



Youth & Family Ministry Newsletter April 22, 2010

Issue 5.9

Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA

Northeastern Iowa Synod Youth Ministry

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Dear Friends,

Frankly, it's a big deal when the Bishop calls a summit. But drug abuse in Iowa is a big deal. There are concrete things congregations can do to prevent abuse and most of these resources are free.

The idea of a webinar is that there is no travel time or special arrangements to make just take one hour to hear what tools are ready for you to use. Please register and attend - it's a big deal.

*Keep in Touch,
Pastor Mark*

An excellent web page and video about the "nothing but nets" campaign from Lutheran World Relief. Ideal for Youth Sunday School...

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Survey Results

In the last issue of this newsletter was a link to a survey which asked questions of evaluation about the newsletter and some basic questions about communication. After a few weeks of research what did we learn?

We learned that most people who read this newsletter do not fill out surveys! Less than 30 of 150 readers completed the survey and they were mostly professional youth workers in this synod.

Of that sample, they all find the newsletter helpful or very helpful. They value information about the web site and youth events in our synod. They have place less value on opportunities about youth ministry opportunities at the colleges or seminaries. Many people find news about the ELCA and Disaster Response helpful. Everyone seems do like the book reviews.

Of those responding, they attended most synod youth events, can communicate in various ways and mostly use text and postcards to communicate with their youth.

Do you now regret you didn't participate in the survey? There is still time just click go to...

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JFC9QLZ>

The Bishop's Summit on Substance Abuse

There are many resources already available and free which can be used by congregations in the battle against drug abuse. These include the "Take 5" Campaign, materials for grandparents and much more. In order to get these resources into the hands of congregation's leaders the Bishop is calling a Summit on

Thursday, May 20, 2010

10:00am or 6:30pm

Our presenter will be Ms. Becky Sift from the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy. This is a webinar which you can attend from any computer!

You must register in advance. Then you will be emailed the URL and phone number needed to attend.

Register by email at boltec@neiasynod.org

New on the web site

- At its best, Vacation Bible School is a powerful tool for evangelism. This link takes you to a 6 page pdf. which provides a proven step-by-step method to get the most evangelism from your VBS. The document includes sample posters, registration lists, letters and much more. Please see the material at [Evangelical VBS](#)
- There are also best practices from Bethlehem Lutheran under the section "Vacation Bible School" on the [resource page](#).

Please Nominate A Youth

The Global Mission Work Group is forming a new sub-group to work on establishing a new companion synod with the Lutheran Church in Hungary. This group needs to have a youth on it. Do you know a high school age youth who cares about global mission or has a special affection for Europe?

We could also use an adult who works with youth on that team.

If you have youth or an adult to suggest please contact Pr. Emily Horrell at oursaviourspastor@msn.com

News Flash

Since 1988, there have been more than 160,000 baptisms of people age 16 and older in the ELCA. That averages more than 7,500 adult baptisms each year.

Starting new congregations is a top priority for the ELCA. For 2010 the denomination has affirmed 41 "new starts" across the United States.

"These new starts represent what America is becoming, as 23 (of the 41 new starts) are among immigrant populations." Said the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director, ELCA Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission (EOCM).

Bouman said the 41 new starts are a sign of "hope for our beloved church" in the Easter season. "In the Resurrection of Jesus, all things are possible," he said.

The ELCA Church Council approved a revised 2010 current fund spending authorization for the churchwide organization of \$69.3 million, an increase of \$277,200. Total operating revenue for the church in 2009 was \$76.5 million, with expenses of \$72.6 million, yielding net positive revenue of \$3.9 million.

Christina Jackson-Skelton, ELCA treasurer, attributed the positive net result to careful planning, close monitoring of income and intentional under-spending by units of the ELCA churchwide organization. She told the council that it was critical for the churchwide organization to avoid an operating deficit and close 2009 with income over expenses, given operating reserve requirements instituted by the council two years ago.

The council also approved a revised 2010 World Hunger spending authorization of \$20,331,516, an increase of \$1,631,516. She said ELCA World Hunger makes up 20.3% of the ELCA's combined operating budgets.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is providing \$50,000 for response to the April 14 earthquake in Yushu, China. The magnitude 6.9 earthquake destroyed an estimated 15,000 homes in Yushu, left more than 1,100 people dead and hundreds more missing



In Fight Against Malaria LWR Will...

+Reach 500,000 people in Mali using radio, video, and community meetings to educate communities about the signs and symptoms and develop community managed health insurance.

+Reach 40,000 people in Burkina working with WHO to pilot community based bed net distribution & education.

+Reach 100,000 people in Uganda educating people about the signs & symptoms and distributing nets.

+Reach 125,000 people in Kenya by training 250 pastors and volunteers to educate their congregations.

+Reach 1.6 million people in Tanzania by training 600 volunteer educators, training 250 hospital staff in treatment and improving medical supplies.

Your youth group or congregation can raise money to buy the \$10.00 bed nets. Register your team at [Start A Team](#)

Remembers, you can always text "LWR" TO: 40579 to donate \$10 to relief efforts on your cell phone bill.

Book Review: Luther and the Hungry Poor

Torvend, Samuel. Luther and the Hungry Poor: Gathered Fragments. Minneapolis: Fortress Press 2008.

Well, you can't judge a book by its cover. I thought I was getting a cute small book with clippings of Luther's works addressing social ministry. This book is much more than that. Torvend presents a wonderful summary of Luther's theology which is alone worth reading. But then he adds a clear explanation of how we are saved by grace and not works and yet "works" of mercy are an import part of the Christian life. We are indeed saved by the free gift of grace but Holy Baptism bestows "priesthood" upon the Christian - a priesthood of service to others exercised in the world of daily life.

I'll loan you my copy.

-Mark Anderson

Read a good book? Have something to say about it? Your book review could be printed here; please contact [Pr. Mark Anderson](#)

Upcoming Events

2010

May 20 10:00am Bishop's Summit on Substance Abuse
6:30pm Bishop's Summit on Substance Abuse

July 27-Aug 1 [WIYLDE](#)

2011

January 20-24 [ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza](#)
[Kansas, City](#) Missouri.

March 5-6 [LYO Assembly](#), Mason City

May 3-6 [Feed My Starving Children](#), Wartburg College

2012

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

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