

Evangelisch-Lutherische Johannesgemeinde

Pretoria - Ost

Nonprofit Organization Number: 029-769-NPO



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Pretoria, 12. August 2019

Children and Youth Report 2019 of the Northern Circuit of ELCSA-NT

The Information has been compiled for the Children's and Youth Report of the Northern Circuit from the following congregations: Concordia, Potchefstroom, Johannesgemeinde, Kroondal, Nelspruit and the St. Peters Gemeinde Pretoria. The report was compiled by Youth Deacon Angelina Ahrens, and individual reports were written by the congregations themselves.

In general, it can be said that child and youth work vary widely from one congregation to another. This is partly due to the size difference, as well as staffing and partly because each church has built its own structures in this area of work, in which they offer groups and events. The Johannesgemeinde is currently the only congregation that has occupied a full youth deacon position in addition to the pastor. The Kroondal Gemeinde also employs a part-time youth worker. In the other churches, child and youth work takes place through dedicated volunteers, if they have any youth work at all.

Concordia and Potchefstroom

Both congregations are very small, so there is hardly any possibility of doing child and youth work. There is currently no youth group in the Concordia that can take place. Nevertheless, attempts are being made to cooperate with other churches, so that there is a youth meeting four times a year. There is also an annual youth weekend in October, in which the young people of Concordia, take part. Potchefstroom is even smaller and currently has only one 13-year-old, so nothing happens there. However, there is an interest on the part of the students, so an attempt is made to build up a student group.

Reporting by Jan Duvenhage

Johannesgemeinde

General:

The Johannesgemeinde currently has 223 members aged 0-25 years, divided as follows: (41 aged 0-6 years; 61 at the age of 7-13 years; 51 aged 14-18 years and 70 at 19-25 years). In 2019, there was a major change in personnel. There is both a new pastor (Nicole Otte-Kempf) and a new youth deacon (Angelina Ahrens). As a way of changing, there are also small changes in child and youth work. Overall, it can be reported that there is active youth work for children and young people in the Johannesgemeinde, which, like everything, has its strengths and weaknesses. In addition to the church board, there is a volunteer, youthful team (the J-Team; about 6 young people) that supports the youth deaconess and leads the child and youth work as well. We like to thank everyone who makes it possible to have such a great child and youth work!

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Groups and Events:

- **Children's service:** Every Sunday there are three groups of children's services for the "age groups" kindergarten, preschool up to 2nd grade and 3rd to 6th grade. The number of children varies greatly and is characterized by holidays. On average, there are about 15 children. A volunteer team designs and organizes the children's service. An attempt is made to offer 1-2 employee training per year.
- **Kompass:** The children's group meets every Friday from 4.30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Johannesgemeinde with a story to get started. The focus is on playing group games or craft offers. On average, there are about 5- 7 children between the ages of 6 and 12 who meet weekly. The number of children seems to be expandable. Because more than 20 children come to individual **sleepover events** of this age group.
- **Confirmation work:** We work with a two-year model, which means we have pre- and main confirmands who meet every Tuesday, from 5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. In addition, there are two weekends for the main confirmands and one weekend and a sleepover for the pre-confirmants. They are integrated into church life through a check card (tasks, actions they must take on). This year there are only 2 pre-confirmants, which makes the methodological work a little more difficult. That is why we strive for cooperation with other congregations.
- **Johnny FM:** The youth group is open to young people from the age of 13. Every Friday from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. young people can cook, play, tinker, watch movies, and much more. At the beginning or at the end, an evening devotional is celebrated together. Now, unfortunately, only 4-6 young people come to the regular offer.
- **Studentenkreis:** For the young adults there was in the past this group, which was a mixture of house circle and cooking circle. Every 1st Wednesday of the month, from 6.30 p.m., they met at the Johannesgemeinde. The student group is not so well received, because there are different interests. Therefore, the idea is to act once a month more as a house circle and to make a nice leisure program once a month. On average, there are 6-8 students who are there.
- **Kailager:** The youth camp in December is still the highlight of the year. For teenagers from 13 years, it goes for a week to the Kailager Platz. In 2018, 60 young people and 12 volunteers travelled with them. And this year, too, there are the first registrations.
- **Kidsweek:** During the winter holidays, an offer including lunch for children between the ages of 6 and 12 takes place on site at the Johannesgemeinde. This year it was about pearls of faith and 28 children have spent a nice week together.
- **Actions:** various other activities, such as Youth Sports Day, Community Dining Evening, Open Air Movie, Johnny Dance, Game Night, Sleepovers, Praise&Worship services and much more are offered by the youth for the youth. The events are usually very well attended and bring a lot of fun to everyone. It is possible to suddenly have 60 young people there.

