



Children, Youth and Family Ministry News **July 2013**

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Dear Friend,

Registration is now open for the 2014 ELCA Youth Ministry Network's "Extravaganza." Why should someone want to attend? Why should a congregation want to send their youth/family ministry staff to this event?

1) The Worship will inspire. Often church staff doesn't ever really get to truly participate in worship because of their leadership responsibilities. Sometimes it's nice to just attend worship without having to worry about the children's sermon, the acolytes, the sound board, the power point, the children's choir, sermon note forms, etc.

2) The Speakers will inspire. The Keynote speakers will renew the hearts and souls of weary youth workers and help us all to remember why we ever went into this crazy business.

3) The workshops will train. The many learning opportunities will provide new resources and skill sets for all who attend.

4) The Networking will pay off. I do not believe that there is any greater resource than a strong network of our fellow workers in God's kingdom. A friendship with other youth workers means you always have someone to get advice from, to ask for resources, to bounce ideas off of and to receive consolation from.

Of course the Extravaganza is not just for youth/family ministry staff. This event is also excellent for pastors, lay volunteers, and committee members. Everyone is welcome and a productive time will be had by all.

Keep in Touch,

Pastor Mark

Extravaganza 2014

Registration for the 2014 ELCA Youth Ministry Extravaganza is now open! The Extravaganza will be held January 30-February 3 at the Hyatt Regency in Saint Louis. There will be a new format for the large group sessions modeled after TED talks, each general session (excluding opening and closing worship) will have 2-3 powerful keynote talks, each running approximately 10-15 minutes.

Any of your other questions are answered [here](#).

The speakers and preachers this year include

- Catherine Anderson - Leader of the Practice Discipleship Initiative
- Brenda Bos - a Hollywood producer turned ELCA Pastor
- Jennifer Chrien - Parish Pastor
- Jonathan Hemphill - Founder of "Another Level Ministries"
- Rachel Hunstad, RN - a YAGM
- Ian McConnell - *A Youth Worker
- Rafael Malpica Padilla - Director of the Division for Global Mission
- Andy Root - Author & Professor
- Dawn Rendman - Expert in Faith Development
- Erik Ullestad - Youth Worker, Author
- Raul Garcia III - Youth Worker

To see more complete bio of the speakers go [here](#).

Big Announcement

A Generous Anonymous Donor has provided the Synod with the funds to offer five ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR SCHOLARSHIPS to the Extravaganza. The first five people who email me after having registered for the ELCA Youth Ministry Extravaganza will receive \$100.00 to offset the registration fee!

2015 ELCA Youth Gathering

As we get ready for the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit it's time to start becoming familiar with some of the issues in that city. Here is an interesting article on the impact of new auto technology from the [New York Times](#).

Upcoming Events

July 21-28	WIYLDE Luther College
August 1	Youth Worker Meeting First Lutheran, Northwood
September 5	Youth Worker Meeting Synod office, Waverly
October 3	Youth Worker Meeting Trinity, Mason City
November 7	Youth Worker Meeting St. Petri, Story City

December 5	Youth Worker Meeting Redeemer, Waverly
2014	
January 9	Youth Worker Meeting Immanuel, Cresco
February 6	Youth Worker Meeting St John, Guttenberg
March 6	Youth Worker Meeting Decorah, Decorah
March 22-23	LYO High School Assembly Ewalu Bible Camp
April 3	Youth Worker Meeting Holy Trinity, Dubuque
May 1	Youth Worker Meeting Bethlehem, Cedar Falls
June 5	Youth Worker Meeting Salem, Lake Mills

Mark Anderson
Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA

PO Box 804
Waverly, Iowa 50677
319-352-1414

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