



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

Youth & Family Ministry

January 1, 2010
Issue 5.1



Northeastern Iowa Synod Youth Ministry

Dear Friends,

Here is the first Youth Ministry Newsletter of 2010. What should you do with it? First, read it; second, use the forward button at the bottom of this page to send it to your pastor, youth ministry committee members, your colleagues, even the youth, if they like it they can subscribe using the button at the top right of this page; Third, print it and post it on your youth ministry bulletin board.

An email will be sent to all congregations in the synod in the next few days inviting them to join in the LYO Board's annual hunger challenge. Please keep an eye out for it.

*Keep in Touch,
Pastor Mark*

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Upcoming Events

2010

January 14

Family Ministry "Swap Meet"
St. John, Nashua 6:00pm

Feb 4-8


Extravaganza
Charlotte, NC

March 7

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

March 19-20

Mission Trip to Guatemala

Blog: The LYO Board's Bog is up and running. Please come check out the latest 

contributions and please add your own contributions! Check out the new blog at the ["Handy Dandy Youth Ministry Blog."](#)

Book Review

After The Baby Boomers: How Twenty-and Thirty-Somethings Are Shaping the Future of American Religion by Robert Wuthnow, published by Princeton University Press in 2007. \$28.00 at Amazon - See page.

Wuthnow begins by asserting his dislike for material based on anecdotes or interviews and not on scientific research. He follows through by making 80% of his work read like a dissertation with references to hundreds of studies complete with charts and graphs. If you like this kind of detailed analysis the middle of the book is for you. Otherwise the first and last chapters contain the material which is urgent to the Christian Church.

Even on page 1 we are shocked when Wuthnow states that "Baby Boomers are no longer the future of American religion, As they grow older, they are rapidly becoming its past." He looks to the Baby Boomers as becoming "high-maintenance members" while resisting change and lamenting that the church is not as good as it used to be. In the day of the Baby Boomers young people stayed in their town or neighborhood, married their high school sweetheart, by age 21 they had already started their careers had their first of several children. In this paradigm it made sense to have confirmation at age 16, youth group until high school graduation and expect young adults to fall into women's groups, men's groups, join choirs, and teach Sunday School.

In the 21st Century, young adults, between the ages of 21-45, make up not the future but are already a significant part of the population at over 100 million members. However, many will not start their careers until they are 28, will not marry until they are 26. In fact, many people are not settled down into a home, marriage and family until much later in life. This has created a group of "young adults" who are single, have no children, are facing economic uncertainty, live far away from their families and are often lonely. So when the congregation is putting most of its efforts into children and elderly it is oblivious to the large numbers of absent young adults.

March 13-14
[LYO Assembly](#)

April 8
Family Ministry "Swap Meet"
Bethlehem, Cedar Falls,
6:00pm

July 27-Aug 1
[WIYLDE](#)

**LWR
is in
urgent
need
of**



**health kits. Help us continue
to respond to the call of
those in need. For more
information, visit
www.lwr.org/beinvolved**

News Flash

**You can follow what is
going on in the ELCA's fight
against hunger by following
the ELCA Hunger appeal on
a Facebook group, twitter,
and a blog. Invite youth to
join too [here are the details.](#)**

Youth Ministry Research

**[A Doctor of Ministry candidate
named Matthew D. Slippy is
inviting participation in a
carefully crafted research
project on the importance of
doctrine in the practices of
youth ministry.](#)**

After 200 pages of reviewing the latest facts and figures the author gets around to answering the question how to make a congregation attractive to young adults? First, what does not work: 1) a lively high school group does not mean the congregation will have a lively young adult ministry; 2) contemporary worship and projection is the preference of 40-45 year olds but 21-29 think "church should feel like church" or as Wuthnow puts it "the "so-called seeker services that were geared toward people who disliked church are not passe;" and 3) megachurches do NOT draw young people more than mini-churches.

On the other hand, congregations which have at least 35% of worshippers who are between the ages of 21-35 have these characteristics in common:

There are young adults in the population of the community.

There are other young adults in the congregation.

Note that one pastor commented "What young people at my church dislike more than anything else is sitting alone."

Worship includes a choir, silent prayer of meditation, and a time for people to meet and greet each other, and there was a written order of service or program.

The congregation would also welcome concerts, art festivals, poetry readings, and opportunities to discuss literature, music, and art.

Classes in Bible study but also parenting, financial management, and groups for single adults, Service projects and mission trips.

In short, this book points out that congregations offer a surround-sound of ministries for people ages 0-21 and then nothing until they are shut-ins. "Yet nearly all the major decisions a person has to make about marriage, child rearing, and work happen after the support systems have ceased to function.

-Mark A. Anderson

LYO Web site: www.neiasynod.org/youth

If you would like to learn more,
please check out
www.youthministrysurvey.com

Youth Ministry [Blog](#)