

**Northern
Great Lakes
Synod**

Youth Ministry

**March
2007**

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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
- “In The Mirror”
Gathering for High School Students
- Youth Ministry Calendar

A Guide to Youth Ministry: 3-4-5

The first of the 5 Principles of Faith Formation is:

“Faith is caught more than taught.”

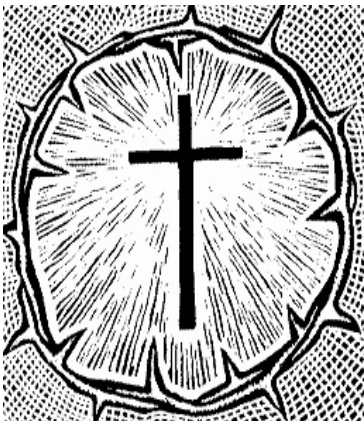
This phrase has been around for quite a while. Educators often feel threatened by it. But it is certainly not meant to be a substitute for any formal education, whether it's Sunday school, confirmation, or any other classroom setting. This principle advocates learning in addition to and beyond typical instruction. It deals with experiential learning. Connecting education and life experiences makes sense to people and they learn better.

Jesus often taught this way. His classroom had no walls. The messages were given along the road, in people's homes, and in town gathering places. Jesus taught with stories that people understood and he taught by example.

When it comes to life lessons, especially faith issues, we are the curriculum! Children, youth, parents, grandparents, relatives, friends, co-workers, etc., are all part of the laboratory of daily living. “Actions speak louder than words” is not just an old-fashioned phrase.

God actually created us to learn this way. Research with new-borns have shown that the human brain is designed to seek out other human faces. Babies less than 24 hours old were shown four pictures: a face, a scrambled face, an unsymmetrical face, and a blank card. The babies most often followed the normal face with their eyes. We all have certain brain cells whose specific job it is to find the face and hands of other humans. In other words, we are created to be in relationships with others, to watch them, to engage them, and to learn from them. It is the way we were made.

How can we, as adults, parents, and educators be someone through whom faith is caught? Please contact me for further information. 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 move on to the second of the 5 Principles of Faith Formation “Home is church, too.” (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

Leadership School—Mark your calendars now for the Northern Great Lakes Synod's annual Leadership School to be held **July 23-27** at Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan. This faith-enriching event is for students who have completed grades 9-12. Watch for registration information coming soon to all congregations!

Has your confirmation class registered yet for:



with the Cross of Christ forever?

The registration deadline is April 1. This event is for all confirmation classes, their pastors, and all adult mentors. The dates & locations are Sunday, April 15 at Ascension, Minocqua & Sunday, April 22 at Bethany, Ishpeming from 4-7:00 (local times). Contact the synod office with registration numbers at 906-228-2300 or ngls@nglsynod.org

News from the ELCA: The Rev. H. William "Bill" Bixby has accepted the position of Director for Youth Ministry beginning this month. Pastor Bixby was most recently the Director of Theological Education with Youth (TEY), a joint project of the Lutheran Theological Seminaries at Gettysburg and Philadelphia. Please remember Pastor Bixby in your prayers as he begins this new journey!

YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

MARCH

- 6 Synod Youth Ministry Support Team, 1:00 Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp
- 9-11 SPUNGE Final Training, Crossways Bible Camp, Shawano, WI

APRIL

- 15 "MARKED" event for confirmation classes, Ascension, Minocqua, WI, 4-7:00 CST
- 20-22 SPUNGE Reunion (all three years), Crossways Camp, Shawano, WI
- 22 "MARKED" event for confirmation classes, Bethany, Ishpeming, MI, 4-7:00 EST

MAY

- 4-6 "In The Mirror", Synod-Wide High School Youth Gathering, Pembine, WI
- 8 Synod Youth Ministry Support Team, 1:00 Our Saviour's, Iron Mountain, MI
- 18-20 Synod Assembly, Marquette, MI

JULY

- 23-27 Leadership School, Finlandia University, Hancock, MI

AUGUST

- 17-18 Retreat for Youth Ministry folks Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

NOVEMBER

- 9-10 Synod Junior High Retreat, Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

IN THE MIR- ROR



A SYNOD-WIDE GATHERING FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LYO (LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION) AT THE FOUR SEASONS RESORT IN PEMBINE, WI ON MAY 4-6. ALL CONGREGATIONS ARE STRONGLY