



Please Photo-copy for those who provide Youth Ministry in your church!



**Northern
Great Lakes
Synod**

Youth Ministry

**June/July
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
- "Calling All Youth Workers"
- Youth Ministry Calendar

A Guide to Youth Ministry: 3-4-5

The third of the 5 Principles of Faith Formation is: **"If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults and parents"**

Parents and many other adults shape children's lives, either directly or indirectly. We never know what action or circumstance in our relationships with young people will help influence and shape their faith and lives. Most parents know that it takes more than one adult to raise a child. Some adults don't like that kind of responsibility! Or rather, they underestimate the impact they have on the young people in their lives.

What goes on in the spiritual lives of adults really does matter! The best youth ministry might better be named "Adult Renewal"! The two previous principles ("Faith is caught more than taught" and "Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church, too") make adults who are spiritually sound a requirement. We don't have to be perfect—only Jesus accomplished that distinction. But we do have to be aware of how our words & actions are perceived by our children.

The United States builds more prisons for juveniles and houses more people correctional facilities than any other industrialized nation. The ages of children who bully, intimidate, and even shoot their classmates is getting younger and younger. As adults, we need to wonder if we somehow failed in passing on faith & values to our children. Our lives are filled to the brim with material things yet we are spiritually empty. Being a **Christian** parent, pastor, relative, youth director, volunteer, mentor, Sunday school teacher, choir director, god-parent, or family friend is all about making sure our spiritual life is on track—and sharing that spiritual life with others.

How can we, as church leaders, make sure we are doing all we can to help adults be more spiritual? 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 fourth of the 5 Principles of Faith Formation "Faith is formed through personal, trusted relationships—and often in the homes." (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

YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

JULY

13 Registration Deadline for Leadership School
23-27 Leadership School, Finlandia University,
Hancock, MI

29-Aug. 3 High School Week, FLLC

AUGUST

6-11 Youth Convocation/Churchwide Assembly
Navy Pier, Chicago, IL

13 Youth Ministry Support Team, 1-3:00
Zion, Metropolitan

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

OCTOBER

14 "MARKED!" Event, NGLS Eastern area, 4-7:00
Location TBA

NOVEMBER

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

Leadership School—Registration materials have been mailed to congregations or can be downloaded at:

<http://nglsynod.org/youth-ministry.html>

and "click here to download registration forms". This event will be July 23-27 at Finlandia University in Hancock, MI. It is for students who have completed grades 9-12.

Samantha Chavez (Trinity, Rhinelander, WI) will be representing the Northern Great Lakes Synod at the Youth Convocation to be held alongside the ELCA Churchwide Assembly August 6-11. Worship, learning, sharing, networking, and participating in many Assembly activities are all part of the Youth Convo. Sam is a junior at Rhinelander high school.

The ELCA Youth Gathering 2009 will be held in New Orleans July 22-26 (one week only). The theme is "Jesus+Justice+Jazz". For more information and to sign up for e-news updates beginning in July, go to: <http://elca.org/youth/gathering.html>

CALLING ALL YOUTH WORKERS!

Are you one of those wonderfully dedicated people that work with young people in your congregation? Are you a volunteer, are you a lay person on staff, or are you a pastor? Is this a new area for you, or are you a seasoned veteran?

No matter what category you may fall into, we would like to invite you to a retreat at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp on Friday-Saturday, August 17-18. In order to keep doing youth ministry, and doing it well, it is extremely important to have connections with others around you who also do youth ministry—for support, new ideas, training, and shared ministry.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in attending this retreat, please contact Wendy Black at 715-282-5882 or WKBlack@yahoo.com. Registration brochures will be arriving in congregations soon and watch the synod's website for more information at <http://nglsynod.org/youth-ministry>

Let's explore ways of helping each other by being connected! The retreat will include practical hands-on ideas for working with youth, Bible study, and networking opportunities. Cost will be minimal and is supplemented by a grant from the Siebert Lutheran Foundation of Milwaukee, WI. Together we can expand our ministry, our youth programs, and even our own faith journey. Let's get connected!