



Northeastern Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Children, Youth and Family Ministry Newsletter

December 2018

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Lutheran Youth Organization Network

The next meeting is **Saturday, Jan. 19** starting at 10 a.m. at the Northeastern Iowa Synod office, Waverly. We will be working on planning WIYLDE 2019! Bring a snack to share. We will be done by 12 p.m. at the latest.

The Lutheran Youth Organization Network (LYON) has begun to meet once again. Any youth in grades 9-12 in the synod are welcome to join us! If you have a student who would like to join LYON, please contact Deb Bachman at dbachman72@gmail.com.

Purpose: To equip youth of the Northeastern Iowa Synod to be leaders in their congregations so congregations can have the best youth group they are able to have.

A rough agenda for each LYON meeting includes:

- Highs and Lows
- Prayer time (introducing students to different types of prayer)
- Bible study
- Lesson (taught by different leaders from our synod)
- Potluck snacks/meal

The schedule for the school year is listed in the upcoming events section.

Wartburg College and Wartburg Seminary Program

By Halcyon Bjornstad, Director of Integrated BA/MDiv Degrees

Greetings from Wartburg Theological Seminary and Wartburg College! I am the director of an exciting new program called the Integrated BA/MDiv Degrees. It is with great excitement that Wartburg Theological Seminary and Wartburg College begin a search for the future pastors for the ELCA. As part of a new program that offers training for pastoral leadership sooner than ever before, we are looking for high school students interested in a career in ministry. As we work together to raise up leaders for the church, I need your help in identifying high school aged students who have shown an interest in service. This identification of youth means looking for youth in your congregation who are excited to help with worship services, they are curious about the Bible, ask good questions, and think deeply. These students are good listeners, work to build community (sometimes without even trying), and are leaders at church and in their schools. Who can help a high school student start thinking about being a pastor? It could be a parent, Godparent, teacher, pastor, youth director, grandparent, the list goes on and on! We can all be looking for and encouraging youth to consider the career of being a pastor.

The new program between the two schools is designed for these students in high school who know that they want to be pastors. This partnership between the two schools utilizes the staff at both institutions to streamline theological education and places students to serve in congregations sooner. This program follows a 3 + 3 model with three years of a BA education at Wartburg College with the last semester interfacing with Wartburg Seminary. The final three years will be completed in a congregation with a mentor pastor while taking courses taught by Wartburg Seminary professors. By using this model of education, in addition to mentoring and faith formation throughout the whole program, the result will be well rounded pastors ready to be ordained two years faster than a more traditional approach. This program will reduce student debt while continuing to focus on spiritual formation, contextual learning, life giving relationships, and academic excellence. This partnership between Wartburg Seminary and Wartburg College will help to form strong leaders for the church.

Does this program bring someone to mind for you? As you think about who in your congregation could be a pastor, you can help them to start thinking about what being a pastor means. It starts by asking them if they have ever thought about being a pastor and then by connecting them with this new program to help them discern their calling. These youth can be referred directly to me, or I would be happy to visit your congregation to talk to your

youth group or Sunday school group about discernment and learning to listen to what ways God is calling them to serve. I look forward to working with you to identify these students and to help them with discernment. To refer a student to the program or to arrange a time for me to visit your congregation to talk about discernment, contact me at 563-589-0272 or email Halcyon Bjornstad, hbjornstad@wartburgseminary.edu.

WIYLDE 2019

Mark your calendars for WIYLDE 2019! It will be held June 16-19 at Wartburg College (directly following the 2019 Synod Assembly).

Registration forms will be available soon!

Email Deb Bachman with questions, dbachman72@gmail.com

Website Feature

The synod website has a variety of links and resources for you. Below are a few of the resources you can use for free.

This is the [homepage](#) for all of the resources.

Need a weekly youth ministry Bible study? Check out [Faith Lens](#).

Need some ideas based on the [liturgical calendar](#)?

Need some ideas on how to say [thank you](#) to all your volunteers?

Upcoming Events

2019:

- January 25-28: [ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza](#) in Jacksonville, FL
- June 16-19: WIYLDE 2019 at Wartburg College

Youth Worker Network Meetings (10 a.m.-12 p.m.)

These meetings are for youth worker professionals in our synod. For more information, contact Deb Bachman.

- December 6 – Immanuel, Cresco
- January 3 – First Lutheran, Northwood
- February – No meeting due to Extravaganza
- March 7 – St. Peter, Greene
- April 4 – Redeemer, Waverly
- April 25-26 – Retreat at Ewalu
- May – No meeting due to retreat
- June 6 – Immanuel, Independence

Lutheran Youth Organization Network Meetings:

**All meetings are held from 10 a.m.-12 pm at the Synod Office in Waverly.

- January 19
- February 16
- March 23
- April 27

Riverside and Ewalu Camp Events:

Ewalu ([Ewalu website](#)):

- Feb. 28 - First Early Discount Deadline for Summer Camp
- April 5-7: Dirty Feet Retreat

Riverside ([Riverside website](#)):

- April 6: 2nd-6th grade BLAST

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