

August 1, 2017

Hello Students and Parents!

Fall is coming up quick and I just wanted to reach out to you all before we begin our next school year. My main purpose of this letter is to invite you (students) to be a part of our youth ministry, but also to let you know some of the things we will be doing this school year and the purpose behind it.

1st Corinthians 13:13 says this, "Three things will last forever- faith, hope, and love- and the greatest of these is love." I believe that the purpose of everything we do is to create an environment where faith, hope, and love are inescapable. My desire as the youth pastor is that when students come to our services, small groups, or events they will be given the hope of a life abundant and life eternal, they will grow in their faith through teaching and practice, and they will be surrounded by love from peers, leaders, and God.

The name of our youth ministry is Conquer Youth. This name comes from a verse in the book of Romans: "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." Romans 8:37 (ESV). This life is full of distractions. Not all distractions are necessarily bad, but some are clearly not good, and even the good ones are not always good if taken too far. Today's students are facing more distractions than ever before. I believe that this verse in Romans is a promise that through Jesus, we are able to be more than conquerors over all the distractions the world brings and live the life abundant that he has perfectly planned for our lives. Conquer Youth is all about guiding students into that life!

Each week we will have two different gatherings. The first is our **Conquer Youth Service**. Every Sunday evening from 6:30-8 we will meet in the church sanctuary to inspire students to grow closer to God and live out their faith through challenging messages, powerful worship, hilarious games, and fellowship with each other. Join us and bring a friend! Then on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30, we will meet in the youth room for our **Discipleship Groups**. These are a great time to grow closer to God and figure out your faith through reading the Bible together and asking questions! And there's snacks!

Throughout the year we also do some larger events, like **Summer Camp** and **Winter Camp**. This October 6-7th we will be taking a trip to Renton, WA for our **Youth Conference** with over 1,000 students from all over our state! Then on October 29th, we will be doing our annual **Bonfire Party** in place of Conquer Youth Service. It will be a great time to hang out and bring a friend! This year we are also looking forward to many more events including our **Fine Arts Festival** and a **Missions Trip**. Keep your eyes open for more details and what's coming up!

Make sure to follow us on Facebook or Instagram for new information and updates! Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions!

Sincerely,

Pastor Joel
Cell: 971-218-4793
Email: joelwarnock@gmail.com
Facebook: @ConquerYouthEphrata
Instagram: @dr_nockulous