



Children, Youth and Family Ministry News

February 2014

Vol. 9, Issue 2

Extravaganza Reflections

I asked those who attended this year's Extravaganza to share some of their reflections.

Here's a reflection from Robin Souhrada.

I really liked the question that Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla asked. "If you were not a Christian, would you choose to be today?" For some reason, this question just keeps swirling around in my mind.

Would we? If we ourselves wouldn't choose to be a Christian today, why would others? I feel this question is important as we go about being the church in the fact that we are among people who do not consider themselves Christian. How might our presence, actions be Christ like so that others might want to be a Christian today?

Here's another reflection from Kristin Johnson.

This was my first year attending the Extravaganza and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Not only did I get an opportunity to meet some new folks from around the country who are also called to Youth and Family Ministry but I had the privilege of connecting more with folks from our own synod. The conversations, experiences and stories we now share together I will carry with me forever. I also enjoyed the many sessions I took; some were for my professional development while others were more for personal reflection and growth. So if you haven't had a chance to attend an Extravaganza yet, I would highly recommend it.

Dear Friends,

First off, apologies for the delay in this newsletter! I've been waiting on a few things to get out to you. But here it is! This edition is packed with A LOT of cool stuff, so read carefully!!

The 2014 LYO Assembly is approaching next month. Information and registration form should be posted on the website in the next day or so. The cost is \$70 per person (all inclusive of meals and lodging). Deadline to register is March 16th.

The Leadership Games have been rescheduled for Sunday, April 6th from 1pm until 6:30pm (supper provided) at Zion Lutheran in Waterloo. Information and registration form will be available on the website.

There is a lot going on here in the synod and beyond. Keep reading for more information!

In Christ,

Deb Bachman

Practice Discipleship Webinars

We're excited about our next upcoming webinars!

1. "Framing Youth" with Dr. Jeremy Myers. Monday, March 10th at 11am Pacific/12pm Mountain/1pm Central & 2pm Eastern.
2. "Framing Failure with Forgiveness" with Dr. Colleen Windham-Hughes. Thursday, April 10th at 11am Pacific/noon Mountain/1pm Central/2pm Eastern
3. "Framing Christian Community" with Josh Graber. September - Date TBD.
4. "Framing the Vision: Seeing Things New" with Dr. Mindy Makant. Thursday, October 9th at 11am Pacific/noon Mountain/1pm Central/2pm Eastern.
5. "Framing the Path: Practicing Things New" with Rozella White. November - Date TBD

Things to Check Out

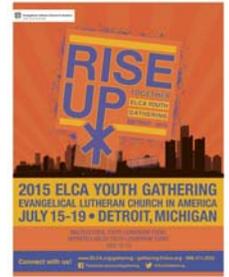
Here's a great article from the Huffington Post on Facebook. Check it out [here](#).

At the **ELCA Malaria site** (elca.org/malaria), there are great new resources coming out soon. There is a World Malaria Day (April 27th) Action Kit and a VBS Curriculum coming out soon.

At the **ELCA Hunger site** (elca.org/hunger), there are great new resources also coming out. There is an overnight event curriculum, Food for a Week simulation, placemats and

2015 Gathering Update

At the ELCA Youth Ministry Extravaganza, we got some information on the 2015 Gathering that we wanted to share with you!



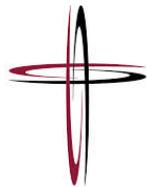
The theme text for the week will be the whole book of Mark. The large gatherings will take place at Ford Field. The Cobo Center will be where the interaction center will be held. They will continue with the three day rotation (service project day, convention center day and synod day). Synods will not be staying all in the same hotel this year. Some hotels will be located in suburban areas so you will need transportation into the downtown areas.

The soft opening for registration will be September 15th and the first day to submit registrations will be October 15th.

As we get more information, we will share!

Practice Discipleship

The Practice Discipleship Initiative's goal is to provide training resources for congregations in their faith formation work with young people.



**PRACTICE
DISCIPLESHIP**

Our synod's coach is Susan Enriken. Susan completed training at the Extravaganza. Over the next few months, Susan will be leading some trainings for anyone who works with children and youth in their congregations. She will also be sharing some of the information with high school students at the LYO Assembly in March. Watch the upcoming issues of the newsletter for more information on these training dates.

Upcoming Events

February 23

Ewalu Winter Fun Day
Ewalu, Strawberry Point

more. Check it out to see how you can learn more about the fight against hunger. Our synod's Hunger Network Facilitator is Alison Northop. You can contact her at youth@zionstjohn.org

The synod's **Home Life Network** has lots of resources for you. They have released Lenten materials for you to use. You can check them out on Facebook or on the synod webpage (click on youth first). The Home Life Network Facilitator is Lisa Kammerer.

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| March 1-2 | Elementary Retreat Ewalu, Strawberry Point |
| March 6 | Youth Worker Meeting Decorah, Decorah |
| March 22-23 | LYO High School Assembly Ewalu Bible Camp |
| March 29 | Juniors Blast Riverside, Story City |
| April 3 | Youth Worker Meeting Holy Trinity, Dubuque |
| April 4-6 | Dirty Feet Retreat Ewalu, Strawberry Point |
| April 5 | Junior/Senior High Blast Riverside, Story City |
| April 6 | LYO Leadership Games Zion, Waterloo |
| May 1 | Youth Worker Meeting Bethlehem, Cedar Falls |
| June 5 | Youth Worker Meeting Zion St John, Sheffield |
| June 13-15 | Synod Assembly Wartburg College **Workshops on Practice Discipleship and the Gathering |
| July 21-26 | WIYLDE Luther College, Decorah |
| August 10th | Grown Up Rally Day Spiritual Life Center, Bremwood |
| September 7 | God's Work, Our Hands Day **Toolkit can be downloaded in March from the ELCA website |
| 2015 July 15-19 | ELCA National Youth Gathering Detroit, Michigan |



Sincerely,

Deb Bachman

Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA