



Minnesota District CYFD Report to the Pastors of the MN District April 4-6, 2016

2015-16 MN CYFD Conferences & Networking Efforts: Over the last year in the Minnesota district, the Commission for Youth and Family Discipleship has simply looked to encourage the six conferences of the Minnesota district to form youth committees within each conference to better network among the congregations within the conference and individual circuits for youth ministry purposes. The St. Croix Youth Committee is a true pioneer in this effort and over the last number of years, has been held up as an example of this approach. For more information about how to encourage conferences to establish an active youth committee and form a better network for local congregations and schools to tap into, youth leaders are encouraged to reach out to retired Pastor Arnold Lemke either via email: alemke@visi.com or at his home office (952) 470-6245. If you or someone you know in your conference has gifts for youth ministry or are working hard on an excellent youth program, we'd love to hear about them and/or the program. Please reach out to Pastor Bill Monday at either pastor@myfaithlutheran.com or (952) 474-4966.

2015-16 MN CYFD Youth Chairman: As chair for the MN CYFD over the last year – as a result of hosting the 3E Youth Leader workshop at St. Croix Lutheran High School in October 2014 – I have become one of three creators for our church body's new School of Youth and Family. In the spring of 2015, the eight workshops which were created were presented before synodical leaders and received approval for two-three pilot programs among area congregations in Milwaukee, Atlanta, and potentially in Minneapolis. The eight workshops center around mentoring our youth and creating avenues to raise our youth up in the Lord through more one-on-one efforts which stem from youth ministries of the local congregation. Parents are a key focus of this initiative. As a part of the program, we are presently pulling together resources for all things youth ministry on a CYFD resource website. More information will be coming to our district about this by the fall of 2016 when the School of Youth and Family is officially launched, God-willing. So far, from our two pilot sites in Milwaukee, WI and Atlanta, GA, all feedback has been extremely positive. For more information about this effort, feel free to contact Pastor Bill Monday at pastor@myfaithlutheran.com or (952) 474-4966.

To Whet Your Appetite Regarding SYF Practical Ministry Applications – We Address the Following...

70-80% of youth leave Church

Age 17-19 is critical age for leaving

38% LES Kids Remain vs. 32% Public School (WELS)

88% Have critical doubts long before college

Only 30% of 20-somethings believe they'll return.

Sunday School in conservative Christian churches generally has a nominal or negative impact on kids.

<30% Retention of kids if mothers alone actively attend.

>75% Retention of kids if fathers actively attend.

- 35% of men in US attend church weekly

- 61% Female Adult and 39% Male Adult Attendees on a Typical Sunday

*- 90% US Men Believe in God, 5/6 Christian**

**Yet only 1/6 go to church on any-given Sunday*

- <10% of Churches Maintain a Vibrant Men's Ministry

- 6% of Christians have regular home devotions

- More active men correlates with church growth.

- Men more active in church are statistically more engaged as husbands and fathers.

2015-16 MN CYFD Looking Ahead: The next WELS International Youth Rally will be held June 28-July 1, 2016, at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo. For more information keep your eyes open to www.wels.net and www.facebook.com/WELSYouthRally. Through regional youth committees of individual conferences, more plans are being made for youth activities throughout the year including regional mission trips in connection with the trip to the youth rally or apart from it. Contact your conference secretary or chairman to see whether or not you have a formal youth effort within your conference and, if so, what the regional conference youth offerings are for the calendar year.

St. Croix Youth Committee Updates*:

1st bus to Colorado for youth rally (& other activities such as water rafting and mountain hiking) is filled.

2nd bus to same destination about 2/3 filled – Call Pastor Zac Pudlo or Pastor Lemke

3rd mission trip activity in the States to help out the Tennessee area churches, contact – Pastor Matt Hennig.

4th mission trip activity: Spanish speakers to Puerto Rico, almost filled, but call for information – Pastor Lemke

****Since St. Croix Offerings are often offered to the district, please consider all of St. Croix Youth Committee activities as sponsored by the District CYFM unless otherwise noted. This would include liability coverage from the district and synod as well for these events.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Bill Monday, Chairman

Rev. Zac Pudlo; Rev. Stephen Schmiel; Mark & Deb Perry