Redeemer parking lot at 11:45am (or right after 2nd service) and return to Redeemer by 2:30pm. Cost of the event is \$15 per person. Please RSVP by Sunday, January 6th so that transportation can be arranged.

February Event

I am now taking suggestions for a February Youth event. No idea is a bad idea...

...Okay, some ideas are bad.



Youth Retreat!

Amen 2008!

This summer Higher Things, an LCMS youth organization, is holding a gathering for high school students at Concordia University, Irvine, California.

Dates for the conference are July 15h-18th, with the cost being \$350.

If there are any Youth interested in attending, I would love to take a group.

Please, see the accompanying flier and visit www.amen2008.org for more information. Registration closes March 1, 2008.

Please Note:

(A non-refundable fee of \$100 will be due by February 1st for those Youth interested in attending. Please make checks payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church and give to Darren Morrison.)

Contact Darren Morrison—Email: dmorrison@redeemer-slc.org, Phone: 971-8864

Devotion

"When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was." (Matthew 2:9)

In the Name + of Jesus. Amen. The word "epiphany" means "manifested" or "shown." Today is the day that Jesus is "shown" to be the King of all people, because even though He was born in the Jewish line of King David, He came as a Savior for all people. This is "manifested" when the Lord sends a star to guide the wise men to the infant Jesus. Notice where the Star first led these Gentile astrologers: the Jerusalem where they could hear the Scriptures. Even though the star guides them, they learn where Jesus is from the Word of God.

The Epiphany season in the church year reminds us of the many ways in which Jesus showed that He was the Savior: By being baptized in the Jordan, by turning water into wine by healing and doing other "signs," and by being transfigured on the mountain so that Peter, James and John could see His glory revealed.

Epiphany is a good time to ask the question: Where does Jesus show Himself today? Many people claim that you can find Jesus in your heart. Then there is the theory that He lives in you if your life is improving: You're doing better in school, staying out of trouble, and getting along with your parents. Some people say that Jesus is present and shows His power when you can speak in "tongues" or when you are "filled with the Spirit" in some way. The problem with all of these places to look for Jesus is that He hasn't promised to be in those places to comfort and forgive us.

No, the Jesus who came in the flesh and was pointed to by the angels and to Whom the wise men were led by a star via the Scriptures—that Jesus shows Himself in the places He has promised to show Himself. In the waters of Baptism. In the ministry of preaching the Word and forgiving sins. In His own body and blood given in His church. In those means of grace, Jesus, the King of the Nations, comes to us and shows us Who He is and what He does. In water, words, body and blood, Jesus reveals and manifests to us that He is true God and true Man who saves us from our sins. It doesn't matter if we're smelly shepherds or rich wise men or you and me: The Savior of sinners is shown to us. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

O God, who by the leading of a star made manifest Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we, who know You now by faith, may after this life joyfully behold Your glorious Godhead; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen (Collect for The Epiphany)

The above devotion was taken from "Higher Things: Reflections"