

# Youth Ministry

*I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9*

We are a synod where people of all ages act boldly in response to God’s strength, courage and presence.

## 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 Green Lake Bible Camp. Our theme was “Children’s Sermons and Creative Storytelling in Worship” and was led by Pastors Heather Roth Johnson and Jen Rome. The people attending the retreat worshipped together, supported one another, and learned about sharing the gospel with children.

## Recharge

About 20 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.

This resource was updated this past year.

<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/>

## Quarterly Youth Minister Gathering

We've started meeting quarterly for support, idea sharing, and collaboration. What a gift!

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

Deacon Sarah Hausken  
Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator  
[Sarah.hausken@swmnelca.org](mailto:Sarah.hausken@swmnelca.org)  
320-579-0838

