

Youth Work in the Central Circuit-Synod Report 2019

Church of Peace (Friedenskirche)

The youth in Friedenskirche is called COPY (Church of Peace Youth). This youth is chaired by Nelereng Moale and meets every Sunday after the divine service. This structure of the youth was very strong in the early 2000s where they also had a youth choir that performed on Sundays at the church service. The structure saw a decline around 2006/07 as some of the members entered the working world and moved away from Hillbrow. The group gained strength again around the year 2010 as the Sunday school group became teenagers. The group re-invented the youth choir and entered and won singing competitions within the circuit youth groups. It did not end there as they were involved in more circuit activities such as Soccer tournaments, and visitations of children homes as well as old age homes. During this time membership was +/-20 members.

The group is currently experiencing the same decline and challenges that were faced around 2006/07. The members have gone to university and some are now working and do not reside close to the church. Membership has dropped to +/-5 members per Sunday. The remaining members have brought this up with the Congregational Council and they are in the process of intervening.

Children's Church

The Sunday has played a significant part in the growth of the congregation. There are currently 11 teachers who alternate every Sunday. There are 3 teachers on duty per Sunday. On average there are +/-25 children that attend children's church and there are 15 children each Sunday that come to church and attend. The children's church caters for children between the ages 4-15. After prayer and introduction, the children are divided into two groups, which are ages 4-8 and 9-15. The younger group deals mainly with story time and games and the older group focus on bible study.

The children's church has for many years been instrumental in the growth of the congregation as the youth members as well as confirmands come from this group. We use material that is from LUCSA to prepare the groups for the next stage of their lives.

Evangelical Lutheran Church East Rand (ELCER)

1. On our "books" we have about 30 children in ELCER, spanning the whole range of ages between 0 and 18.
2. Saturdays, from 6-9pm is youthwork in Germiston. 3-5 youngsters attend aged between 16 and 20 yrs. (Term time).
3. In September 2018 we had a youth camp for 3 days.
4. Between 5-10 children attend children's church each Sunday in Germiston. (Term time). There are 4 teachers that take turns.
5. In Brakpan there are some 6 children, often attending church.

6. Once a month, a family service is held both in Germiston and Brakpan, specifically focused on the youth and where possible encouraging their participation.
7. There are no children in Heidelberg.
8. Present confirmation group (Germiston) consist of three children, meeting weekly in term time. Our goal is Confirmation end of November.

Kempton Park Congregation

The youth ministry at Kempton Park is coordinated and done by a team of two.

Lerato Mzezewa, a young adult from among our active congregation members. She does this voluntarily without any salary or compensation and is a real asset to the congregation.

Pastor Dieter Klee is assisting in holding monthly youth gatherings and having bi-monthly planning sessions with Lerato.

Furthermore, we have a youth portfolio on council, currently held by Solly Thoobe.

Kempton Park does have a separate youth fund which is filled with 2 annual collections and private donations. This fund helps to finance activities and outings where the youth members cannot afford to make full financial contributions.

Our ministry is structured as follows:

Monthly.

A biblical topic is selected monthly, usually based on the interest of the youth, and is discussed at youth evening sessions. The evening activities are structured as follows:

- opening ice breakers or brief feedback on how people's weeks went
- prayer and songs
- Bible study on a passage of scripture that relates to the topic of the night

Other monthly activities involve social gatherings like braais, movies, games and lunch outings for relationship building purposes.

Annually:

Main activities planned for the year are as follows:

- Bible study sessions
- Social events
- Youth engagement with congregation (e.g. panel discussions with parents on issues relating to careers, relationships, faith etc.)
- Annual fundraiser
- Year-end activity

General observations and comments:

- Levels of understanding on Christian foundations vary widely.
- Focusing on foundational concepts will be very beneficial for the youth to be in a better position to engage the Word of God better and continue in their own homes.

- Tools on how to read the Bible and the relevance today are crucial for the youth given the many schools of thoughts around. They need a clear understanding of what tools they get from the Bible verses the tools they get from science or philosophy etc.

Midrand/Kelvin

We have about 20 youth members attending their bible study sessions fortnightly. They help from time to time in leading the liturgy and during special services they help with ushering and cooking. We had a camp in Limpopo where we discussed God in creation and Genesis 1 at length.

Challenges:

Most tend to be over committed and most of our bible study sessions end up being cancelled.

Children Ministry

They meet every Sunday. We have a dedicated group of teachers but we are planning to run a workshop for newer teachers mid-September.

Challenges:

I think since we started accommodating 3yr old's we are now short of space to teach all the children.

Northrand - Thomasgemeinde

As there is currently no youth pastor in the congregation. Youth work is done by the pastor, by the German ELM volunteer and by the youth committee and parents.

Most of the kids' work is done in German. The youth work is done in German or bilingually, depending on the youths that are there.

