



Honey Badgers Youth Newsletter

September 2015

Written by Jacob Diemer...

Good morning! Well... As you saw my friend Tanner, my brother Joshua, my parents, and I all went to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, Michigan. There were more than 30,000 people that went on the gathering. That's a lot of Lutherans; you might be able to imagine the mayhem.

On the first day we landed around 1:00pm, so we almost immediately had to go to the welcoming ceremony which was at Ford Field. On the next day (Thursday) we went to the COBO Center and we walked around a little bit and then we found this zip line giant swing place area. I went with a different group of random people my mom found, and I waited for 4 and a half hours to ride a giant swing for 30 seconds. Honestly I have never been on one of those so I think it was worth it.

While I was waiting in line... My mom, dad, brother, and Tanner wandered around doing all different activities. For instance one of the activities was for an organization that was called Walk for Water and they walked approximately 1/8th of a mile with a 5 gallon jug of water each. The ELCA set a goal for us 30,000 youth to raise 500,000 dollars. During the welcoming ceremony the day before, a couple said that they will double the amount of money we can raise so in total it would be 1 million dollars in the end. By Sunday night, the day before we headed home, we had brought in more than 400, 000 dollars!

On Friday half of the synods put on a specific orange shirt and gathered around a place, I forgot the name...sorry, before being sent out to our service projects for the day. My group went to a random neighborhood and we cut the grass down, cut some trees down and cleaned up the trash and made the place look better than it did before. This was so the people in that neighborhood had a neighborhood that looked friendly and so they could see if anything bad was happening in the area.

The project was pretty inspiring and it taught some of us a valuable lesson. The lesson was that we should be grateful for what we have, and that we should go back home and help make a change in our own community. After that we went to Ford Field and saw The Temptations.

The next day, Saturday, our group went to the COBO center again, and then headed to the Greektown hotel and casino. When we went there we met up with the Grand Canyon synod and our bishop came and spoke to us, along with other teens.

After that we headed to Ford Field again and got to see the band Skillet! A lot of the younger generation knows who that is and they were pretty excited along with me. On Sunday we head straight to Ford Field for the Closing ceremony and a worship service.

After it was all done they showed us that the next gathering will be in Houston, Texas. I personally am looking forward to the next gathering because I had tons of fun at this one!

I just want to let everyone know that some of the things that you hear about Detroit or at least what I have heard, like Detroit being a horrible place with tons of shooting and other bad stuff. That is not my experience. I have come back and I have not just learned, but also seen that Detroit is a fun and good place. And one last thing... I would LOVE to thank everyone that donated and was able to help get my brother, Tanner, my parents and I go to the youth gathering! Thank You!

September Calendar

September 6th (Sunday: 10:30-12:30)

Youth Table Games

Pizza & Drinks Provided!!

September 12th @ 1pm (Saturday)

Youth Rise Up Together Outing

This is an outing with other churches around the valley to have a fun time together playing either Frisbee or kickball.

Location: Moon Valley Park at Coral Gables and 7th Ave., Phoenix

Parents please join us!

September 13th (Sunday)

Youth Activity & Lesson

September 20th (Sunday)

Youth Swim Party (with Scripture & Lesson)

Provided at the home of Susan & Xavier Gonzales.

- *Lunch: Hotdogs, buns, & drinks.*
- *Please bring a side dish!*

Parents please join us!

September 27th (Sunday)

Youth Activity & Lesson

