

Children, Youth and Family Ministry News

March 2012

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Dear Friend,

Retreat!

To "Retreat" can be defined as "Withdraw from enemy forces as a result of their superior power or after a defeat."

This month the Youth & Family Ministry will gather for a "Tactical Retreat" which can be defined as "acknowledging a small defeat in the short term to gain a long-term advantage." That is to say, when we retreat we run away because we have to. When we have a tactical retreat we run away because it will make us stronger.

Lent is a traditional time for "tactical retreats" even as Jesus was driven into the wilderness for 40 days so we have a one day retreat for Rostered Leaders in Lent, a LYO Mini-event in Lent and now this "tactical retreat" for adults who work in Youth & Family Ministry. At our "tactical retreat" we will delve deeply into Holy Scripture, worship, learn new skills and spend several hours at peace in the fellowship with trusted friends and colleagues. I hope you will consider making this "tactical retreat" a part of your Lenten discipline and if not I hope you find a Lenten retreat that fits your needs.

Keep in touch,
Pastor Mark

LYO Mini Event for High School Students

Theme: Living in Lent: Christian Practices

Date: Saturday, March 31, 2012

Place: St. John American Lutheran Church, 715 College Street,
Cedar Falls

Program: Morning- Living in Lent: Stewardship
Participants will learn "What do you mean share !?!"
Afternoon-Living in Lent: Sharing our Faith
Participants will hear the faith stories of adult leaders
and learn to share their own faith story

Cost: \$5.00 per participant

Registration: Congregations register by March 25 by contacting the synod office at boltec@neiasynod.org

Fundraising in Youth Ministry

"Effective Fund Raising" is the title of a webinar offered via the ELCA Youth Ministry Network. The speaker, The Rev. Mike Ward, is the VP for Advancement at Lutheridge+Lutherock Ministries in North Carolina, and a consultant on stewardship around the country. He has helped congregations and ministries raise funds by focusing on telling the story of what God is doing in your midst. If you missed this very helpful webinar, don't panic, it has been archived [here](#) and you can view it anytime. However, you must be (or know) a member of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network to access this part of their web site.

Mark Anderson
Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA

Retreat for Youth Workers

Professional Family, Youth and Child Ministers are invited to attend a retreat at EWALU Camp and Retreat Center in Strawberry Point on March 15-16. The event will include worship, Bible study, continuing education and lots of fellowship. The registration is only \$10.00 and is due at the door. To sign up please register on the Youth Worker Facebook page or contact Pr. Mark.

Book Review

The last time I was in "The Big Easy" the local expert presented "One Dead in the Attic" by Times-Picayune columnist Chris Rose as the "if you are only going to read one book about New Orleans it must be this one," one of a kind book. So, obviously I immediately sent a text message to our City librarian (she's great) and requested she inter-library loan me a copy - it was waiting for me when I got home (if you have your librarian on speed dial does that automatically make you a nerd?) The book is a collection of the author's columns published in the Times-Picayune which depicts his experiences, both physical and emotional, starting days after the hurricane and continuing through the first year of his and the city's recovery. This is an excellent book for understanding New Orleans and for gaining insight into any post-disaster experience. I'd say, if you are only going to read one book about New Orleans it should be

this.

Great Article to Read

According to the Pew Center, 95 percent of teenagers now use the Internet, while 78 percent of adults use it. And 82 percent of teenagers (ages 12-17) have broadband at home, as opposed to 62 percent of adults. One of the ramifications of almost universal internet access is that it has changed the way students learn. They now expect to create content as much as consume it. What does this mean to the way we teach at church? Here is a fascinating [article](#).

Gathering News

Here is a media blitz announcements from the Dome Team...

She was homeless. She thought she was going to die from AIDS. She NOW is an ELCA pastor and AIDS activist who will be sharing her story as one of the keynote speakers in the Superdome. Meet Rev. Andrena Ingram, a citizen with the saints! Pastor Andrena will inspire and ignite us to practice justice every day. Check out this article about how God is at work through her life and ministry!

This [article](#) will eventually be posted on FB.

[Communion Assistants Needed](#)-

Be a citizen and serve the saints! We are looking for youth groups of 1 person to 100 persons to serve the Gathering in this way. If your group is interested in serving communion on Sunday morning during worship in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, please fill out the application form to volunteer for this servant experience. This form is intended to be filled out by Primary Leaders.

Theme: citizens with the saints
Ephesians 2:14-19

Upcoming Events

March 9-11	Dirty Feet Retreat Ewalu Lutheran Bible Camp
March 18	Safeguarding God's Children Workshop Zion, West Union
March 31	High School LYO Event St John, Cedar Falls

March 31	Spring Blast! event (grades 3-6) Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp
April 14	Spring Blast! event (grades 7-12) Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp
April 21	Pre-Gathering Briefing Event St John, Cedar Falls
May 5	Big Day of Serving Dubuque, 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

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