Children, Youth, & Family (CYF) Resources
Minneapolis Area Synod/Saint Paul Area Synod
CYF Leadership Team

FACEBOOK GROUPS and EMAIL NEWSLETTERS

- ELCA Youth Ministry Network
- ELCA Youth Ministry Network - Region 3
- Twin Cities ELCA
- Twin Cities CYF ELCA
- Saint Paul Area Synod Email Updates | Fill out your information under “Stay Updated!”
- Minneapolis Area Synod Email Newsletter | Fill out your information under “Keep in Touch”

NETWORKS

- **Children’s Ministry Gathering** | 2nd Monday of the month at 1 p.m. Some sessions in person, some on Zoom. Support each other and exchange ideas. Contact Rachelle Gill at rgill@easter.org or Julie Vagle at juliev@trinitylonglake.org.
- **Youth Ministry Gathering** | 2nd Tuesdays at 3 p.m. Contact Josh Svenulski at josh@christusvictor.org
- **Eastern Suburbs Network** | Contact Beth at bhamen@saintandrews.org
- **Bloomington Youth Workers Network** | Contact Sarah Maslowski at smaslowski@ststephen.net.
- **Western Suburbs Network** | Contact Elizabeth Pedersen at elizabethp@lordoflife.org.
- **Peer Groups** | Small groups for support and accountability. Contact John Hulden at j.hulden@mpls-synod.org.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY RESOURCES

- ELCA Children’s Ministry
- Faith Inkubators | Killing Sunday School
- First Look & 252 Kids | Orange Curriculum
- Go Fish | VBS
- Jesus Storybook Bible
- Manna & Mercy
- Ordinary Blessings for Families | book by Meta Herrick Carlson
• Parent Cue
• Sparkhouse Family Resources
  ○ Whirl
  ○ Holy Moly
  ○ Frolic
• Spirit & Truth | Publishing-Narrative Lectionary Curriculum
• Spill the Beans | Narrative Lectionary
• The Bible Project
• Veggie Tales | Movies
• What’s in the Bible with Buck Denver

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY
• Coffee Talks
• Collaborate | Confirmation ministry
• Freaks & Geeks Bible Studies
• Here We Stand | Confirmation curriculum
• Mentorship
• Pay it Forward | Movie
• Reform | Confirmation curriculum
• Science for Youth Ministry | Four-week series
• Simon Birch
• The Ultimate Camp Resource | For camp people... by camp people
• Youth Ministry Great Games

HIGH SCHOOL
• Animate Curriculum
• Augsburg Youth Theology Institute
• Baking Nights | Team building through cooking
• Beloved Teen Group | queergracecommunity.com
• Caffeine series
• Can I Ask | Book resource
• Echo The Story | Curriculum
• Faith, Science, & Youth Leadership | Environmental learning
• Half Truths | Book resource
• Holy Hoops Youth Basketball League | Twin Cities churches
• Interfaith Bridge Building | Experience through Augsburg University
• Interfaith Action | Learning opportunities and various programs in St. Paul
• Locked in a Room | Escape Room for groups
• Lock & Key Escape Rooms | Escape Room for groups (discounts for churches)
• MEA Getaway | October long weekend for students
- Orange XP3
- Peer Ministry
- Vertical Endeavors | Climbing wall
- Wade in the Water | Free curriculum on water justice actions and resources
- Wired Word

