

# TLC Youth and Family Ministry – Current State

## Part 1: From Pastor Melanie Heuiser-Hill (ages 0-10)

### 41 active families with kids ages 0-10

#### 13 Families with kids ages 0-3

#### 28 Families with kids ages 3-10 (Sunday School Age)

- These are the families who receive weekly targeted emails inviting them to Songs & Stories and received the “church at home” deliveries at Advent, Lent, and Holy Week.
- 8 families have cheerfully helped deliver the packages
- Of these 28 families, 10 have regularly participated in Songs & Stories (online during pandemic)
- Summer & Fall will also include some resources and programming for those with the littlest ones, 0-3, which includes 13+ families

#### Number of Kids by Ages

- 0-3: 26
- 3 & 4 year olds and Pre-K: 8
- Kindergarten: 5
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: 5
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: 5
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: 13
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: 4

#### Additional Programming/Resourcing During This Covid Time

- Advent and Lenten Storytimes on Facebook Live—wide range of ages!
- Church Season newsletters with ideas for observing/celebrating at home
- Resources for talking with kids about racial justice
- Communion Milestone—breadbaking etc. on FBLive and Zoom for 56ers
- Family Christmas and Holy Week videos

#### Strengths

- Songs & Stories seems to work for the families who have participated—time, time commitment, come-as-you-are, parents just off-screen etc.
- Willing volunteers to help with deliveries
- Nobody has requested *not* to receive deliveries or emails, and a handful outside of the regular participators have expressed their thanks for the delivered materials, explained why they aren't tuning in to Songs & Stories etc.

#### Challenges

- I only know kids “on screen” and kids are only seeing their church friends on screen.....
- Keeping connection amongst TLC's families

- How to safely invite/include families in the larger church community when kids will not be vaccinated for awhile.

### **Opportunities**

- Look again at Sunday morning and Wednesday evening as we head into fall—how do these times work for children, youth, and families? What might need to change? What might we carry over from this Covid time?
- Summer book mobile!
- TLC-ELC relationship

## **Part 2: From Interim Youth and Family Minister, Pete Erickson (5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)**

### **Current State:**

- Confirmation enrollment during pandemic: (2) 7<sup>th</sup> graders, (5) 8<sup>th</sup> graders, (9) 9<sup>th</sup> graders
- Club 56 during pandemic: 5 Students
- Confirmation/Club 56 Leaders: Sandy Stooke, Nikki Swanson, Greg Barringer, Linnea Anderson, Karen Wenge
- Original Vision Team/Youth and Family Support team: Karen Wenge, Allison Sneller, Cindy Krey, Kirsten Boehne, Sandy Stooke
- High School Peer Ministers: 9 Peer Ministers (6 seniors, 2 juniors, 1 sophomore). In 2021 there will be 9 peer ministers in addition to the 3 returning PMs
- Database Enrollment (unclear how many will reconnect post-pandemic)
  - 12<sup>th</sup> grade (19 students)
  - 11<sup>th</sup> grade (11 students)
  - 10<sup>th</sup> grade (13 students)
  - 9<sup>th</sup> grade (11 students)
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade (8 students)
  - 7<sup>th</sup> grade (10 students)
  - Club 56 (17 students)

### **Strengths:**

- Student leadership is strong
- Mission and outreach resonates with young people
- There is a structure in place for adult leadership (support teams, small group leaders)
- BWCA ministry is strong

### **Challenges/Gaps:**

- Covid has masked some deficiencies and paused momentum on adult participation
- Current Data base needs to be culled for accuracy
- There is not an identity for high school ministries outside of peer ministry

### **Opportunities:**

- More intentionally connect Club 56 to Confirmation
- Better use of social media

- The crop of 9<sup>th</sup> graders are strong heading into HS ministry
- Aligning ministry with the identity of TLC (social justice, environmental ministry, etc.)
- Engaging more young people in Worship leadership
- Create a more intentional scope and sequence for 5-9<sup>th</sup> grade (Club 56 and Confirmation).  
Manage the transition and build in an entry into Confirmation Milestone
- Develop more of a plan for HS ministry

**Priority next steps:**

- Building bench strength in Adult support (need small group leaders)
- Building up the Peer Ministry Program
- Building up 5-7<sup>th</sup> grade participation
- High School ministry plan