

# Youth Ministry

“Do Not Be Afraid. It is I. Come...”

It’s easy to be afraid in the world we live in. But Jesus calls us to look to him in trust. We are a synod where people of all ages are looking to Jesus.

## Youth Ministers in Congregations

Young people need adults who walk with them as they encounter Jesus. Our synod is full of these adults, both paid and volunteer. God is doing amazing things through you. Thank you.



## The SW MN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization

This board of 15 youth and 10 adults serves as a leadership lab for young people to embrace God’s mission and equip God’s people. They work hard to create youth gatherings that will open the eyes of youth to Jesus in their midst.

## Jr. and Sr. High Youth Gatherings

Youth gatherings planned and coordinated by the SW MN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization are super events where the love of Christ is proclaimed with creativity and joy. Gathering participants particularly appreciate Faith Talks shared by youth, Christian music and service

projects.

## Youth Worker Retreat

Our annual retreat this fall was held at Shalom Hill Farm. Our theme was “An Introduction to Family Systems” and was led by Pastor Stephen Cook. The people attending the retreat worshipped together, supported one another, and learned about Family Systems Theory.

## Recharge

34 people from our synod took advantage of Equipping Grants to attend Recharge, an ecumenical one-day ministry conference in the Twin Cities. Worship and lots of practical workshop options were highlights of the event.



### **Preventing and Responding to Abuse**

I have learned that 1 in 5 people are abused. As congregations we have a responsibility to prevent abuse within the ministries we shepherd. I've put together 4 steps you can follow to prevent and respond to abuse in your congregation. <https://swmnelca.org/preventing-responding-to-abuse-in-ministry/>

### **Youth and Family Ministry E- Newsletter**

Please join our mailing list to receive bursts of information on events, resources, education, and more regarding youth and family ministry. Go to [www.swmnelca.org](http://www.swmnelca.org) to join.

### **SW MN Synod Youth Ministers Facebook Group**

When youth ministers have a question for their colleagues or want to share news of an upcoming event, they often turn to our synod's youth minister facebook group. If you're a youth minister in our synod, please know this is a resource for you.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/swmnsynodyouthministers/>

### **ELCA Youth Gathering**

Our church will be hosting our triennial youth gathering in 2018. We've already started equipping leaders to take youth to this incredible faith formation event, which will be held in Houston this time. Ashley Gilbertson is our synod's coordinator for the ELCA Youth Gathering and is available to help you find answers to all your questions. (320) 235-2508 [ashley@calvarywillmar.org](mailto:ashley@calvarywillmar.org)

It's been a wonderful year and I am grateful to serve alongside all of you as we seek to share Christ's love and deepen the vitality of our congregations in God's name.

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