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Challenges:

We see the challenges at the moment in the fact that the children and young people are very busy with school during the week and then usually no longer come to us or are tired when they show up. On weekends, however, there are also various hobbies and events that collide with our events. In addition, we are still dealing with the change of personnel and, understandably, this has also led to the leaving of young people. In addition, the question arises whether it is still sensible to offer regular offers, since camps and events are usually better attended and accepted. In addition, it is rather difficult to find suitable volunteers who can offer groups or events, as there is little time for many. Young adults break off their tents quickly after school and move away, which is clearly noticeable in the youth work. And it is quiet hard to get to know those students who move to Pretoria from the other congregations.

Vision:

Despite all the challenges, there is a demand for groups and events, so our goal is to focus more on volunteer training, so that volunteers also have the opportunity to offer actions and thus broaden the spectrum. We also want better and more closed transitions to the individual groups. This is to guarantee that something is offered for every age group and that the bond with the congregation is maintained. We would like to enter into more cooperations.

Kroondal

General:

The Kroondal community currently has 98 members under the age of 18. The part-time youth worker, Connie Lilje, leads some groups and tries to support the other teams. Youth work is divided into four groups.

Groups:

The Young Group (1st-3rd grade) and the *Little Youth (4th-7th grade)* meet once a month. The groups are led by Connie and her team. The meetings will take place on Friday afternoon.

The Great Youth (8th-12th grade) is led by 11th grade students. But they also have "youth parents" who support the program. Connie Lilje also participates in this group from time to time.

The young people have their own youth camp once a year, but also support the Kailager, which takes place in July, as well as the volunteer training offered by Udo Lütge.

The student group is not directly connected to the community youth work. They meet at the universities and during the holidays.

Reporting by Theo Jaeckel

Young & Small Youth

The Young People (Grades 1-3) and Small Youth (Grades 4-7) events have appropriate activities, with a biblical introduction and teaching to occupy the youth.

We met six times in the first half. We started the year with a joint meeting at the swimming pool. A lot of positive things were heard among the children and parents! We then decided to try to arrange

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a meeting every other week. It works wonderfully so far; we have between 40 and 50 children who participate!

The Little Youth is led fantastically by Janka and Stefan with the students of the 9th grade. Thank you for your cooperation!

The highlight of the year so far was the kinder-Kailager. It took place from 23 to 29 June. 77 children from different communities took part. 17 children (9 ward children) and 7 helpers from Kroondal were present. We all had a lot of fun together, got to know new people, helped each other to forget about homesickness and learned how to be "God's Secret Agent". It was a beautiful camp with lots of singing, prizes, prayer, swimming and playing!

We will continue to do so in the next quarter with Friday afternoon activities. Because more and more children are taking part and the groups are growing, we want to divide the children into three groups. Hopefully the groups can continue to grow like this. We are very much looking forward to everyone who participates!

Reporting by Connie Lilje

Nelspruit

There has been no youth work in the Nelspruit congregation for many years. It has never actually taken place. This year, however, there are four confirmants and a changing number of children who come to the children's service and sometimes not. The parents of the children do not necessarily belong to our church.

Reporting by Siegfried Wolff

St. Peters Pretoria

In St. Peter es only reports that no teenage group meets at the moment, but that attempts were made in 2018 and it is intended again.

Reporting by Detlev Toensing

Yours sincerely,
Kind regards,

Angelina Ahrens

Jugenddiakonin