

THE YOUTHERAN

St. Mark Lutheran Church, 118 Old York-Hampton Highway, Yorktown, VA 23692
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Farewell

Hey Youtherans!

Wow, I can hardly believe it. My time here with you is nearing its end. I feel like I am just getting started. I want to take a moment to thank you all for letting me join you on various occasions for a variety of events. When I came to visit St. Mark last summer, it was at the Relay for Life where I met some of you, and I felt right at home in your company. I wish I could be there this year.

But, I mainly want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to get to know you and for allowing me to try a few things that I hadn't tried with youth before. (So, the Evening Prayer didn't really work out so well, but that won't stop me from trying it again!) But, between building cardboard box houses and playing Laser Tag ALL NIGHT, I think my favorite day was the lesson we had about loving our neighbor. We all got sheets of paper taped to our backs and had to write one good characteristic about the person upon whose back we were writing. I personally had been having a very difficult week, and the words that you wrote down were just the affirmation of who I was that I had needed. That paper is currently framed in my office and will make the journey back to Ohio with me.

For those of you who are graduating, congratulations and good luck in the next

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steps of your journey. For everyone else, have a fantastic summer, wear sunscreen, read at least one book, tell your mother you love her every day, and don't do anything I wouldn't do.

Peace and Blessings to you,

Vicar Jenn



GOODBYE!

Good Bye

Dear Friends,

It is with great sadness and joy that I write this to you. I am sad for it is my last message to you as one of your youth advisors; but it is with joy that I write as one who is going off to explore and continue to discern my calling to ordained ministry within the ELCA.

Discernment is an important process in our lives. It gives us a glimpse of the skills that we have and allows us to figure out where we fit into this world, and even how we can be people of God. From what I hear, you all will be talking a lot about discernment next year and about walking and journeying with God. As you rest (or work) this summer, I hope you will give some thought as to where or what God is calling you to be about, and how you can grow yourself and journey with him in new ways.

I would be very sad if I did not get a chance to say good bye and thank you to all of you. Although I am leaving to go to Columbus, OH, and that is very far away, please know that I will still be praying for you and will miss you a lot. I've enjoyed each and every minute of these last 3 years with you, and I will miss every one of you a great deal!

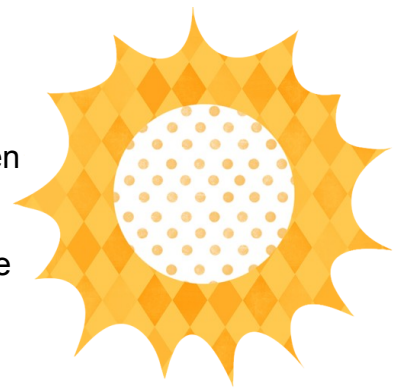
It is my hope that you have had fun with all of the activities that we have done and that you may have even learned something or thought of something in a new way through our lessons. It has been a great joy to walk with you all through your lives, and I appreciate you opening up and trusting me through our journey together. I have learned so much from all of you and you have enriched my life greatly these past couple of years.

To you seniors who are graduating, congratulations! As you start preparing for college or work in the world, I wish you many blessings on the road that lies ahead of you. Keep in touch with your church home at St. Mark and let us know if we can help you.

To you who prepare for summer vacations or jobs, blessings to you as well! Have fun this summer, get some rest, hang out with friends, have fun with family; and don't forget to smile and laugh!

Blessings on summer fun and continued faith journeys,

Travis Wilson



Summer Reminders

Our last meeting/event of the year was over the weekend of June 6-8. Thank you to all of you who came out to Relay for Life and for those that raised money and helped us to walk around the track in support of Cancer research.

We also had a great picnic at the Helenbrooks' house on June 8. Thank you to **Howard** and **Shannon** for being there to welcome and help us, and thank you for letting us invade your beautiful home for the day! Also thank you to **Haven** and **Collin** for being our jet ski guides; it was awesome!

We will not meet regularly over the summer due to vacations and different and busy schedules; but please mark your calendars for **Saturday, August 23, 2008** for an end of the summer picnic and pool party. More details will be announced later in the summer, but it would be great to have as many people there as can make it!

Lastly, for those that are thinking about the **pilgrimage** to Compostela, Spain, don't forget to start fundraising! Need some help? Check out the following ideas:

1. Mow some lawns (Dan and Pat Silvas have offered generous donations to anyone willing to help them out each week).
2. Clean neighbor's pools.
3. Water someone's lawn or flowers.
4. Walk dogs or pet sit.
5. Get a job (SnoZone, lifeguarding, etc.)

- 6.
7. ...the house.
8. ...g on June ...e!)
- 9.
10. ...it to church



Many Thanks!

While it is probably impossible to thank each person who makes Youtherans a success, we'd like to thank:

- Pastor Erdos** and **Vicar Jenn** for their wisdom and support.
- Patricia Hatton** and **Cyndy Brier** for everything and anything administrative.
- Steve** and **Christine Roe** for leading the Youtherans Board.
- Joe** and **Jean Montfort** for taking us camping and feeding us!
- All **parents, chaperones, and drivers** for all they do.
- Café St. Mark** for keeping us supplied with food and helping with fundraisers.
- Gus Schwartz** for his grace and kindness in our scheduling.
- Monte Correll** for donating paint and supplies to us.
- The **Congregation** for prayers and support.
- The **YOUTH** without whom this would not be possible.

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**Building Relationships,
Building Communities**

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stmark-elca.org (click on
Youth)



Have a safe, fun summer.

We'll see you next school year!

End of the Summer Picnic and Pool Party: **Saturday,
August 23, 2008.**

First Youtheran meeting: **Sunday, September 7, 2008.**

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