



May Day 2008

Issue 3:12

## Useful Youth News Northeastern Iowa Synod

Start Thinking about Jazz!

### In This Issue:

[Things to Write Down](#)

[Gathering News](#)

[Subscribe/Unsubscribe](#)

### NETWORK NEWS

The next Synod [Youth Ministry Network](#) Gathering will be Trinity Lutheran Church, Mason City Iowa at

**10:00am, Tuesday, June 17,  
2008.**

### Mark's Comments:

Those little coin boxes you can distribute to kids and youth to fill with coins during Advent, Lent, VBS or just any occasion, they are FREE and available at

[www.augsburgfortress.org/elcahunger](http://www.augsburgfortress.org/elcahunger) ISBN #978-6-0002-2004-4. There are lots of other FREE MATERIALS like prayer magnets, wallet cards, posters, note cards, well worth considering.

### Fight Hunger!





## Gathering News

Did you miss the May 18 presentation by Jason Wilkinson and Pr. Mark Anderson at Trinity in Mason City? You can view a recording of the web cast at [www.neiasynod.org/youth](http://www.neiasynod.org/youth)

### **The Age Thing Explained:**

A few years ago Heidi did some research on high school demographics in the US, and throughout the country, those demographics included 9th graders.

At the same time, as each Gathering planning cycle came and went, more and more congregations were calling us to ask for an exception to our age/grade policy. More of that cohort was participating in youth group, especially in smaller congregations that only had a few high school age youth, and with a parent volunteer as leader. Rather than penalize those congregations, and make them exclude the younger participants (which might also keep the whole group from attending the Gathering), we have added 9th grade to the demographic.

This does not mean that larger congregations, with stable, continuous and on-going youth ministry programs, must include this age/grade. The age/grade guidelines for those groups can be set by the youth leader and/or pastor.

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has also announced the same change to their age/grade participation - it was after we made the change, but I don't know if it was a cause-effect thing.

As a point of reference, I went back to the 2006 data, and of the youth participants, 1920 were 14; 8185 were 15; 8031 were 16; 6365 were 17; 3868 were 18; 267 were 19; and approximately 500 did not give an age but said they were entering 10th grade (this will be required in the 2009 database - all fields will be required).

This is the explanation of the change - for inclusion of a demographic that might otherwise be lost.

## Disasters Update

### Postville:

At the Postville Food Pantry today, their shelves are getting bare. This is a drastic change from last week when we literally had no more room to spare. The drastic change is the result of families affected by the raid finally feeling safe to venture out to get food, but it is also the result of new workers who have been brought in by Agriprocessors. They have no money for food until they get their first paycheck. We never turn anyone away who is financially eligible to receive help from the Pantry, so obviously we need to provide assistance to this group of people, too. This is just one more major problem caused by the May 12th raid. Realize, too, that we also continue to help members of our community who are not immigrants or present or former workers for Agriprocessors. Right now the Postville Food Pantry needs donations of the following items:

diapers - sizes 4, 5, & 6  
baby wipes  
formula  
baby cereal  
breakfast cereal (no oatmeal - we have plenty)  
canned fruits  
canned vegetables (especially pinto beans, corn, and peas)  
dry pinto beans and other dry beans  
packages of spaghetti  
jars/cans of spaghetti sauce  
instant potatoes  
macaroni & cheese box mixes  
rice (individual packages are preferable to huge bags that must be divided up)  
powdered milk  
ready to eat pudding packs  
plastic grocery bags for distributing food

#### ITEMS WE DO NOT NEED:

clothing  
disposable cups or silverware  
canned soup  
canned pork & beans  
canned sweet potatoes  
canned spinach

### Parkersburg Area

For the most up to Date needs list, Service Trip Guidelines, and more much more please go to [www.neiasynod.org](http://www.neiasynod.org)

## Things to Write Down

- ☞ **June 13-15, 2008** Synod Assembly, [Wartburg College](#)
- ☞ **June 17, 2008** Youth Ministry Network at Trinity, Mason City
- ☞ **August 19, 2008** Youth Ministry Network at Bremwood
- ☞ **July 22-26, 2009** [ELCA Youth Gathering](#), New Orleans, LA

### ***SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE/FORWARD***

Welcome to another issue of “**Useful Youth News**,” an occasional e-newsletter published to bring the latest and greatest youth ministry news to the Lutherans of Northeastern Iowa. ***Please*** forward this e-newsletter to your friends, colleagues, or youth. If anyone should want to subscribe, please email [boltec@neiasynod.org](mailto:boltec@neiasynod.org) with the word “subscribe.” If you would prefer not to receive future issues, please “reply” with the word “unsubscribe.” You can view past issues of this E-Newsletter at <http://www.neiasynod.org/youth/e-newsletter.asp>.

*Pastor Mark A. Anderson*

**Assistant to the Bishop**