The kids work consists of a 'Jungschar' (grade 1-4) two times a month, a Bible day and a one-week Kids Camp in December.

The youth ministry consists of 'Tweenskreis meetings' two times a month, sometimes with sleepovers, an Easter sleepover (ending with the early service at 6h00) and a youth camp in April.

As most of the youths are also co-workers in Jungschar and Kids Camp, we also provide a co-worker training camp in September.

We hope to have a youth pastor in 2020 who should do kids and youth work in English as well as in German.

St Peters by the Lake Lutheran Church

We have a small young adult group meeting weekly. Our focus is on having a vibrant children's church with over 35 children attending on a regular basis.

Vanderbijlpark Lutheran Church

Children's (Kid's) Church Report.

The Children's Church better known as Kid's Church was split up into 3 different classes.

- The first class (Church with Wings) was for the very young and the Wings for Life children. There were specially designed lessons with themes being presented in picture story format and video clip format so as to simplify God's message. Each lesson also had a weekly fun craft activity relating to the theme. There were approximately 4 to 10 children in attendance each week.
- The second class was for children between the ages of 8 to 11 years old and their curriculum was the *Xstream* series provided by Scripture Union. There were approximately 4 to 8 children in attendance each week.
- The third class was for kids between the ages of 11 to 14 years old with Scripture Union providing the course material named *The Grid*. There were approximately 5 to 6 children in attendance.

Kid's Club Report.

Kid's Club was held every 2nd Friday from 17h00 to 19h00 with approximately 10 to 14 children in attendance. Our program is also designed to include The Wings for Life Special Needs School children. The material used was sourced from the internet accompanied with a short, related video clip. Besides the spiritual message which involved interaction with the children, there was always Praise and Worship singing and fun activities relating to the theme which the children enjoyed. The early evening was also completed with the children enjoying different active games and sports. At the end of each term we held a movie evening.

Youth for Christ Report.

The program for high school children was held once a month on a Friday afternoon together with the new confirmands. On average we had 14 teenagers in attendance. After the spiritual input, which lasted approximately an hour, fun activities relating to the theme were included.

Confirmation Group.

A new confirmation group (9 confirmands) was started in the latter part of 2018 led by Pastor Randolph. At the end of March, the teenagers went on a 3-day camp held in Nampo Park (Bothaville)

We have planned an additional 2 camps before confirmation possibly in the month of March 2020

Ideas.

All of the above groups are still operational and our aim is to grow spiritually as well as physical in number. At present we are focusing on special needs for children in the community. The Wings for Life Special Needs School has approximately 80 learners and there are plans to increase the current educational facilities offered by the school.

Both Kid's Week and Kailager have not taken place in the last four years. We are looking at the possibility of having a small internal Youth Camp.

West Rand Lutheran Community Church (WRLCC)

The Kids and Youth work are the main focus of the WRLCC. They are largely outreach ministries. Often children and teens bring their families to the church.

The kid's ministry is led by Children's Pastor Isabeau Weyer for over 16 years. She is spiritually responsible for the children in Joyland Nursery School (18 months - 6 years), Riverbank Primary School (Grade 1-7) as well as the kids ministry 'Incredible Kids' and 'IK Church'. Weekly devotions are held in the schools with our team of 7-10 Interns supporting her. Incredible Kids (IK) happens every Friday afternoon from 14:30 until 18:00. Between 250 and 300 children (ages 5-12) from various primary schools in the surrounding suburbs of the WRLCC attend. Up to 140 teenagers and young adults are involved as leaders in this ministry. Planning and training for the Friday ministry happens every Monday (17:00-19:00) as well as Tuesdays from 17:00-19:00. The highlight of IK is the Incredibles Winter Week (IWW) which is Incredible Kids on 'steroids' for one whole week during the first week of the winter June/July holidays. On average 250 kids attend this week. The whole congregation is involved in making this week possible by providing meals for the children and co-workers during the week and doing other supporting tasks.

IK Church happens every Sunday during the main worship service. Between 35 and 60 children attend.

The youth work – Holyculture (HC) is currently led by two young adults – Dieufi Sabwe and David Machika. A team of about 36 Young Adults is involved in the ministry with them. HC happens every Friday from 19:00 to 21:30. Currently about 160 teenagers attend. The highlight of HC is the Kailager teen Camp in December. Usually around 120 teens attend this camp.

Around 40-50 teenagers regularly attend the Sunday services. Teen cell groups also occasionally meet during the services.

Confirmation happens every two years.

The Young Adults of the congregation (between 40 and 60 in number) get together on an irregular basis for outing, braais and Bible studies. They arrange themselves through a committee. Most of them are involved in the kids and youth ministries as co-workers. They also regularly meet during the week on Wednesdays for soccer, volleyball or netball at the church.