



**Southwestern Minnesota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# Youth Ministry Coordinator

---

Southwestern Minnesota Synod - ELCA  
Redwood Falls, MN 56288

[www.swmnelca.org](http://www.swmnelca.org)

## **MISSION STATEMENT:**

The congregations and all the baptized who are the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are claimed by this mission: God places us in cities, farms, and towns together under one prairie sky. The Risen Christ surprises us with opportunities to plant God's Word in the world. Walking together in confidence, we cultivate life-giving congregations, nurture partner ministries, and cooperate in the life of the ELCA. By God's grace, together we have what we need.

## **PURPOSE:**

This ministry position will share the love of Christ with youth and families by convening, accompanying, equipping, and supporting youth and youth ministry advocates for the purpose of strengthening God's mission through the congregations, networks, and ministry partners of this synod.

## **DESIRED OUTCOMES:**

- Youth will know they belong.
- Youth and families will flourish in their faith.
- Youth and families will experience life-giving relationships.
- Youth and all youth advocates will be equipped for leadership and service.
- Youth will be affirmed as leaders.
- Congregations will be transformed to see and love their youth.
- Congregations will be safe places.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

### **Lutheran Youth Board:**

- Convene, facilitate, and support the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Board.
- Equip the LYO Board through the planning of Junior & Senior High gatherings.
- Coordinate the work of the LYO at the Synod Assembly when they attend.
- Identify, advise, and support youth gathering managers.

### **Foster Youth Talent:**

- Music
- Drama
- Technology

### **Leadership Formation:**

- Formation of youth as leaders.
- Formation of adults that support youth.
- Plan & implement leadership training for youth and adults.
- Facilitate gatherings where youth workers can find mutual support.

### **Youth Ministry Support:**

- Communication
- Building connections

### **Other Key Responsibilities:**

- Synod Coordinator for National Youth Gathering
- Participate regularly with the ELCA Youth Ministry Network
- Preventing Abuse - Safe Congregations Work
- Make resources available for preventing and responding to abuse in congregations.

## **TEAMS, NETWORKS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS:**

Support and work with the Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (Board).

## **RELATIONSHIPS:**

The youth ministry coordinator is supervised by the Synod Minister for Engaging Leaders and supported by the Office Manager and Administrative assistants. There is an annual conversation with members of the Synod Personnel Committee and the Synod Bishop.

## **CORE COMPETENCIES:**

Commitment to God's mission in Jesus Christ.

Commitment to Lutheran theology and to the mission of the ELCA.

Commitment to the interdependence of expressions of this church in congregations, synods, and the ELCA Churchwide organization.

Commitment to youth and their Christian formation.

Knowledge and experience in ministry with youth.

Demonstrate the ability to relate well to youth and adults.

Demonstrate creativity and imagination.

Demonstrate a ministry of presence, and show compassion, empathy, care, and respect for others.

Commitment to maintain confidentiality, trust, and integrity.

Ability to read situations quickly and deal with issues and concerns directly.

Demonstrate strong personal boundaries, emotional maturity, and the ability to maintain a non-anxious presence.

Encouragement of others to engage their skills, cultivate their gifts, and actively engage them in leadership.

Open to new ways of seeing and doing things.

Attention to detail for process and planning.

Communication skills, both one-on-one and in groups. Able to express self orally and in writing.

Willingness and ability to work independently with initiative and vision, while working within a collaborative team.

Engagement with a team-style of working, creating strong morale, equity, and inclusion, and a sense of belonging.

Consistent and high-level communication with synod staff, committees, and contacts.

Excellent organizational skills.

Commitment to lifelong learning for professional growth.

Affirm, encourage, pray for, and bless those this ministry embraces.

## **THIS POSITION REQUIRES:**

Membership in an ELCA congregation of this synod.

Experience in youth ministry.

The ability to drive a vehicle in rural areas.

The ability to operate a computer and working knowledge of computer processes.

The ability to serve some evenings and weekends.

This is a part-time position, requiring 15 hours per week.

## **BENEFITS AND WELLNESS:**

Salary and vacation based on Synod Personnel Policy.

Quarterly ministry reviews for the first two years. After two years, annual ministry reviews.

Continuing education, support, and networking (as defined with supervisor at review times).