

# Children, Youth and Family Ministry News

## February 2012

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**Dear Friends,**

Yes, here I am repeating my litany that the return on a congregation's investment in the ELCA Youth Gathering depends almost entirely on the preparation by the adult leaders, youth and the congregation itself. Here are two excellent resources available right now.

First, there are the webinars [offered](#) free of charge. The dates of the future webinars are posted on the website, the webinars which have already been conducted can be viewed at anytime. Adult leaders, youth and parents will want to see these but why not invite the whole congregation to participate by viewing them? You advertize the website or show the webinars at special events like adult forums, youth group, and committee meetings.

Second, there are the "Getting Ready Sessions" which lay the Biblical foundation for the Gathering. You will want to acquaint yourself with the Bible study by reading the "[users guide](#)" and then use the first Bible Study, "[Session A](#)". Again, the Bible study also makes a great Adult Bible study series, WELCA Bible study, or parent Bible study. Remember, Scripture is like candy - it's polite to share.

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February is such a short month for having so many great things in it. **February 5** is the Super Bowl and of course the [SouperBowl of Caring](#). The Souperbowl is about inviting youth groups to use the Super Bowl to raise money to fight hunger. This is a traditional event for many congregations but this year there will be a new contestant in the quest to raise the most money. The "youth group" at [Bartels Lutheran Retirement Community](#) will be participating this year so bring on your best game!

**February 9-12** is the Youth Ministry Extravaganza in New Orleans. It's not too late to register, for more details see the [website](#).

**February 26** is the first Sunday in Lent. You can find many Lenten resources for youth and families on the synod's [website](#).

Keep in touch,  
Pastor Mark

## **LYO Mini Event for High School Students**

Our Synod's Lutheran Youth Organization invites the high school students in your congregation to attend an "LYO Mini-event" at Decorah Lutheran Church in Decorah, Iowa on February 18, 2012. This half day event has been designed around the theme "Reconnecting with Jesus" and will include workshops on developing a more active prayer life by Pr. Anderson and by Lisa Kammerer, AIM. The event will also include games, lunch and music by Dan Baldwin. A small registration fee of \$5.00 will be collected at the door. Advance registration is important but simple just contact the synod office at [boltec@neiasynod.org](mailto:boltec@neiasynod.org) with your best guess of how many will attend.

## **A Time Saving Resource:**

Eric Ullestad and his sidekick Jake Bouma have come up with another great gift to folks interested in child, youth, and family ministry. It is a sort of "cliff Notes" of current literature. They pick out the most important new information on ministry and then summarize it and give you a link to the original work in case you want to read it yourself. You can learn more and subscribe [here](#). Of course, it's all free.

## **Two Position Openings**

Ewalu Camp and Retreat Center is seeking an Executive Director to build on 50 years of innovative camping and retreat ministry and committed relationships with constituent ELCA congregations in eastern Iowa. The Director will oversee development of an outdoor ministry program for all generations and will further develop financial resources. The candidate must be grounded in Lutheran Theology, work well with a year-round staff of 16, and manage the camp facilities and finances. Position will begin September 1, 2012. Salary will be commensurate with experience. If interested please read the [qualifications](#) and fill out an [application](#). Application deadline is March 15, 2012. Any additional questions contact [The Ewalu Search Committee](#).

Saint John Lutheran Church in Charles City, IA is currently seeking a full-time Youth & Family Ministry Team Leader to be responsible for developing, leading, and overseeing a congregational ministry of nurturing faith in Jesus Christ in the lives of children, youth, and their families. For more information including a job description contact [Pastor Dennis Niezwaag](#).

## **Big Day of Service**

Transforming Dubuque: May 5, 2012 from 8am until 4:30pm

The Big Day of Serving experience will provide youth groups the chance to participate in a single day of service that will revolutionize an entire neighborhood. You can check out their [website](#). If you have questions, please feel free to contact [Mark Beard](#).

## Book Review

[Confronting the Demon: A Gospel Response to Adult Bullying](#) by Gerald A. Arbuckle published by Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN in 2003.

Arbuckle is an Australian Roman Catholic who has authored several books on ministry. This book is separated into four chapters each concludes with a summary and discussion questions making it ideal for small group study. In the first chapter Arbuckle defines bullying and categorizes a myriad of ways adults bully each other in the workplace, at home, in relationships and in society. The second chapter is devoted to the psychology of the bully and the victim. A discussion of different cultures and how bullying is allowed even expected in them, makes up the third chapter. The reader is richly rewarded in the fourth chapter with five principles for preventing bullying; five practical ways victims can respond and five ways non-victims may assist.

Arbuckle defines bullying as an abuse of power driven by a fear of having to face their own inadequacies through persistently subjecting others to threats or psychological, physical or cultural violence. He also argues that girls/women are far less physical, but in fact, more hurtful in their bullying. He includes in bullying at work the persistent critic, the skilled manipulator, the benevolent intimidator and the irresponsible abdicator.

The media has made a great to-do about cyber bullying and made condemning youth for bullying a favorite pastime of adults. Arbuckle reminds us that there is much more bully behavior among adults at the workplace, even if the workplace is the church. This, I think, would be an excellent book for youth ministry professionals. Youth, parents and even other church staff can bully the youth worker into believing they are incompetent or worse. This work reminds us that the best defense to bullying is to know that you are being bullied.

## Upcoming Events

Feb 9-12	ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza New Orleans, LA
Feb 18	High School LYO Mini Event Decorah Lutheran Church, Decorah, Iowa
Feb 26	High School LaVida Lutheran Student Center, Cedar Falls
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 Cedar Falls, Iowa
March 31	Spring Blast! event (grades 3-6) Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp
April 14	Spring Blast! event (grades 7-12) Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp
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
Jan 24-28, 2013	ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza  Anaheim, CA

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