

Lutheran Youth Organization To Return

Synod Strategic Plan Highlights, Oct. 2004

As part of the youth and family emphasis of the strategic plan, a plan is in place to reactivate the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) in the synod. Four people will be attending the national Council of Synod LYO Presidents (CSLYOPs) meeting in December to begin collecting ideas of ways to redevelop an active LYO group in the synod.

LYO has not had a presence in the synod for at least five years. According to youth director Kris Oppegaard (Trinity, Owatonna), "It lost steam because the adults who were leading it were youth workers who moved on to other jobs, and the other youth workers in the synod were new, and had no history with LYO."

The synod adult advisors of LYO in Southeastern Minnesota will be Jenny Johnson (Central, Winona), Abby Romme (Hosanna, Rochester), and Marilyn Carpenter (Our Savior's, Spring Valley). All have past experience with LYO. Following CSLYOPs in December, Johnson, Romme, and Carpenter will work with Molly Loegering (Good Shepherd, Wells) and other local youth to plan the future of LYO in the synod. By fall of next year, an LYO team will be assembled and active.

Other current highlights include:

- **To Be Joyful Witnesses:** Trinity in Spring Grove, Cross of Christ in Houston, and Redeemer in Alden will begin the Natural Church Development (NCD) process in January, along with three other congregations that are yet to be identified. Evanger in Sargeant has already begun the process. NCD is a research-based system for improving congregational health.
- **To Be Christ-Centered Disciples:** Bishop Usgaard and Larry Iverson, synod minister, are working with 14 congregations on stewardship development.

Dinners for all pastors and congregation presidents in the synod are planned for the end of September in each conference, in which the bishop and Iverson will speak about the synod's shared ministry and discuss stewardship resources.

For more information on the synod's strategic plan, visit www.semnsynod.org and click "Strategic Plan."



Called into God's Marvelous Light

To Be Joyful Witnesses

To Be Christ-Centered Disciples

To Be Strong Leaders