

Dear Steve,

Hi, my name is Steve Aves and I am an adult (term loosely used here) volunteer with C.H.A.O.S. (that's the senior high ministry at church.) I'm writing to you because I had a great evening with C.H.A.O.S. a couple of weeks ago in our **new** youth facility and wanted to share that experience with you.

For those of you who don't know, Senior High Youth Ministry at St. John's is called C.H.A.O.S. for the acronym "Claiming Him As Our Savior." The high school students created the name themselves -- they are creative.

As I was saying, a couple of Wednesdays ago C.H.A.O.S. was driven inside from our normal summer home of Underwood Park by a thunderstorm. This was our first time in the new youth room. It was GREAT! The following is what I saw going on in the new youth facility.



In the reception area, one of our recent high school graduates, Dan Janes, was leading a study and devotional of the Bible. There were about 10 folks gathered around him. Note of importance; Dan chose to lead a study and Dan put together the devotional material. Isn't it fantastic to see an inspired youth return to inspire others?!?!

While Dan was holding the Bible study, there were 25 more young adults in the NEW youth room. They played pool, Wii (it's a video game) on a donated big screen TV, ping pong, and a card game called "Apples to Apples." All ages were in attendance from freshman to the newly graduated. Plenty of talking too (go figure), the din was well..... not too bad.



Around 7:30 pm most of the students gathered around the NEW projection screen attached to a laptop computer so they could watch the DeDianous twins (church members) compete in a swimming relay at the national finals in California – live on the Internet – too cool! (side note, even the youth were impressed with this newfangled device.) They yelled and screamed at the screen as if they could be heard in California.

After cheering on the swimmers, Brett Eckdahl, a St. John's member attending Augustana College, gave a presentation on Leadership Lab. He used the screen projector with Internet access to show videos. Leadership Lab is an ELCA program for high school youth providing leadership training. Details at <http://www.leadershiplab.net>.



We closed the evening of fellowship as we ALWAYS do with group prayer. We form a circle, hold hands, and those who want to lift up their prayers out loud. When each prayer is completed, as a group we say "Amen" to lift it up to the Lord. Before I knew it the time was 8:30 PM so another C.H.A.O.S. had ended. Kind of. Many youth had to leave since their rides were waiting.

Others were sllloowwwilly heading towards the doors yet their mouths were going REALLY, REALLY fast!

By the way, C.H.A.O.S. is currently looking for adults of all ages who are able to spend some time with young adults. The time spent doesn't have to be every week. Some of the fun things a person could do is help with lock-ins, supply snacks, drive a van or the church bus, assist with planning events, helping with Sunday morning devotions. If you or someone else you know has an interest in this vital ministry, please call Steve Terry or myself. Steve's number is 309-827-6121, extension 215. I can be reached at 309-530-3651.

Thank you Steve for your support of St. John's. C.H.A.O.S. is one part of the whole that makes up St. John's, but it is an important one!

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