



Northeastern Iowa Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Children, Youth and Family Ministry Newsletter

September 2014  
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### **Lutheran Youth Organization Network**

The LYO is no longer an event planning board. It is now named the Lutheran Youth Organization Network (LYON). This has been a network since our synod went with this structure, we are just changing the strategy this year. It will focus on teaching leadership skills to those youth interested in being part of this network. We will continue to have monthly meetings. Each meeting will have three components: Bible study, conversations around their own personal life and ministry, and teaching on leadership skills.

The leadership skills and topics will include: How to invite others, what is personal stewardship, how to use social media, what does a personal devotional life look like, how to write and lead a Bible study, how to plan an event, how to lead prayer and pray in public, how to pray for someone, encouraging others, connecting church to the community, how to plan a service project and more.

All youth in grades 9-12 (starting in the 2014-2015 school year) are eligible to be part of this network. We've had our first meeting, but youth are still invited to sign up. Our next meeting is on the 13th during the Synod Meeting day at Redeemer Lutheran Church. You can find the forms on the synod website [here](#).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Deb Bachman.

## **An Opportunity During the 2015 Gathering**

The Northeastern Iowa Synod is sponsoring two youth from Namibia to come and spend two weeks with the youth of our synod and then attend the ELCA Youth Gathering next summer in 2015.

We are looking for congregations who are sending youth to the Gathering to host the students. We may send two youth to Chicago (all expenses paid) to attend the orientation alongside our international guest. There will be special programming and activities to build community. This provides an opportunity for youth to get to know our guests better and be able to introduce them to their youth group and congregation.

We would also invite congregations sending youth to the Gathering to consider donating a portion of their fundraising to help offset the cost of sponsoring the youth. Even if a congregation cannot host a student we hope to plan events that provide an opportunity for all youth to meet the Namibian Youth.

For more information contact [Pastor Joelle Colville-Hanson](#).

## **National Youth Gathering Update**

**\*\*Transportation update from July team leaders' meeting:** The ELCA Youth Gathering Transportation Team is excited to announce that Transportation Management Services will be providing complimentary shuttle service for groups on Tuesday, July 14 and Wednesday, July 15 from the airport to Gathering hotels and return service from Ford Field to the airport on Sunday, July 19 after closing worship.

**\*\*Introducing the ELCA Mission Investment Fund:** Have you started saving for your congregation's youth to attend the ELCA's Youth Gathering next summer in Detroit?

The Mission Investment Fund, the financial ministry of the ELCA, offers a special Demand Investment Youth Ministry account. With this account, you earn interest on your fundraising dollars-and have the flexibility and convenience of writing checks as expenses occur. In fact, the Mission Investment Fund Service Center onsite at the Gathering will allow authorized account holders to cash checks at the event. Visit [mif.elca.org/youthministry](http://mif.elca.org/youthministry) for more information and to download a Demand Investment Youth Ministry account application.



**\*\*Free parking, anyone? Are you bringing or renting your own ground transportation in Detroit? If so, the Gathering team wants to know. Why? The Gathering team wants to negotiate for complimentary parking to make our 2015 event as cost-effective as possible. When you register online, please indicate your plans.**

2015 Gathering participants will be staying and serving in Detroit, as well as its nearby suburbs. Transportation and parking are necessary. Help us keep your costs low by planning early for your needs and communicating those plans with us when you register.

**\*\*Community Life is getting a new look! Start your day at Cobo: Community Life events at the Cobo Center will start at 8 a.m., as it comes to life with a live show similar to "Today" or "Good Morning America." This variety show will feature live music, engaging hosts, interactive segments and interviews with Gathering participants. Additionally, Cobo will host food vendors (including food trucks with local fare!) and will have plenty of spaces to enjoy breakfast with new friends. Get more details on Community Life [here](#).**

Have questions or want to know what others are doing? Check out [Gathering Leaks](#).

Registration soft opening (where you can access the online registration site to enter information) begins on September 15th. You can officially register for the Gathering on October 15th. We would recommend that you have your own congregational registration deadline in September so you have time to enter information before October. You will need your congregation's ID number to register.

## **Miscellaneous News**

*Job Posting for Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries at St. John Lutheran Church in Guttenberg, Iowa.*

The Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries, under the direct supervision of the Pastor, is responsible for developing, leading and overseeing a comprehensive and quality congregational ministry of nurturing faith in Christ Jesus in the lives of children, youth, and their families. A minimum of 4 years experience as a paid leader or coordinator of Lutheran CYF Ministries in a congregational setting is wanted. We offer competitive wages and full ELCA member benefit package (health, retirement, disability and survivor). Please send cover letter and a list of professional references (must include references from pastor and church secretary) to [Luther962@me.com](mailto:Luther962@me.com).

## **Upcoming Events**

September 4 Youth Worker Network Meeting at Crossroads Parish in Osage  
 September 7 God's Work, Our Hands Day  
 \*\*\*\*Toolkit can be downloaded [here](#)  
 September 11 Webinar: Framing Christian Community  
 September 13 LYON Meeting 9am at Redeemer in Waverly  
 September 21 LYON Meeting 2pm at Synod Office in Waverly

October 2 Youth Worker Network Meeting at Trinity in Mason City  
 October 9 Webinar: Framing the Vision  
 October 10 Middle School Lock In at UNI, Cedar Falls  
 October 19 LYON Meeting 2pm at Synod Office in Waverly

November 6 Youth Worker Network Meeting at St. Petri, Story City  
 November 13 Webinar: Framing the Path  
 November 23 LYON Meeting 2pm at Synod Office in Waverly

December 4 Youth Worker Network Meeting at St John, Charles City  
 December 14 LYON Meeting 2pm at Synod Office in Waverly

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 January 8 Youth Worker Network Meeting at St Timothy's, Hudson  
 January 18 LYON Meeting 2pm at Synod Office in Waverly

Jan 29-Feb.2 ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extranvaganza, Detroit  
 February 15 LYON Meeting 2pm at Synod Office in Waverly

March 5 Youth Worker Network Meeting at Holy Trinity, Dubuque  
 March 8 LYON Meeting 2pm at Synod Office in Waverly

April 9 Youth Worker Network Meeting at Zion St John, Sheffield  
 April 12 LYON Meeting 2pm at Synod Office in Waverly

May 7 Youth Worker Network Meeting in Decorah

June 4 Youth Worker Network Meeting at Synod Office, Waverly

July 15-19 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Detroit, Michigan

*Editor:*

[Deb Bachman](#)

*Youth Ministry Coordinator*

**[Northeastern Iowa Synod](#)**

201 20th St. SW

P.O. Box 804

Waverly, IA 50677-0804

319-352-1414



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