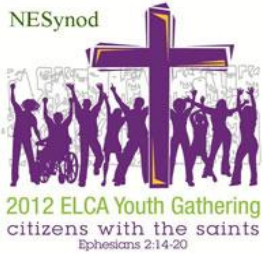


## Learning Opportunities – Spring 2012



CALLING YOUTH & LEADERS! Registration is open for the [2012 ELCA Youth Gathering July 18-22](#) in New Orleans, Louisiana. The theme, "citizens with the saints," is drawn from Ephesians 2:14-20. **Prepare** with downloadable files and a video on our webpage. Final NES leader gathering to prepare for the trip: Sat. April 14, Trinity, Chelmsford. Mass.

& CONGREGATIONS: **Lets pray** for the people of New Orleans in the continuing restoration of their lives and property and for the youth and faithful leaders who will travel there to be God's hands.

PONDERING . . . Bishop Margaret G. Payne invites you to read her blog at to see what she is pondering during her final year in office as our bishop: <http://bishoppayne.blogspot.com/>

SERVING: **One Week Mission trips to Honduras in 2012.** Have you ever wanted to go on a Mission trip, serve people in a foreign country, rediscover your faith, travel and get close to new people in a new land? Join the New England Synod Mission trip to our partner church in Honduras, **April 14 - 21**. For more information [view flyer](#) or contact Pastor Jim Hazelwood [jim@STandrewRI.org](mailto:jim@STandrewRI.org) 401-322-0088.

WOMEN IN MINISTRY (rostered leaders and interns) in New England Synod are invited to the annual **Women in Ministry Retreat, May 13-15** at [St. Edmund's Retreat](#) on Enders Island, near Mystic, Conn. The theme is "Exploring Spirituality through Our Senses," featuring interactive workshops, contemplative prayer, worship, good food, conversation and beautiful scenery. Cost is \$245 per person. Massages will be available at extra cost. [Register online by March 12.](#)

The **North American Association for the Catechumenate** (NAAC) is offering identical regional TRAINING INSTITUTES in 2012. "**Go, Baptize, Make Disciples**" is the theme for these events designed for congregational teams in Baltimore (April 13-15), Minneapolis (May 18-20), and Spokane (August 3-5). These training events are for both experienced practitioners and those new to the catechumenate. A new congregational resource, soon to be published by Augsburg Fortress, will be introduced and copies provided to all participants. [Get details](#), including registration link, brochure.

Wartburg Lutheran Seminary invites you to join with them for 10 days of learning, recreation, and renewal for ministry at our annual **Luther Academy of the Rockies, June 18-28, 2012**, Meeker Park Lodge, Allenspark, Colo. This year's speakers will be Dr. Paul Scott Wilson, Dr. Stan Olson, and Dr. Ann Fritschel, addressing in their own unique ways, the theme "Reading, Teaching, and Preaching the Biblical Message in the 21st Century." [Read more and register.](#)

**Theological Education for Youth** will offer two programs this summer at Gettysburg Lutheran Theological Seminary for high school students in your congregation to learn more about who they are as Lutherans: 1) TEY **Crossroads Event**, a one week exploration of issues of justice, advocacy and urban ministry, for teens now in the ninth or tenth grade, **June 23-30**; and 2) TEY **Summer Theological Academy**, nine days of theological exploration and discovery, including courses on ethics, scripture and ministry and exploration of call and vocation, for teens now in Grades 10 or 11, **July 28-Aug. 5**. For further information, contact Chelle Huth, TEY director, at [chuth@ltsg.edu](mailto:chuth@ltsg.edu) or 717-338-3038.

**Peace Not Walls** is an ongoing ELCA campaign calling for efforts toward a viable, contiguous Palestinian state; a secure Israeli state at peace with its Arab neighbors; and a shared Jerusalem with equal access and rights for Jews, Christians, and Muslims. You can find ways to support our Palestinian brothers and sisters at <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Peace-Not-Walls.aspx> . Check out their Lenten resources.



Visit New England Synod's **Caring for Creation** team for resources and success stories on our website's [Go green](#) page. Read about the solar panel project at St. Peter, Harwich, Mass.

HOW-TO: **Facebook FAQs** Angela Bengtson, parish communicator at Zion Lutheran Church, Buffalo, MN, has prepared a helpful guide to help Lutherans understand Facebook:

<http://mnplatypus.files.wordpress.com/2009/09/facebook-for-lutherans-class-handout.pdf>

LET'S **PRAY for our leaders** today. Remember that also means you! The ELCA offers creative ways for you to bring God's gifts to this needy world. God calls us ALL to use our hearts and hands. For more, visit <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Congregational-and-Synodical-Mission.aspx>

BE WELL! **Wheat Ridge Ministries** is the creator of "the Wholeness Wheel" used by the ELCA. Visit their site for financial grants and guidance on aging, health issues, sabbaticals and more. Thrivent participants may still allocate their 2011 choice dollars to Wheat Ridge programs through March 31. [Click for details.](#)

[Rolling Ridge Retreat Center](#), North Andover, Mass., offers hosted programs and individual retreats, plus a wellness center with licensed body therapies. Find prices and registration forms on the website.

[Genesis Spiritual Life Center](#), Westfield, Mass., offers space for sabbaticals or short term stays, as well as one day events on interesting topics. Spring programs include relaxation, spirituality, yoga, prayer, boundaries, feng shui, and even cooking. Register on line for these great topics.