



Northeastern Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Children, Youth and Family Ministry Newsletter

September 2021

In this Issue:

- Back to School 2021
- God's work Our Hands Sunday
- Middle School Lock-In
- Upcoming Events

Back to School 2021

For many families, it is back to school time. We can celebrate this time as a church in different ways. Here are a few ideas that you can do as a congregation to remember this time for our students and families:

Backpack Blessing/Back to School Blessing:

Take part of a worship service right around school starting to have a blessing for students (I would also encourage teachers, staff and all those in the education system) for the upcoming year. You can have this at the beginning of your service or it could even be the children's message for the Sunday you choose.

You can, of course, write your own or here are two places that have litanies/blessings already prepared for you that you can use and/or tweak:

**Sundays and Seasons has a few options in their library.

**Milestones Ministry also has a [Blessing of the Backpacks module](#) that you can purchase.

In addition to the blessing, you could also hand out some sort of tag/keychain/item that students and adults can attach to their bags to remind them of this blessing throughout the school year. Here are a few ways to do that:

**Oriental Trading has some fairly cost affective keychains that you can purchase in bulk. There are different designs you can choose from. Search for religious keychains or religious pin for some different options.

**You can purchase a download to print yourself from [Illustrated Ministry](#). There also are a few different designs. You can print those onto business cards, laminate and punch to attach to backpacks.

**You can design your own - perhaps based off your Vacation Bible School theme from this past summer. Include your church information on the back.

**You could also hand out a button or pin they can put on their bag.

**If your congregation does blessing stones, Milestones Ministry has a special [blessing of backpacks stone](#) you can purchase as well.

This is a great Sunday to also let families know about whatever fall programming you have ready to go for them.

God's Work Our Hands Sunday

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is Sunday, September 12, 2021. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

This is a great Sunday to offer service projects that the whole family can be a part of - you can even work this into a Rally Day if your congregation has one.

You can find resources and ideas [here](#).

Middle School Lock-In

The annual lock-in for middle school and junior high youth from the Northeastern Iowa Synod is set for Oct. 22-23. Students will join in games, activities and worship at the UNI Wellness and Recreation Center with the theme, “I wonder.” The event will follow university guidelines relating to COVID-19.

REGISTER EARLY!

The registration fee is \$40 per youth if registered by Friday, Oct. 1. After that date, the fee is \$50. There is no fee for adult chaperones. Registrations will not be accepted after Oct. 15. For more information, contact **Robin Kime**, campus ministry associate, through email or call 319-266-4071.

You can download the registration materials [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Ewalu Bible Camp

There are some special events coming up in September and October as well as volunteer workdays. You can find all the information on their [website](#).

Riverside Bible Camp

Riverside also has special events happening this fall.
You can find more information on their [website](#).

God's Work Our Hands Sunday

Sunday, Sept. 12

Bishop Installation

September 25, 2021

Trinity Lutheran Church, Mason City

2021 Middle School Lock-In

October 22-23

UNI Wellness Center

ELCA Youth Gathering

July 24-28, 2022

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Synod Publications

- [July/August Star](#)
- [July/August Living Faith @Home \(from the Home Life Network\)](#)

Subscribe to this E-Letter

Editor

Deb Bachman
Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator

Donate Online



Northeastern Iowa Synod

201 20th St. SW, PO Box 804

Waverly, IA 50677-0804

319-352-1414

[Contact Us](#)