**CAMPS, MISSION TRIPS & RETREATS**

- **Appalachia Service Project** | Mission trips
- **Base Camp** | Rock climbing, archery, high ropes (St. Paul, MN)
- **Camp Emmaus** | Retreats & camp (Menahga, MN)
- **Camp Friendship/Camp Courage** | High ropes & retreats (Annandale, MN)
- **Camp Ihduhapi** | Retreats (Loretto, MN)
- **Camp Victory** | Retreat center (Zumbro Falls, MN)
- **Center for Student Missions** | Mission trips
- **Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp** | Retreats & camp (Lakeside, MT)
- **Green Lake Lutheran Ministries** | Retreats & camp (Spicer, MN)
- **Group Mission Trips** | Workcamps
- **Gustavus Adolphus College** | Confirmation retreats (St. Peter, MN)
- **Heifer Ranch** | Mission trips
- **Interfaith @ Augsburg** | Retreats
- **Luther Crest** | Retreats & camp (Alexandria, MN)
- **Lutheran Outdoor Ministries**
- **Lutheran Outdoors South Dakota** | Retreats & camp
- **Moonlight Madness** | Overnight “lock-out” in Twin Cities in the Fall & Spring. For more information, contact the Rev. David Wrightsman at revw2@msn.com.
- **Next Step Ministries** | Mission trips
- **Praying Pelicans Missions** | Mission trips
- **Rainbow Trail** | Backpacking trip (Hillside, CO)
- **Serve Boldly** | Mission trips
- **Service Learning Camps** | Mission trips
- **Sky Ranch** | Retreats & camp
- **Urban Immersion** | Retreat experience
- **Urban Plunge** | Experience
- **Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry** | Retreats & camp (Northeastern MN)
- **WAPO** | Retreats (Amery, WI)
- **Youthworks** | Mission trips
GENERAL INFORMATION

- **The Bible for Normal People** | podcast
- **Buffer** | Social Media Scheduling
- **Building Faith** | e-newsletter from Virginia Theological Seminary
- **Canva** | Graphic design
- **Cherish All Children** | Safeguarding God’s Children
- **Christian Education Network of the ELCA** | Supporting lifelong faith formation in the home and congregation
- **Disability Ministry Action Team** | ELCA churchwide resources for supporting children, youth, families, and adults with disabilities
- **Eco-Faith** | An earth-keeping initiative of the Minneapolis Area Synod
- **ELCA Churchwide offices**
- **Faith Lens** | ELCA weekly Bible study
- **FCA** | Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- **FlockNote** | Email and texting app designed for churches
- **Go Weekly** | Subscription
- **Lutheran Summer Music** | Residential music academy for students grade 8 – 12
- **Martin’s List** | Open source ideas, need a membership to ELCA Network
- **Mental Health First Aid**
- **Ministry Lab** | Faith Formation Resource Center at United Seminary in St. Paul
- **National Youth Gathering** | ELCA Youth Gathering, happens every 3 years
- **Ordinary Blessings** | book by Meta Herrick Carlson
- **Reconciling Works** | Advocacy for the acceptance, full participation, and liberation of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions within the Lutheran Church
- **Remind** | Social media communication
- **Resource Center for Churches** | Pay to become a member for resources
- **Riverside Innovation Hub** | Young adult innovation for congregations, led by Augsburg University
- **Sustainable Youth Ministry** | book by Mark DeVries
- **Youth Ministry Land** | Plethora of resources for Twin Cities groups
- **Youth Service Bureau** | Mental health info, counseling, transitional housing

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- **ConNext** | Ecumenical progressive children’s ministry
- **Cross+Gen Life** | Focus on cross+generational ministry in the church and the home
- **E-Formation** | Practicing ministry in a digital world
- **Extravaganza** | Long weekend continuing education for ELCA CYF peeps
- **Faith Forward** | Reimagine Children’s and Youth Ministry - Annual conference in Chicago
- **Hazelden** | Youth and addiction conference in November
- **Intergenerate Conference** | Focus on intergenerational ministry
- **Luther Seminary** | Various conferences and courses
- **Kairos** | Continuing education for ministry professionals
- **Orange Conference**
- **Recharge** | Half-day event specifically for CYF volunteers and leaders around the Twin Cities
- **Skill Share** | Administrative skills training
- **Vibrant Faith** | Training & resources
- **Youth Leadership** | Certificate in children or youth ministry, workshops