



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



Youth & Family Ministry

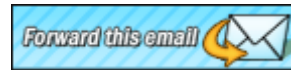
January 6, 2010
Issue 5.2

Northeastern Iowa Synod Youth Ministry

Dear Friends,

In this season of Epiphany we will hear Sunday after Sunday Gospel text which "make it known" that the baby in the manger is the Christ. One of the most important ways that we make Christ known is in the Christian fight against hunger. Just below please see the text of an email that was sent to every congregation in the Northeastern Iowa Synod a few days ago. Please ask your youth group to prayerfully ponder how your congregation may respond to the 2010 LYO Challenge.

*Keep in Touch,
Pastor Mark*



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Blog: ["Handy Dandy Youth Ministry Blog."](#)

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Upcoming Events



2010 Hunger Challenge

At the 2009 Synod Assembly we affirmed our support for the fight

against hunger being made by the ELCA Hunger Appeal www.elca.org/hunger The Northeastern Iowa Synod's Lutheran Youth

Organization www.neiasynod.org/youth (LYO) would like to support this effort by offering it's annual Hunger Challenge to congregations and especially their youth.

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. This will include the traditional date of the "Souper Bowl Sunday" on Feb 7 <http://souperbowl.org>. In addition, the LYO Board has many resources available on the web page 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, an original ceramic artwork created by an LYO Board member of a football in a Bowl with hearts.

To help the board be efficient please send us an email to let us know you have accepted the challenge. (Please be sure to include your congregation name and city. [We Accept!](#)



Press Release from ELCA Youth Ministry Network

Maple Grove, Minnesota - January 1, 2010 - The ELCA Youth Ministry Network Board of Directors approved "Standards and Guidelines" for professional adults who work with young people in faith formation. These Standards and Guidelines represent over two years of work from a writing team led by [Tammy Jones West](#) (AIM) who works in the area of Children, Youth and Family Ministry in the North Carolina Synod Office. The process included writing and significant peer review.

The Standards and Guidelines focus on the development of professional competencies. Areas of competency that the Standards and Guidelines focus on include:

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

March 13-14

[LYO Assembly](#)

April 8

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

July 27-Aug 1

[WIYLDE](#)

Idea Swap

Work smarter not harder!

Please come to the Youth and Family Ministry Idea Swap meet 6:00pm, **January 14** at Saint John Lutheran Church in Nashua.

Please be ready to

- Theological Thought and Reflection
- Youth and Family Proficiencies
- Administrative Proficiencies
- Strategic Planning
- Professional Growth
- A Degree in an Applicable Field

"These Standards and Guidelines represent a huge step forward in the field of youth and family ministry in the ELCA," said Rev. Todd Buegler, Executive Director of the Network. "We believe that the young people in our congregations deserve the best equipped and prepared adult leadership possible. These Standards and Guidelines lay out a path for professional development that will strengthen the ministry of thousands of adults across the church. We're excited about what this means for the church. Hopefully these Standards and Guidelines will become a helpful tool for congregations to encourage their staff people to move ahead in professional development...we also think they can be a tool for congregations in the hiring process."

The Standards and Guidelines document does include provisions for a wavier system for those who can demonstrate these proficiencies in non-traditional ways.

Next steps in the development of these standards and guidelines include detailed implementation plan, and then the development of Standards and Guidelines for adult volunteers who work with young people.

More information on the Network's Standards and Guidelines can be found at www.elcaymnet.org/standardsandguidelines.

Book Review

[Carolo Carretto Selected Writings Edited by Robert Ellsberg published by Orbis Books, 1994. See Amazon Page](#)

Carlo Carretto served for 20 years as a charismatic leader of the Italian youth movement of Catholic Action. Then in 1954, at the age of 44, he heard a call from God to "Leave everything and come with me into the desert. It is not your acts and deeds that I want: I want your prayer, your love." He entered the novitiate of the Little Brothers of Jesus and in the Saharan desert of Algeria became a 20th Century mystic. After twenty years his "Letters from the Desert" and two dozen other spiritual works were published. This collection offers a

share best practices for the Lenten and Easter Season.

Got Questions? Contact [Elayne](#)

Stewardship Workshop

"Parents, Teens and Money Matters" is an educational resource from Thrivent. Thrivent provides the facilitator to host "a fun, engaging" workshop and provide resources including the "cash cache", personal money management organizer, handbook and parent guide, posters, bulletin inserts and newsletter items. The target group is youth ages 11-14 and their parents. There is NO cost. For more information click [HERE](#)

AFP Webinars

Augsburg Fortress has several webinars planned for January. To get all the information click [HERE](#)

buffet of his deepest spiritual wittings.

On the congregation Caretto writes in I, Carlo: "*How extraordinary the parish church is! Even when it is a twisted, poor, old-fashioned house as mine was! We had not reached the Council yet, and the parish church was still a sacrament-dispensing machine and a big hodgepodge of childishness and clericalism. But it was the meeting-place of the people of God, and what human beings did not do the power of the Spirit and common faith did. I many have had little faith, but the faith of others met me along the way; unedifying examples there may have been in abundance, but the great examples of the poor, of the simple, and of the holy priests, were never lacking.*"

On the topic of the incarnation Caretto writes in Wisdom of the Desert. "*God has become human, the Word has become a child, Immensity has accepted limitation. The infinite has become finite. The unknowable has made himself known. Omnipotence became a child. The immutable accepted suffering. The perfect one took on the burden of sin. Life was attained thorough death. Love was expressed as resurrection. Jesus became our brother.*"

In his work, God is Love, Caretto addresses Christian living by saying: "*First, let us establish these premises: Those who do not love feel superior to everyone else. Those who love feel equal to everyone else. Those who love much gladly take the lower place...Death for those who do not love. Life for those who love. Holiness for those who love much.*"

I find that reading the spiritual mothers and fathers of either ancient or modern times is good for my soul as they remind me that while it is good to work hard, Jesus does not want our busyness He wants our hearts.

-Mark Anderson

LYO Web site: www.neiasynod.org/youth

Youth Ministry [Blog](#)

Teach About Hunger!

The ELCA Hunger Appeal has great resources for teaching about Hunger including:

- "Congregation Connections"
- Top 40 Resources Catalog
- Resource Packet
- Reproducible Stories
- "Life Lines" Newsletter
- "Taking Root" a Sunday School Curriculum

All of these are available by clicking [HERE](#)

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