



Children, Youth and Family Ministry News January 2013

Vol. 8, Issue 1

Dear Friends,

I promised you that the last ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans would not be a onetime event, but the start of many events that will continue to deepen your spiritual growth and discipleship if you only take advantage of the opportunities presented.

Since the Gathering we have already had a giant concert with AGAPE, Rachel Kurtz, and Lost & Found. Now in January we will begin something for adults, advance training in helping youth to practice discipleship. In February, we will hold a Synod Youth Gathering to keep the momentum going for those who attended the ELCA Gathering and start some momentum for those who didn't.

All you need to do is decide that you want your faith to grow deeper and for the youth in your care to develop a deeper love for Jesus and then hurry up and REGISTER for these events.

Keep in Touch,
Pastor Mark

Practice Discipleship Webinars

At the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans we all learned a great deal about practicing discipleship. The learning continues with a series of webinars and live presentations for adults who

Upcoming Events

- Jan 13
Faith Formation in a Missional Age
Webinar with Dr. Terri Elton
- Jan 13
High School La Vida Lutheran Student Center, Cedar Falls
- Jan 20
If Necessary Use Words
Webinar with Dr. Hans Wiersma
- Jan 24-28
ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza
Anaheim, CA
- Feb 3
Theories of Culture
Webinar with Dr. Nate Frambach
- Feb 7
Youth Worker Meeting
First Lutheran, Decorah
- Feb 10
High School La Vida Lutheran Student Center, Cedar Falls

work with Lutheran youth. This January, the first webinar will be presented by Dr. Terri Elton; January 13, 3:00pm. Here is what she says about her presentation:

The world is changing rapidly. 1 out of every 5 adults in the USA claims to have no religious affiliation. Our task of faith formation just got more difficult. The purpose of this year's Practice Discipleship Project is to explore the realities of faith formation in this missional age. This session will be an open discussion on the challenges we all face when doing ministry in this era. What are the challenges we are faced with? What is the opportunity? What are your fears and anxieties? What are your joys? We will seek the collective wisdom of the group on ways we can faithfully move forward and continue to support one another in our work.

This is a great chance for your pastor or youth worker to set up the webinar and invite all the adults who relate to youth ministry to attend a group showing - you can even share popcorn or subs! Here is the [link](#) for the FREE registration!

LYO Assembly

REGISTER NOW!

The Northeastern Iowa Synod's Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Assembly will be held February 16-17, 2013 at the Clarion Inn in Mason City. The theme W2DJ (What Would Jesus Do) will be addressed during two keynote speakers, a multitude of workshop options and Sunday worship. The assembly will also include time for games, for congregational youth groups to meet and for youth to simply hang out. The band AWE will provide music Saturday night and at Worship.

The morning's speaker will be Mr. Erik Ullestad on the topic of "Wholeness and Holiness." Erik is the co-author of the curriculum of the same title. In the evening Ms. Susan Entriiken, will speak on self-identity. Susan is a survivor of an eating disorder, a parent, and a director of youth and family ministry at Saint Timothy in Hudson. The workshops being offered include: Anti-Bullying, how to share your faith, family life, Global Mission, and Vocation. Sunday Morning Pr. Jenna Couch will preside at worship and Pr. Anderson will preach.

Registration is a TWO STEP PROCESS including 1) registering your youth group for the assembly using the forms [here](#); and 2) making reservations at the hotel. Registration is only \$55.00 per

- Feb 16-17
LYO Assembly
Clarion Inn,
Mason City
- Feb 17
Working Together in
Solidarity
Webinar with
Rozella White
- March 2-3
Wazzup with Supper
Retreat
Ewalu Bible Camp
- March 3
Inculturating the
Gospel
Webinar with Dr.
Colleen Windham
-Hughes
- March 7
Youth Worker
Meeting
St Petri, Story
City
- March 10
High School La Vida
Lutheran Student
Center, Cedar
Falls
- March 17
Dog Eating Chicken
Webinar with
Heather Hansen
- April 4
Youth Worker
Meeting
Holy Trinity,
Dubuque
- April 5-7
Dirty Feet Retreat
Ewalu Bible Camp
- April 6
Juniors Riverside Blast
Riverside Bible
Camp
- April 7
Going Public

participant and the rooms at the hotel are at a reduced rate under the group name "Lutheran Youth".

Resource Review

"Chuck Knows Church" is a series of Videos on You Tube uploaded weekly during which Pastor Chuck teaches a 3 minute lesson about some aspect of Worship like robes, offering plate, hymns, advent wreath, etc. They are ideal for teaching and soliciting discussion among middle school confirmands. Give them a try, I think you'll be very pleased. See ChuckKnowsChurch.com or the [ChuckKnowsChurch](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) channel on [You Tube](https://www.youtube.com/).

Book Review

Oh Myyy (There Goes the Internet) by George Takei. George Takei grew up in a Japanese internment camp outside of San Francisco. After his family's release he studied acting and landed the part of Mr. Sulu in the 1960's original science fiction TV show "STAR TREK." Since then he has appeared in many films, TV programs, commercials and given voice to animations. He is the only person to have performed in both the Star Trek and Star Wars franchises. Currently he is working on a production for Broadway. Now at the age of 75, Mr. Takei has also become one of the most followed people on Facebook. If you measure Facebook penetration by "engaged users," that is people who "like" a page and also interact with it by "liking" a post or re-posting, or commenting, etc., then Jesus has the most popular personal Facebook page and George Takei has the second most. Takei adds some 25,000 new followers a week.

How? Seriously, how does a 75 year old man who was a second level star in a TV Show 50 years ago come to dominate Facebook? Most his followers are not sci-fi fans or people my age but instead they are 20-30 year olds around the globe. The answer is in the chapter "I'm on the Edge" in which the author explains the implications of "EdgeRank," a secret algorithm that Facebook uses to decide who sees what. When you post something on Facebook it simply does NOT show up on the newfeed of all your "friends." In fact an average post reaches only 16% of your fans. Why? Facebook assigns an "EdgeRank" to each post to determine whether it will appear in someone else's feed. The more a user shares, "likes" or comments on your posts the more likely they will see your futures posts. That is why so many postings end in "Like this if you love Jesus." It is about that site wanting to increase its "EdgeRank." The rest of the chapter gives tips about how to increase your Facebook "EdgeRank"

Webinar with
Jeremy Myers

April 13

Junior High/High
School Riverside Blast
Riverside Bible
Camp

April 14

High School La Vida
Lutheran Student
Center, Cedar
Falls

April 26-27

A Hike with Martin
Ewalu Bible Camp

May 2

Youth Worker
Meeting
St John, Charles
City

May 12

High School La Vida
Lutheran Student
Center, Cedar
Falls

June 6

Youth Worker
Meeting
St John, Cedar
Falls

July 21-28

WIYLDE
Luther College

among your friends. The rest of the book was fine if you're into Takei, StarTrek or Facebook but this one chapter was well worth the read.

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Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA | PO Box 804 | 201 20th Street SW | Waverly | IA | 50677