

Network

Meeting

The next gathering of the Youth & Family Ministry Network will be at 10:00am on May 3 at St. John Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls. Bring your best practices for Rally Day to share. It's never too early to starting planning!

Dear Friends,

The term "getting coached," can mean a teaching or training process in which an individual gets support while learning to achieve a specific personal or professional result or goal. The individual getting coached may be referred to as the client, the mentee or coachee, or they may be in an intern or apprenticeship relationship with the person coaching them. Coaching may also happen in an informal relationship between one individual who has greater experience and expertise than another and offers advice and guidance, as the other goes through a learning process.

I am still ruminating the discussion that took place at the youth worker retreat at EWALU in March. The discussion turned on the suggestion that Youth & Family Ministry in the 21st Century may not mean working with youth or children. Rather, that the most urgent need is for ministers who can be coaches teaching families how to grow into discipleship. In other words, we need to teach parents and the congregation enough about Christian living so that they can teach the children and youth. It was an interesting conversation with far reaching consequences. I am anxious to hear more from you in the weeks and months ahead.

Keep in touch,
Pastor Mark

The Lutheran

"The Lutheran" a magazine published by the ELCA is looking for new ideas used this year to celebrate Holy week or Easter for Families, Children, and especially youth. If you have something to share contact Marcia at the Synod office hahnm@neiasynod.org

WIYLDE

The early bird registration is open until June 15 for which students from NE and SE synods receive a \$100 campership off of the \$325 fee for a total of \$225 for their churches and/or parents to pay.

After June 15, the camperships are not available and the fee goes up to \$350. Also a reminder that they can register and pay online with a credit card, as one option.

Do you have a wild Facebook page? Well, WIYLDE has a new Facebook page. Please come and "like" us.

Resource Review

Nathaniel Rich in his article "Jungle Land," published recently in the New York Times Magazine, gives us a compelling look on what has, and what has not, been accomplished in New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward. In some ways the city has given up on this section of town and the numerous vacant lots have become true jungles with the overgrowth growing in the lush climate for six years. These mini-jungles are a sanctuary for wildlife but also for the more nefarious characters and activities of the city. They create a sense of insecurity in an already troubled neighborhood. It is the still unresolved clean up issues and the cities shocking illiteracy rate that have touched the years and imaginations of our youth. See you in NOLA!

Upcoming Events

May 3	Youth Ministry Network Meeting St John, Cedar Falls
May 5	Big Day of Serving Dubuque, Iowa
June 7	Youth Ministry Network Meeting Redeemer, Waverly
June 8-10	Synod Assembly Waverly, Iowa
July 18-22	ELCA Youth Gathering New Orleans, LA
July 27-Aug 1	WIYLDE Luther College, Decorah, Iowa
Oct 12-13	UNI Middle School Lock-In UNI, Cedar Falls
Jan 24-28, 2013	ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza Anaheim, CA

Test Project

Do you want to be in a test project?

The ELCA is looking for nine youth directors across the country willing to participate in a yearlong pilot project to test how awareness of our church's global ministries can lead to deeper faith practices and congregational renewal. We already have one from Northeastern Iowa (way to go Alison) but why not two?

There are two hopes for this pilot project: that insights from this year will be used to create an ongoing program resource for ELCA youth ministries, and that this program will increase awareness, support and involvement for ELCA global ministries among younger generations. The ultimate goal is to raise up a new generation of global disciples for Jesus Christ!

In this pilot project, each youth director will be asked to gather a group of people to make the following four commitments:

1. Read Global Links every month for a year, August 2012-July 2013
2. Choose one involvement project from Global Links
3. Participate in (at least) four conference calls throughout the year to give support to one another and feedback to Global Mission
4. Take part in a brief survey at the conclusion which will be a self-assessment of growth in faith promises.

The group could be young people in their congregation or synod, either a whole youth group or the group's leaders, and it can include other interested groups such as a global mission or education committee.

At the conclusion of this pilot year, this program will be assessed and modified before making it available for wider use in youth ministries.

To get involved contact Pr. Mark

Plunge

Pilot project for synod-sponsored young adult pilgrimages to Geneva and Taize

"The ELCIC Manitoba / Northern Ontario Synod and the ELCA Northeastern Iowa Synod will together take a group of young adults to visit Geneva and Taize May 29-June 9, 2013. The primary participants will be those who are 18-29 years of age. It will be called "the Plunge" with this tag line: "Take the Plunge into a deeper spirituality. Experience the global faith community at the ecumenical centers in Geneva, Switzerland, and Taize, France."

To plan this pilot pilgrimage, the four of us have been working together for a few months as a steering committee to design a common purpose, expectations, preparation, graphics and Facebook page. This spring both synods will begin to promote and accept applications from young adults within these synods. This fall each group will begin a year of preparation for their travels together next May, and afterwards each group will work within their own synods during the following year to apply and share what they have learned.

However, we want this to be more than a one-time experience for our two synods. We hope to create a sustainable network of people from both our churches, the ELC IC and ELCA, to ensure that young adults will be able to have this formative experience in future years.

There are several ways you can help in this new venture. Please offer your prayers and moral support. Encourage young adults you may know who live within these two synods to apply. Explain to your colleagues the potential of this new venture and the value of being part of our global communion.

Finally, consider this an invitation to form a Plunge pilgrimage for young adults from your synod. This could be done in one of two ways:

1. You could lead a group yourself, perhaps at another time in 2013 or a later year.
2. An adult from your synod could go on the Plunge in May 2013 as an "observer learner" to lead a similar Plunge in 2014 or 2015. This person could be someone in young adult ministry, campus ministry, synod staff, or whoever is most suited to lead such a pilgrimage in the future. The adult "observer learners" will need to be endorsed by your synod, be preferably 25 years of age or older, and complete the application process and participate in the whole travel experience. However, since they will be from different geographic areas than the two synods, they will participate in the orientation and follow-up work at a distance by Skype or conference call.

So please consider this invitation to form a Plunge pilgrimage, and contact us with your interest, questions, and referrals.

And join us in celebrating this new step in our pilgrimage together in Christ!

Pr. Mark Anderson, Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA
Pr. Larry Ulrich and Sarah Gelhom, Manitoba / Northern Ontario Synod, ELCIC
Pr. Lanny Westphal, ELCA Global Mission unit

Mark Anderson

Northeastern Iowa Synod

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