



MN Commission on Youth and Family Discipleship District in Convention Report June 14-16, 2016

2015-16 MN CYFD Conferences & Networking Efforts: Over the last couple years 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 for 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 people you know in your conference have gifts for youth ministry or are working hard on an excellent youth program, we'd love to hear about them and/or their program(s). 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 2 years – 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 tentatively launches (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 shortly from June 28-July 1, 2016, at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo. Don't forget to check out highlights at www.wels.net and www.facebook.com/WELSYouthRally in the coming weeks when the youth rally is going on and concludes.

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

**Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Bill Monday, Chairman
Rev. Zac Pudlo; Rev. Stephen Schmiel; Mark & Deb Perry**