

**Northern
Great Lakes
Synod**

Youth Ministry

**January
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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
- Bits & Pieces
- Youth Ministry Calendar
- "Souper Bowl" of Caring

A Guide to Youth Ministry: 3-4-5

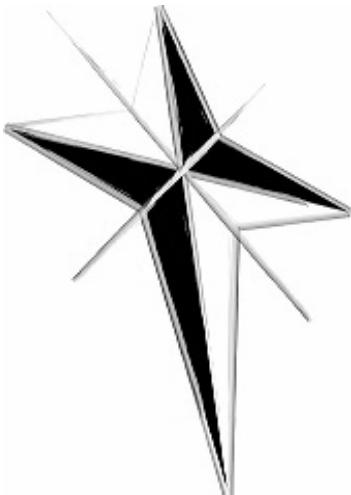
So far we've learned that 3 stands for "Triple-A-Adult" - Authentic, Affirming, and Available. 4 stands for the Four Keys to Faith Formation. The Four Keys are:

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

We've learned about caring conversations, family devotions, and rituals and traditions. This month our topic is Service. In order to create healthy church homes, congregations, neighborhoods, and communities, we need "service" to complete the Four Keys to Faith Formation. Many congregations go on "servant" or mission trips. These are wonderful and all who have participated know the value of bearing Christ's witness to the world through service. But how can we do service on a daily basis without going on a big trip?

Studies have shown that young people "catch the faith" by watching and interacting with adults they respect and trust. Cross-generational service is key to faith formation. But this does not mean a once-a-year outing to pick up litter along the highway or an occasional visit to the nursing home. "Service" needs to be a 24/7/365 way of life. Service on behalf of our neighbors (whether we know them or not) is what Jesus has called us all to do. "Service" can be working at home (chores) as a family for the sake of the family, adopting a person or family in need and praying for them daily, remembering those in the military or college by sending cards and goodies, being an advocate of the poor, volunteering in the community, and the list goes on and on. Whatever you do, know that you are sharing your faith & values, providing for the needs of people, and representing God's loving, grace-filled presence in the world.

Your synod has some resources with more ideas for service. 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 we'll begin the "5 Principles" of Faith Formation. (Previous articles on the 3-4-5 Guide to Youth Ministry can be found in archived issues of the Youth Ministry page of your synod's monthly newsletter, Notes & Quotes. See www.nglsynod.org)





Bits & Pieces

Looking for a great resource with weekly devotions, youth ministry information, articles, quotes, news, and even "funnies"? And all this for FREE? Just go to:

<http://www.elcaymnet.org>

and click on "join our email list". You will receive a weekly email that will help you take care of yourself and your faith life so you can be better prepared for the young people you work with. Did I mention this was free?!? This is just one of the many benefits provided by the ELCA Youth Ministry Network.

The ELCA's Outdoor Ministries has asked that we pass on the following information about the annual "Journeys" publication that many congregations, synods, and other organizations received. This year, due to high printing/shipping costs, "Journeys" will only be available online. To find "Journeys" online, go to:

<http://www.elca.org/camps/journeys.html>

YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

2-5 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

13-15 SPUNGE Reunion, Crossways Camp Shawano, WI

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

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



The "Souper Bowl of Caring" is an easy but effective way for young people to serve God by helping the hungry people of the world by collecting donations. This all happens on the same day that we watch the annual "championship professional football game" — you know the one! This year the date is Sunday, February 4, 2007.

Encourage your young people to bring large soup pots to exit doors to collect dollars from worshippers as they leave services at your church. Funds are then delivered directly to the charity selected by your group, usually a local charity that helps the hungry or hurting—it's your choice.

This effort began with the Senior High Youth Fellowship of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, S.C. in 1990. Since that time, almost \$30 million has been raised by young people who care. Last year alone, the total was \$5,003,571.95!

For more information, helpful hints, and reports of donations go to: www.souperbowl.org or call 1-800-SOUP (7687).

GET INVOLVED!! HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!