



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Youth & Family Ministry

February 25, 2010
Issue 5.5



Text: "LWR" TO: 40579 to donate \$10 to relief efforts on your cell phone bill.

Northeastern Iowa Synod Youth Ministry

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Dear Friends,

Your Synod office, LYO Board and Home Life Workgroup have some pretty nice things to offer you this spring. But as you all know, it is important, even urgent, that participants commit and sign up.

First, on March 13-14 there is the [LYO Assembly](#). While it would be nice to have your congregation's registration here at the synod office, more urgent is that you get your hotel rooms reserved before the hotel fills for the weekend. Please call Matt at 563-690-1349 to make reservations.

Second, the "Spring Training" on March includes wisdom from Tammy Jo West in the morning and workshops in the afternoon. To reserve a spot for your congregation please call Elayne at (641) 435-2396.

Third, to report your congregation's participation in the 2010 LYO Hunger Challenge please email Charleen at boltec@neiasynod.org

Your cooperation in signing up makes many people's lives easier. Thanks.

*Keep in Touch,
Pastor Mark*

Spring Training Event

March 27, 2010, 10:00am

Buckmaster Room,

Wartburg College, Waverly

The Home Life Work Group invites Christian education leaders, Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, pastors, and others interested to attend the Spring Training Event set for Saturday, March 27, at Wartburg College. The event starts at 10 a.m. and will offer workshops, speakers and activities focused on new and innovative ways to work with youth and families. Keynote speaker will be Tammy Jones West, who is the youth and family ministry coordinator for the North Carolina Synod and an adjunct professor for religious studies at Lenoir Rhyne University in Lenoir Rhyne, North Carolina. Breakout sessions will cover a variety of topics, including church year

[Newsletter Archive](#)

Upcoming Events

2010

February 28

La Vida at Lutheran Student Center at UNI 7:00-9:00pm

March 7

Safeguarding Training at St. Paul in Monona and Our Savior in Osage

March 19-29

Mission Trip to Guatemala

March 13-14

[LYO Assembly](#)

March 27

Home Life Work Group Spring Training Event, Wartburg College

April 8

Family Ministry "Swap Meet" Bethlehem, Cedar Falls, 6:00pm

March 28

La Vida at Lutheran Student Center at UNI 7:00-9:00pm

April 18

La Vida at Lutheran Student Center at UNI 7:00-9:00pm

July 27-Aug 1

[WIYLDE](#)

2012

July 18-22, [ELCA Youth](#)

activities for families.

Cost to attend is \$15 with lunch on your own.

To register or to learn more, contact Elayne Werges, 641-435-2396, or email elayne@butler-bremer.com.

Youth & Family Ministry Resources Page

[Click Here](#)

The Synod Communication Coordinator, Marcia Hahn, has been putting a great deal of effort into making the "Youth & Family Ministry Resource Page" of our web site more helpful. Now, all the resources on our site are on one colorful page in neat categories. If you haven't been on that page since February 24 stop by for a look and let us know what you think. Remember, we are also happy to get your contributions.



2010 Hunger Challenge

The challenge is to raise as many funds as possible for the ELCA Hunger Appeal and/or for local food shelves between now and the LYO Assembly in Dubuque on March 13.

To see the latest results go to:

[RESULTS](#)

The LYO Board has many resources available on the web page

[Gathering](#)

High School

La Vida

Feb 28th

7:00 - 9:00pm.

Our plan is to put together health kits for LWR and are still looking for donations. Here's the link to our LWR health kit facebook event, it has information about the supplies we need etc.

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/event.php?eid=266887872207&index=1>

[Thanks!](#)
[Katelyn](#)

www.neiasynod.org/youth/hunger.asp

All congregations who participate will receive a certificate and thank you letter from the LYO. The congregation which raises the most funds, per member, will be presented with a trophy.

Outdoor Ministry

February 27 Gala - Riverside

March 27 Junior's Blast - Riverside

March 12-14 - Dirty Feet Retreat - EWALU

March 27-28 Wazzup With Supper? - EWALU

April 4 Recharge- Riverside

April 10 Junior/Sr. High Blast - Riverside

July 16-26 Holden Village Trip - EWALU

[Camp EWALU](#)

&

[Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp](#)

Book Review:

Please, have you read a book lately? Want to share your thoughts about it? Submit your own book review to andersonm@neiasynod.org

If you are going to read only one book on youth ministry this year let it be Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry: From a Strategy of Influence to a Theology of Incarnation by [Andrew Root](#) published by InterVarsity Press in 2007 ([Amazon Page](#)).

In "Part One" Root gives us some badly needed historical perspective reminding us that adolescence, age specific ministry, and relational ministry are all concepts unique to modern history. He helps us to understand that until the industrial revolution and public education there were no "teens" and the organization "Young Life" developed the

relational model of ministry. The temptation in relational ministry is to develop a "cool" place and program where youth will interact with a "cool" youth minister who will relate to youth in order to manipulate them into being the kind of kids the congregation wants them to be.

In "Part Two" Root walks us slowly and carefully through Bonhoeffer's theology of Incarnation. Root also copies Luther's didactic technique of feeding the reader small spoonfuls of theology each followed by a "Why Does This Matter" section. Using this format Root explains the questions upon which Bonhoeffer develops his ethics: "Who Is Jesus Christ? Where Is Jesus Christ? and What Then Shall We Do? In the seventh chapter, Root demonstrates the difference between relational youth ministry to "influence" and relational youth ministry as "Place-Sharing."

If you are going to read only one chapter of one book on youth ministry this year let it be Chapter 9 where Root casts his vision of a "place sharing" incarnational relational youth ministry. In his vision Root sees a youth pastor who has contact with many kids but a relationship with only a few. The youth pastor also works with other adults in the congregation who also have many contacts but few relationships. In these relationships the adult does not try to "influence" the youth but shares in their suffering (*here Root seems to assume that most youth suffer most of the time*). Root's vision includes congregations without youth groups but groups of adults who are in relationships with youth. Youth ministry also focuses on the youth's family which is strengthened and resourced by the congregation. The congregation in Root's vision is welcoming of youth in all aspects of ministry and calls and commissions adults to be "place sharers" with youth. If you are only going to read three pages of one chapter of one book on youth ministry this year let it be pages 207, 213, and 216 where all this is summarized.

Would a strict implementation of Andrew Root's vision of congregational youth ministry win a youth worker in Northeastern Iowa praise or unemployment? Probably the second, but the book still has a great deal to say to us about our role as manipulators or ministers or discipleship coaches.

Youth Ministry Web Site: www.neiasynod.org/youth