



Children, Youth and Family Ministry News

June 2012

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Dear Friends,

One of my favorite things happened this week. A congregation contacted me with a difficult question. Tough questions are a great opportunity (or excuse) for collaboration. I do think that the crowd is wise and especially this crowd of adults who work with youth & family ministry in Northeastern Iowa. The question asked is "what are some best practices for keeping youth involved after confirmation?" So, we'll take this up at our next youth & family ministry network meeting, but I also invite all our readers to email with what they consider their congregations' most effective tools. We'll compile all this and share it on the synod's web site when it's ready. I am excited to see the end product of this little exercise, but equally excited to be a part of the discussion.

Keep in touch,
Pastor Mark

What You Need to Know:

WELCOME

Welcome Melinda King the new "Youth & Family Ministries Team Leader" at St. John Lutheran Church in Charles City. Melinda has just graduated from Luther Seminary in Saint Paul with a Masters of Arts in Children, Youth & Family Ministry and will be moving to Charles City from Lauderdale, MN.

WARNING WARNING A DEAD LINE APPROACHES!

The deadline to attend WIYLDE for cheap is near. If your registration reaches Luther by June 15 the fee is only \$325.00 plus take off another \$100.00 in a

scholarship from the LYO and you only pay \$225.00. However after June 16 there is NO discount and No scholarship making the cost \$350.00. So, help your kids get registered right away. WIYLDE is a youth leadership camp at which youth will learn skills to help them be and to become leaders in their congregation. For a more complete description and for registration materials go [here](#).

LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION RESOURCE

The Lutheran World Federation Guidebook contains tools for practical work with youth groups, student groups and camps. You will find Bible studies written by people from four continents, games and background information on ecological justice. You can download this resource by going [here](#).

Bullying

At long last there is serious attention being given to bullying. The good news is that all the media attention is empowering both youth and adults to call out bullying behavior when they see it. The disappointment is that with media attention comes many programs and resources not all of which are all that helpful. In my work with the Iowa Department of Human Services I have had contact with one of our vendors, Magellan Behavioral Care of Iowa. They publish quality resources in the newsletter "take Mental Health to heart." In the most recent issue there are some really nice resources including:

- Types of Bullying
- Effects of Bullying/Cyberbullying
- Putting an End to Bullying
- Mental Health Effect
- Signs Your Child May Be a Victim
- Signs Your Child May Be a Bully
- Why Do Kids Bully

All of this is available [here](#).

There are also great resources from the [Federal Government](#) including articles, videos, a review of State Policies and Law and a good section on "What Bystanders Can Do." There is a national campaign against bullying & Cyberbullying which has a [website](#). They have resources plus opportunity to make a commitment to fight bullying and bracelets. MTV and the JED Foundation are working together on the "Love is Louder" movement.

Additional bullying information and support resources are available from:

1. [The Jed Foundation](#), and their Parents' Guide (PDF) to bullying
2. [KidsHealth from Nemours](#)

3. [Love Is Louder](#)
4. [Hey U.G.L.Y.](#)
5. [National Bullying Prevention Center](#) - a project of the PACER Center
6. [Mental Health America](#)
7. [National Institute of Mental Health](#)
8. [National Mental Health Association](#)
9. [National Alliance on Mental Illness](#)
10. [Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#), their [Suicide & Bullying Issue Brief](#), and their [Bullying & Suicide Prevention Webinar](#)
11. [Children's Safety Network](#)
12. [Workplace Bullying information](#)- from the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries

In spite of how the media covers this issue, I think that it is important to remember that bullying is not a "kid's issue." I would guess that there is more bullying in the church council meeting than the youth room. As servants to the whole church let's not forget that when we empower parents to talk about bullying to their kids we are secretly empowering adults to talk about bullying at work and home.

Upcoming Events

June 7	Youth Ministry Network Meeting Redeemer, Waverly
June 8-10	Synod Assembly Waverly, Iowa
June 26	Safeguarding God's Children Workshop Bethlehem, Cedar Falls (6pm - 9pm)
July 18-22	ELCA Youth Gathering New Orleans, LA
July 27-Aug 1	WIYLDE Luther College, Decorah
August 27	Safeguarding God's Children Workshop Decorah Lutheran, Decorah
Oct 12-13	UNI Middle School Lock-In UNI, Cedar Falls
Jan 24-28, 2013	ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza

Anaheim, CA

Job Opportunity: Contemporary Worship Director

Primary Responsibility: To lead the Contemporary Worship Band of volunteer musicians to perform worship music to the best of their ability with the ultimate goal of presenting music that honors God.

Honors/Schedule: As needed to select music, prepare for rehearsal with worship band during the week and one Sunday morning worship. Attend monthly staff meeting regarding the music schedule and selection of music for contemporary service.

Experience/Qualifications: Ability to read music and be proficient in one of the following: vocal, keyboard, drums or guitar AND AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

*1 year experience leading a small group of musicians or vocalists OR

*3 years experience as a member of a small group of musicians OR

*5 years experience as a vocalist or musician

*Wage/Salary is \$266/month

There is also an opening for a choir director which could be linked with this position, therefore increasing the job responsibilities as well as the salary

If interested please [email](#) resume or mail resume to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 2502 S. Jefferson Avenue, Mason City, Iowa 50401

Mark Anderson

Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA