

'Ventures' workshop focuses on year-round stewardship

What is it called?

Ventures in Growing Stewards

What does it do?

Develops with the congregation a year-round Biblical, lay-led plan for growth in stewardship.

How?

A four-part workshop series that develops a vision and plan for growing stewards through a year-round stewardship ministry. The process is home grown in that each congregation develops an approach to fit their context and culture.

With a trained leader provided by the synod, a cluster of about six congregations journey together for 10 months. Each congregation has a team of four to six people. Eight annual financial response alternatives are provided.

Does it work?

The results have included spiritual renewal, development of a team-based approach to ministry, increases in regular giving, and growth in

... this experience included moving from a "paying the bills" approach to stewardship to a healthier response of "living the mission."

mission interpretation and support.

For more than 10 years, the ELCA has offered Ventures. Over this period more than 600 congregations and 3,000 leaders in more than 30 ELCA synods have learned how to grow faithful stewards and increase giving. For many congregations this experience included moving from a "paying the bills" approach to stewardship to a healthier response of "living the mission."

When will this happen?

Spring of 2015.

Should our congregation sign up?

There is a limit to how many congregations can participate, so sign up soon.

What does it cost?

About \$400.

Who will the leaders be?

Pastor Jenna Couch, Zion (Jubilee) Lutheran Church, La Porte City; and Pastor Bryan Lagerstam, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Osage.

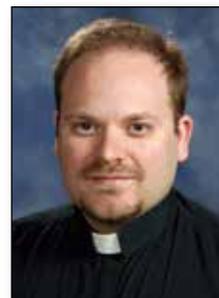
How do I sign up?

Contact Pastor Mark Anderson, assistant to the Bishop, 319-352-1414 or andersonm@neiasynod.org.

To download this article or other stewardship resources, visit www.neiasynod.org/ministries/stewardship.



Jenna Couch



Bryan Lagerstam

High school youth invited to an 'Amazing Race' lock-in

High School Lock-In

Jan. 17-18, 2015

Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa

High school students are invited to participate in a High School Lock-In set for Jan. 17-18 at the W: Wartburg-Waverly Sports and Wellness Center in Waverly.

The lock-in will follow the theme "The Amazing Race" based on Hebrews 12:1-2, which says to "let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to

Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..."

Youth attending will have use of the W facilities for recreational activities that include swimming, volleyball, basketball, racquetball, and wall climbing. Also on the agenda are worship, Bible study, movies, games, prayer stations, free time, snacks and breakfast.

The event begins at 8 p.m. Saturday and ends at 6 a.m. Sunday. Cost to

attend is \$35 per youth. Wartburg College students will help coordinate activities. In addition, congregations are asked to send at least one adult who can stay for the entire event for every seven of their youth who register. There is no cost for adults to attend.

To learn more or to download registration materials, visit www.neiasynod.org/youth-ministry or call the synod office at 319-352-1414.