



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



**Northern
Great Lakes
Synod**

Youth Ministry

**October
2007**

Wendy Black
Youth Ministry Coordinator
715-282-5882
E-Mail Address:
WKBlack@yahoo.com

"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
- NGLS Annual Jr. High Retreat
- Youth Ministry Calendar

A Guide to Youth Ministry: 3-4-5

Number five of the 5 Principles of Faith Formation is: "The church is a living partnership between the ministry of the congregation and the ministry of the home."

Congregations are searching these days for new and effective ways to do outreach and ministry, not only to young people but to everyone. The assumption is made that change has to happen exclusively to programs and activities within the congregational building. Recommendations often include more exciting worship, more exciting youth ministry, and a bigger parking lot. Faithful, healthy, and effective congregational, youth, & family ministry includes strong leadership and the gathering together for worship, education, fellowship, and service. BUT this ministry should also include focusing on Christians living and serving in their daily routines outside of the congregational setting. This important aspect of healthy congregations is often ignored in developing new models or plans for ministry. We know we're supposed to live out our faith 24/7 but often we are left on our own for that with no intentional help or support from our congregation. Congregations need to understand the balance between congregational ministry and at-home ministry. The front doors of the "church" are sometimes in homes, coffee shops, grocery stores, schools, the YMCA, etc.

How do we initiate this change? One easy step is to be aware of how you talk about church. Try saying, "I'm going to my congregation" instead of "I'm going to church." A simple language change can alter our ways of thinking about where exactly "church" is. Remember, we don't just go to church, we ARE the church!

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. This book would be a great resource for congregations to study together. Next month we'll review the entire 3-4-5 Guide to Youth Ministry. (Previous articles on the 3-4-5 Guide to Youth Ministry can be found in archived issues of the Youth Ministry page of Notes & Quotes. See www.nglsynod.org)





Bits & Pieces

YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

SAVE THE DATE!! The NGLS annual "Shaping Future Leaders" Theological Conference will be held December 2-3 in Marquette. This year's presenter is Dr. Terri Elton who serves as an affiliated faculty at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, working with the Children, Youth, and Family Ministry team in the area of contextual theology. Watch for registration brochures coming soon to your congregation!

Are you a pastor or youth worker who needs a boost in your ministry to young people? Consider attending the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Continuing Education Extravaganza for some quality workshops, as well as uplifting worship, nationally-known speakers, & musicians! The Extravaganza will be held Feb. 7-11 at the Hyatt Hotel in Anaheim, California. Scholarships are available. For more information, contact Wendy Black or go to: www.elcaymnet.org

OCTOBER

14 "MARKED!" Event for Confirmation classes
Faith, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 4:30-7:30

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

2-3 "Shaping Future Leaders" Theological Event,
Marquette, MI

FEBRUARY

7-11 ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza,
Anaheim, California

APRIL

20 "MARKED!" Event for Confirmation classes
Grace, Pembine, WI 4:00-7:00

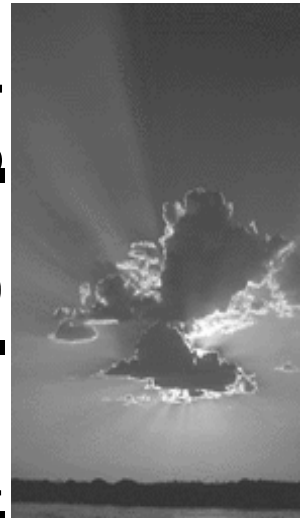
27 "MARKED!" Event for Confirmation classes
Mission United, Pelkie, MI (tentative) 4:00-7:00

*northern great lakes synod
annual jr. high retreat
nov. 9 & 10 ~ fortune lake lutheran
camp*

imag

o

dei



**registration is now open for this annual event for
jr. high/middle school students
registration packets have been mailed out to congregations
or you can download information at
www.nglsynod.org**