

# Children, Youth and Family News

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## Dear Friend,

Every year Beloit College, a little four year private college in Beloit, WI, releases its "Mindset List" to give the faculty a snapshot of how the incoming freshmen class views the world. Now that I am so old I find this list very helpful. Let me share a few items from the list for the Class of 2016:

Most students entering college for the first time this fall were born in 1994. For these students, Kurt Cobain, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Richard Nixon and John Wayne Gacy have always been dead.

1. They should keep their eyes open for Justin Bieber or Dakota Fanning at freshman orientation.
2. They have always lived in cyberspace, addicted to a new generation of "electronic narcotics."
3. The Biblical sources of terms such as "forbidden fruit," "the writing on the wall," "good Samaritan," and "the promised land" are unknown to most of them.

You can see the whole list [here](#). Of course it is Item #3 that breaks my heart. The truth that most young people are so unfamiliar with Holy Scriptures that even the most common references escape them is something I've known intellectually for years but it still shocks me when I encounter it. The answer, of course, is not to require more memorization from the few children that still come to Sunday School but a rich and vibrant relationship between the congregation and young parents. A relationship that includes giving parents the tools they need to teach the faith to their children.

In other words, what you do as leaders in youth and family ministry is necessary, urgent, and



appreciated. Thank you.

Keep in touch,  
Pastor Mark



**Ideas to Steal:**

Here is a bulletin board I saw at English Lutheran Church in La Crosse, WI. The board is divided into three columns showing youth/family ministry opportunities "this week" and "this month" and "next month"



**Pay It Forward-2015**

The next ELCA Youth Gathering will be in the summer of 2015 in Detroit, MI. At first glance that seems like a long time from now but in reality it is only 1,000 days away. Why wait until 2015 to do fundraising? The youth who have just benefited from attending the Gathering could hold a fundraiser this fall to "pay it forward" and give a helping hand to those who will attend the next one. We often have youth raise money for themselves but it is good theology, if not a novel idea, for youth to raise money so that others can attend an event. If that isn't practical how about inviting the Middle School youth who will be able to attend the 2015 Gathering to hold a simple fundraiser this Fall to build some group cohesiveness and to build the savings



account? The ELCA Mission Investment Fund is still offering youth groups a great deal on accounts. You can get more information from [their web page](#).

### **CHEAP EASY RIGHTEOUS FUND RAISING!**

Village Markets is a Lutheran Fair Trade organization, bringing handmade crafts from Lutheran Churches in developing countries around the world to your congregation!



It's free to participate; Village Markets handles all the logistics and they return 20% to support your ministry. This is a great way to support Lutheran global fair trade AND raise funds for your own local outreach!

Just think of it with no money down and very little effort you can 1) raise money for your youth group; 2) raise money for families in their world Lutheran Churches; 3) raise awareness of global poverty and the church's fight against it; and 4) look smart.



Please watch this short video on their [website](#) to get all the details. Then email [Jacob](#) with your questions.

**Recently Spotted:** page 39, September 2012, [The Lutheran](#): "Take and Bake Ministry" is an intergenerational event where families gather at church to assemble healthy meals. Each household makes a donation to cover supplies so that when folks arrive at church a menu and all the supplies are waiting. Then everyone works together to make healthy meals which they package and then take home to freeze. Then during the busy evenings of the school year there is always something to defrost and eat together as a family meal.

### **100 Wells and Malaria Campaign Concert:**

In Concert Agape AND Rachel Kurtz AND Lost & Found in the Northeastern Iowa Synod!!!!!!!  
October 27, 2012 a tour to raise money for the ELCA 100 Wells Initiative.



Details and Tickets can be found [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

Oct 4	Youth Worker Meeting Zion St John, Sheffield
Oct 12-13	UNI Middle School Lock-In UNI, Cedar Falls
Oct 19-21	Dirty Feet Retreat Ewalu Bible Camp
	Juniors Recharge Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp
Oct 26-28	Junior High Recharge
Oct 27	100 Wells/Malaria Campaign Concert Luther College, Decorah
Nov 2-4	Junior High Recharge Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp
Nov 8	Youth Worker Meeting Trinity, Mason City
Nov 16-18	High School Recharge Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp
Dec 6	Youth Worker Meeting Bethany, Iowa Falls
Jan 3	Youth Worker Meeting Synod office, Waverly
Jan 24-28,	2013 ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza Anaheim, CA
Feb 7	Youth Worker Meeting First Lutheran, Decorah
March 2-3	Wazzup with Supper Retreat Ewalu Bible Camp
March 7	Youth Worker Meeting St Petri, Story City
March 22-24	Dirty Feet Retreat Ewalu Bible Camp



April 4

Youth Worker Meeting  
Holy Trinity, Dubuque

April 26-27

A Hike with Martin  
Ewalu Bible Camp

May 2

Youth Worker Meeting  
St John, Charles City

June 6

Youth Worker Meeting  
St John, Cedar Falls



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