

For the second year, the Atlantic District ZAP ministry sent a team of jr. and sr. high youth to SonRise Lutheran Camp for one week, where they lead a Vacation Bible School and participated in community service projects.

Led by George Pinter of Saratoga Springs and Jennn Partlow of Fishkill, the team of 16 youth represented five churches from the District: St. Paul-Saratoga Springs, Our Savior-Fishkill, SonRise-Pottersville, Immanuel-Patchogue, and Our Saviors-Colonie. Having met and trained together the weekend prior, the team arrived to SonRise on Sunday, August 17th, with less than 24 hours to transform SonRise into POWER LAB!, the VBS curriculum from Group Publishing.

Between 40-50 children from the surrounding Pottersville community joined the ZAP team each morning as they experienced games, crafts, snacks, and Bible stories that all centered on the theme of Jesus' miraculous power. Everyone present, from participants to ZAP youth to Sonrise staff members, learned that Jesus gives us the power to: Be thankful! Help others! Be brave! Live forever! and Tell others about Him! A-HA! It must be noted - the 16 youth of the ZAP team were truly the LEADERS of this VBS! While the adults were there to coach and supervise, the ZAP youth did an outstanding job leading the children in most aspects of the morning.

After a brief respite at lunchtime, the ZAP crew then divided up to serve the SonRise and Pottersville community in different ways. Some painted at the home of Rose, a woman with terminal bone cancer, and the home of Darren, suffering from back injuries. Others helped with the construction of two homes on SonRise property. Still others remained at the camp to help clean up the property, and assist the staff with the Day Camp program. By the end of the afternoon though, ALL came to dinner quite hungry!

The evenings were filled with preparation for the following morning's VBS, as well as some fun & relaxation. Manhunt (an outdoor night game), swimming, square dancing, and a special presentation by Jon Belschwinder (Our Saviors-Colonie) on his trip to Uganda were particular highlights of our evening activities.

Give thanks and praise to the Lord for His provision of strength, energy, unity and joy for the ZAP crew during their time at Sonrise, and thanksgiving for the beautiful ministry of SonRise Camp, led by Betsy Mitchell and Pastors Wade Miller and Larry Loree!

If you are interested in hearing more about the week, or how YOU can be involved in the Atlantic District's Youth Ministry, contact Jennn Partlow:
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