



Northeastern Iowa Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Children, Youth and Family Ministry Newsletter

December 2017

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### **Lutheran Youth Organization Network**

The next meeting is **Saturday, Dec. 9** starting at 10 a.m. at the Synod Office. Lunch will be included. The entire year of meetings is included below in the Upcoming Events section.

The Lutheran Youth Organization Network (LYON) has begun to meet once again. Students who attended WIYLDE will serve as the facilitator, synod council liaison and recorder. Any youth in grades 9-12 in the synod are welcome to join us! If you have a student who would like to join LYON, please contact Deb Ford at [dbachman72@gmail.com](mailto:dbachman72@gmail.com).

**Purpose:** To equip youth of the Northeastern Iowa Synod to be leaders in their congregations so congregations can have the best youth group they are able to have.

This network will gather together once a month in person. Each meeting will focus on three aspects: Spirit (Relationship with Christ); Life (Relationship with others); Ministry (Leadership).

WIYLDE 2017 met and elected the following students:

Facilitator - Jared McLey

Co-Recorders - Sarah Retz and Sarah Frantsen

Synod Council Liaison - Matthias Letsche

Synod staff support will come from Deb Ford and Pastor Mark Anderson.

LYON will work on leadership skills as well as planning two synod wide youth events - one in the fall for high school students and one in the spring for junior high students.

## Sparkhouse Youth Podcast

New from Sparkhouse!!!

Join veteran youth pastors, Erik Ullestad and Bryan Bliss, each week as they discuss relevant and impactful ministry related topics, tips and tricks, and share some laughs along the way. Join the conversation! Listen here!



## 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering

From our Synod Coordinator, Mark Anderson:

**TRANSPORTATION:** If you have registered for the Gathering, please [email Mark Anderson](#) the following information: church name, lead adult, number of students and chaperones and how you are getting to Houston. The synod has a [Transportation Database](#) on the website that helps congregations reach out if they have extra bus/plane tickets to sell or if you need to purchase bus/plane tickets.

### **AIRLINE DISCOUNTS:**

Flight discount info has been compiled into one file for youth workers to reference as they make group travel plans. Check it out here on the [Google Drive](#). There may be additional airline discounts added to this list as they become available; stay tuned.

### **BOOK LIST:**

We will be sharing an updated book list soon. After continued conversation with local community leaders, the service learning team is expanding the list beyond those original titles provided by the Houston Independent School District to include a wider variety of literature that can be more easily found at bookstores carrying standard/well-known titles. Here is a link to the [Amazon Wishlist](#).

**Getting Ready Curriculum:** The first part of the [Getting Ready Curriculum](#) has been released. You can download and print it off from this website.

**Registration is open.** The early bird deadline has passed, but you can still register for the gathering. [Registration](#) is now at \$390 until Feb. 15, 2018.

**Social Media:** Be sure to follow the [ELCA Youth Gathering Facebook page](#) as they send out updates through that platform. You can also follow the ELCA Youth Gathering [blog](#).

**Our Synod page:** Each month we'll share more information as it comes in. Our synod has its own page on our synod website where information will be kept up to date. You can access it [here](#).

**Handbook:** There is a great handbook available that will answer many, many of your questions! You can download it [here](#)! This truly has great information - check it out! There are even some fundraising ideas.

**Houston:** Want to know more about our host city, Houston? Check out the information [here](#).

**GNews:** Here is a [link](#) to the latest GNews (the official newsletter of the gathering). Sign up to receive it in your inbox!

## **ELCA Colleges and Universities**

<http://whygolutheran.org>

Have Faith in Your Future

An important part of finding the right college is knowing what you think is important, both about yourself and about the colleges you are considering. From our small class sizes and dedicated professors to the substantial financial aid we offer, you'll find we are committed to your success and vocational journey. Fill out our form to quickly get information from any of our more than 20 ELCA Colleges and Universities to help you with your college search. (Taken from the website).

This website is a great tool to help high school students or college students looking for a different college to explore what colleges of the church have to offer them. Both Luther College in Decorah and Wartburg College in Waverly are featured on this website.

## **Upcoming Events**

2018:

June 27-July 1: ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas

Youth Worker Network Meetings (10 a.m.-12 p.m.):

December 7: St. Timothy in Hudson

January 4: Trinity in Mason City

\*\*No meeting in February due to Extravaganza (in Houston Jan. 26-29)

March 1: Holy Trinity in Dubuque

April 5: First in Decorah

May 3: Lutheran Student Center in Cedar Falls

Lutheran Youth Organization Network Meetings:

\*\*All 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Synod Office in Waverly

December 9

January 20

February 17

March 10

April 14

May 12

Riverside and Ewalu Camp Events:

[Riverside website](#) and [Ewalu website](#)

Join My Mailing List

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