

**Northern  
Great Lakes  
Synod**

# Youth Ministry

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***"This synod supports congregational youth & family ministry through Christ-centered resources, ideas, & powerful ministry events."***

## **THIS MONTH:**

- 3-4-5 Guide to Youth Ministry
- Holiday Survival Kit
- Youth Ministry Calendar
- Bits & Pieces

## *A Guide to Youth Ministry: 3-4-5*

So far we've learned that 3 stands for "Triple-A-Adult" - Authentic, Affirming, and Available.

4 stands for the Four Keys to Faith Formation. The Four Keys are:

- Caring Conversations
- Family Devotions
- Rituals and Traditions
- Service

We've learned about caring conversations and family devotions. This month our topic is Rituals & Traditions. Think about the bedtime rituals of the children we know. When their nighttime formulas are disrupted, or we forget something, they let us know about it because it is important. That's how children are. But teens, young adults, and older adults also need rituals and traditions. It helps us feel that all is well.

In the Christian community, rituals & traditions help remind us of the good news of Jesus Christ. But they are not only for worship services. Families each have developed over the years their own rituals & traditions. The church's emphasis needs to be helping these families bring more meaning into their activities. For example, instead of saying "Have a nice day" why not use "God bless you" more often—not just when someone sneezes?! And don't forget to lift up the significance of having a Christmas tree. Martin Luther suggested that the evergreen tree symbolizes the constant love of God, the lights represent Jesus, the light of the world, and the tree itself reminds us that Jesus was born to die on a tree (the cross).

Your synod has some resources with more ideas for rituals & traditions. And for more on the 3-4-5 Guide to Youth Ministry see "Frogs Without Legs Can't Hear: Nurturing Disciples in Home and Congregation" by David Anderson and Paul Hill, published by Augsburg Fortress. Next month "Service"...



## Holiday Survival Kit

Need a service project for your confirmation class or youth group? Consider this Kit—they make fun, inexpensive gifts for parents, shut-ins, mentors, or even for the whole congregation! It helps bring a proper, Biblical perspective back to our everyday lives. Include in each kit this list of explanations and Bible references with the following objects, then package in a hand-decorated paper lunch sack.

**TOOTHPICK**—to remind you to pick out the good qualities in others. Matthew 7:1

**RUBBER BAND**—to remind you to be flexible, that things might not always go the way you want, but it will work out. Romans 8:28

**BAND AID**—to remind you to heal hurt feelings, your own or someone else's. Colossians 3:12-14

**PENCIL**—to remind you to list your blessings everyday. Ephesians 1:3

**ERASER**—to remind you that everyone makes mistakes and it's OK. Genesis 50:15-21

**CHEWING GUM**—to remind you to stick with it and you can accomplish anything. Philippians 4:13

**MINT**—to remind you that you are worth a mint to your Heavenly Father. John 3:16-17

**CANDY HUG**—to remind you that everyone needs a hug everyday. 1 John 4:7

**TEA BAG**—to remind you to relax daily and go over that list of God's blessings. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

## YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

3-4 "Shaping Future Leaders" Theological Conference, Marquette, MI

8-10 SPUNGE Training, Sugar Creek Bible Camp, Ferryville, WI

### JANUARY

12-14 SPUNGE Training, Luther Point Bible Camp, Grantsburg, WI

### FEBRUARY

1-5 ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza, Tampa, Florida

9-11 SPUNGE Training, Luther Park Bible Camp, Chetek, WI

### MARCH

9-11 SPUNGE Final Training, Crossways Bible Camp, Shawano, WI

### APRIL

15 "MARKED" event for confirmation classes, Minocqua, WI area

22 "MARKED" event for confirmation classes, Marquette, MI area



## Bits & Pieces

Are you a pastor, youth director, or volunteer who needs a boost in your ministry to young people? Consider attending the **ELCA Youth Ministry Network's Continuing Education Extravaganza** for some excellent learning opportunities, as well as uplifting worship, nationally-known speakers & musicians, and a chance to network with others from across the country who are doing the same things you are! The Extravaganza will be held Feb. 1-5 in Tampa, FL. Scholarships are available! For more information, contact Wendy Black or go to: [www.elcaymnet.org](http://www.elcaymnet.org)