

Dear Members of the Coalition of the WIYLDE,

### **What is the “Coalition of the WIYLDE”?**

It is a coalition of the Pastors, Directors of Youth & Family Ministry, and Church Council Presidents of congregations which sent at least one youth to the Wholly Iowa Youth Leadership and Discipeling Event (WIYLDE, *pronounced wild*) held in July of 2008 at Luther College. Also included in the “Coalition,” of course, are the youth themselves.

### **What is the purpose of the Coalition of the WIYLDE”?**

The purpose of this Coalition is to network the leadership of participating congregations so that we may encourage and hold each other accountable for creating leadership opportunities in the church for WIYLDE 2008 participants and all other young people.

This “list serve” also provides congregation a conduit to share their “best practices” in utilizing the newly learned skills of the WIYLDE youth.

### **What Are Other Congregations Doing?**

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Waverly is: asking the WIYLDE youth to re-examine aspects of the youth ministry program, like what night to hold events, and to help set priorities and goals.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waverly is: inviting the WIYLDE youth to serve as small group leaders in the confirmation program.

St. Luke in Nora Springs had WIYLDE youth speak to the congregation about the event on Sunday and will meet with the Church council to talk about ways she can serve.

Zion/St. John in Sheffield is inviting the WIYLDE youth to help plan and lead a worship service at the end of the month.

### **How Do I Share My Ideas and Observations with the Coalition?**

Reply to Pastor Anderson directly by email and your comments, unless otherwise stated, will be assumed to be intended to be shared with the entire coalition.

### **What was the 2008 WIYLDE Theme?**

The theme was “Living Among God's Faithful People.” The students in all 3 levels focused on Biblical Christian Stewardship. We focused on the program 10-10-80. To learn more about this extremely creative method of teaching about stewardship please go to <http://archive.elca.org/stewardship/101080/index.html>. In addition to stewardship each level also focused on:

#### **WIYLDE 1**

- To introduce the idea of spiritual gifts as part of baptismal identity.
- To allow participants to begin to identify individual spiritual gifts.
- To encourage group identification of individual gifts and how those gifts lift up the community.
- To empower further small group development.
- To allow each participant to name a vocational goal.
- To acquire the skill to dissect vocations into gifts, talents and skills for development.
- To provide a safe space for participants to name personal weaknesses.
- To empower participants to view personal weaknesses as gift from God and growing edges.

- To give participants skills to enable them to plan an event.
- To build confidence in participants by allowing them to practice skills.
- To introduce the participants to the impact changing group members have on group dynamics.
- To build skill in hospitality.
- To facilitate understanding of God's view of the Stranger and service.
- To synthesize the week's curriculum.
- To name participant's gifts that emerged during the week.
- To enable participants to envision taking their learning home.
- To facilitate the group's leave taking process.

## **2 WIYLDE**

- To train bible study leaders for their task this week.
- To develop bible study skills for use in home congregations in safe environment.
- To experience community development through skills like active listening and discussion moderation.
- To introduce students to the concepts of systems theory and group dynamics.
- To reflect on underlying group dynamics in previous group initiatives.
- To encourage self-differentiation and self-awareness when working with and in groups.
- To recognize personal gifts as community developing assets.
- To build service opportunities from the assembled gifts in the room.
- To honor the diversity of gifts and necessity of diversity for the well-being of the body
- To recognize personal weaknesses as gifts from God.
- To acquire skills for recognizing weakness and asking for help.
- To practice graciousness in responding to requests for help.
- To honor the diversity of gifts and necessity of diversity for the well-being of the body.
- To identify different types of and reactions to conflict in a community.
- To develop non-reactive, active listening skills for mediation of conflict.
- To recognize when conflict can be helpful.
- To articulate personal values that drive personal behavior.
- To prepare the group members to apply the skills they have learned this week in their own home contexts.
- To name potential opportunities, passions, and stumbling blocks for the next year and brainstorm responses.
- To affirm the importance of community in the group members' continued development as leaders.

## **Extreme WIYLDE**

- The students will claim their identity as a baptized child of God.
- The students will identify the community of God's faithful people.
- The students will identify ways that we are called to Christian service.
- The students will identify listening as a service skill.
- The students will practice listening skills.
- The students will define evangelism.
- The students will identify their individual evangelism styles.

- The students will claim evangelism as a focus of discipleship

**How do I opt out of the coalition**

Please send an email making that request to [boltec@neiasynod.org](mailto:boltec@neiasynod.org)