Dear Youth Ministers, Pastors and Volunteers,

Grace and Peace to you!

I’m excited to tell you about this fall’s youth worker retreat, Children’s Sermons and Creative Storytelling in Worship.

Children are not the only ones listening to the children’s sermon—adults of all ages love to listen in. But children need more than adult spectators—they need adults to engage in the story with them. How do we create children’s sermons that connect children with parents, grandparents, and caring adults? Experience examples of children’s sermons that creatively and interactively engage the emotions, senses, bodies, and minds of people of all ages.

In addition, no longer can we assume people in the pews know even the basics of God's story. The most interaction people have with the Bible is the 10-minute sermon. Trends tell us that faithful church goers attend worship 1-2 times a month. To respond to this, we may need to shift how we do things in worship. Come and explore how to use cross-generational storytelling-preaching to help God's people learn God's story and become storytellers of the faith.

Our presenters are the phenomenal pastors Jen Rome and Heather Roth Johnson. Both have extensive experience ministering alongside children youth and families. They have a passion for sharing God’s story in a way that meets people where they are. Jen Rome is Pastor for Next Generation Ministries at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in St. Paul. Heather Roth Johnson is Associate Pastor in Faith Formation at St John's Lutheran Church in Lakeville. Heather blogs about her various church experiences at www.storyboardingchurch.wordpress.org
You have two options for how you attend this retreat. You may arrive Monday evening for supper, worship and time for support, care and socializing. Or you may arrive Tuesday morning after breakfast for the educational part of the retreat.

The retreat will be held at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, MN from Monday, September 24 at 5:00 pm - Tuesday, September 25 at 3:00 pm. Please register promptly as this helps our planning process. Registration closes on September 17.

The cost for the full retreat is $80 per person. This includes the content of the retreat, overnight housing, and three meals. Cost for just Tuesday is $30 and includes content of the retreat and lunch. You are invited to bring beverages and snacks to share for our Monday evening social time. Green Lake Bible Camp is not a dry campus.

Please register online at https://goo.gl/forms/xl57sOELhF0R2KYz1 and mail your check made out to the “SW MN Synod” to the synod office. Registrations will not be confirmed until payment is made. $10 of the total is refundable if needed. Mail to:
SW MN Synod Youth Worker Retreat SW MN Synod Office PO BOX 499 Redwood Falls, MN 56283-0499

Questions? Let me know! 320-579-0838 or sarah.hausken@swmnelca.org

I hope to see you soon!
Blessings,
Sarah Hausken, Minister of Word and Service
SW MN Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator

Monday, September 24
5:00 Arrive
5:30 Supper
6:30 Worship
7:30 Getting to know each other a bit better
8:15 Break
8:30 Sharing Joys and Cares (snacks, beverages, etc.)

Tuesday, September 25
8:30 Breakfast
9:15 First Word (Tuesday Only Registrants Arrive)
9:30 Introductions
9:45 Children’s Sermons and Creative Storytelling
12:00 Lunch
12:45 Children’s Sermons and Creative Storytelling
2:45 Closing/Sending
3:00 Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

Whether you’re a pastor, paid youth minister or volunteer, I hope you will consider joining us for this time of continuing education with your youth and family ministry colleagues from around the synod. We especially encourage new youth ministers to this area to attend this retreat. Here you will meet other youth ministers who will support and inspire you as you minister alongside youth and families.