

# Virginia Synod ELCA



“Ambassadors  
for  
Christ”

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL GROUP LEADERSHIP AT YOUTH EVENTS IN 2011-2012

### **Lost and Found** **Nov. 18-20, 2011**

Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg

This is our weekend faith formation event for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and it runs from 8:00 Friday evening to noon on Sunday. We will need about 55-60 Small Group leaders and about 50 co-leaders or assistants to lead five small group sessions. Young adults who are college age (18 and above) and are new to Small Group leadership are invited to sign up as small group assistants. Most SG leaders are also adult advisors from their congregations and don't need to arrive at the event

any earlier than their congregational youth. A Small Group Leader guide, with outlines for the activities of every small group session, is sent to each group leader about two weeks before the event to allow time to prepare. Most Small Groups have a leader and an assistant or two leaders, so you can share both the joy and the workload as a team. Group leaders' registration expenses are covered by the Synod, except for a \$25 processing and supplies fee.

### **Winter Celebration**

Week I - Jan. 20-22, 2012

Week II - Jan. 27-29, 2012

Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg

“Winter Cel” is our renowned faith formation weekend for High School youth (9th-12th graders) and runs from 8:00pm on Friday evening to Sunday noon. Because it is so popular, we offer it on two successive weekends so that everyone who wants to attend will be able to. We will need leaders and assistants for about 30-40 small groups each weekend. Although each youth participant can only come to one weekend or the other, as adult Small Group leaders you are welcome

to come to either weekend or both! If you don't know yet which weekend your congregational group is attending, just put question marks on the form and we'll find out the details later. The Small Group Leader guide gets sent out to leaders two weeks in advance. As with Lost and Found, Small Group leaders pay only the \$25 processing and supplies fee.

### **SEVENTH DAY**

**MARCH 3-4, 2012**

Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg

This is an overnight retreat for youth in grades 5-6 which offers participants an opportunity to explore one particular Bible story in multiple ways. The format of this event differs from the other weekend events in that there are “Shepherd Groups” rather than small groups and they are not mainly for discussion, but for shared activity. All adult advisors who come with youth from congregations serve as

“Shepherds” for these groups or assistants in the activity modules. The main role of Shepherds is to guide the participants from one activity location to another and help with whatever activity is being conducted in that place, so we do not need Small Group leaders for this event like we do for the others. Seventh Day Shepherds' expenses are not covered by the Synod. We do, however, need adults in planning and leadership roles for the four activity areas: music, interactive story-telling, games and movement, and craft/construction.

### **Youth Assembly** **June 8-10, 2012**

Roanoke College, Salem

This is our annual gathering of youth for exploring the work of the church beyond the congregation. Two youth from each congregation can attend (one from grades 7-9 and one from grades 10-12), plus a third if there's room. It is held at Roanoke College at the same time as the Main Assembly, and detailed information and registration forms are sent to congregations in February along with the Main Assembly registration materials.

Since congregations do not send advisors to this event as they do for Lost and Found and Winter Cel, we need about a dozen adults who will be residents at this event from Friday noon to Sunday noon, staying as advisors in the dorms with the youth and also serving as group discussion leaders. These groups function somewhat differently from small groups at our other events, so there is very little preparation on your part prior to the event. Many youth and adults report that this is their favorite of all the events. Registration fees for non-clergy adults are covered by the Synod.

**KAIROS**  
JUNE 24~29, 2012  
Roanoke College, Salem

Kairos is our annual week-long faith formation retreat for youth who will be in 9th-12th grades the following fall. Congregations do not send adult advisors with their youth, so the adults who serve at this event stay in the dorm with the participants and serve both as adult advisors and Small Group leaders from Sunday at 6:00 pm to Friday noon. Kairos is both our most demanding and our most rewarding event for adults, since it requires

adults to be present for the entire week but also provides an opportunity to get to know the youth and shape their faith lives in a fuller way than is possible at our other events. A Small Group leader guide is sent to adults 2-3 weeks in advance of the event, and all but a few Small Groups have two adults so that leadership responsibilities can be shared. It can be an intense week, but we provide nighttime hall monitors for the dorms, so most adults find that they are able to get to bed in time to get the sleep they need and actually find the week to be as spiritually exhilarating for them as it is for the youth.

## OTHER EVENTS IN 2012

**Region 9  
Bishop's  
School  
June, 2012**

Virginia Synod is part of Region 9 of the ELCA, which covers the southeast US and Caribbean. Each year 30 youth from the region who have just completed 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade are selected from among applicants to gather at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC, for a week of biblical and theological study with seminary faculty, plus service and cultural immersion experiences. Applications are available starting in January and are due back by the beginning of March.

Caroline Furnace  
Lutheran Camp

Your Lutheran Camp on the territory of the Virginia Synod offers a wide range of camping and adventure opportunities each summer for youth of all ages at its facility in Fort Valley, Virginia. The summer schedule and registration information for Caroline Furnace is at their website - [www.CarolineFurnace.org](http://www.CarolineFurnace.org)

~LAUNCH~  
JULY 8-12, 2012  
ROANOKE COLLEGE

*This is an opportunity for youth who have just graduated from High School, designed to mark the transition from youth to adult life by gathering in study and small group sessions to consider the particular faith, lifestyle, and vocational challenges that face young adults who are moving away for the first time from the structures that sustained them as children and youth. The adult staff for this event is small, but if you have a particular interest in helping with it, please let Dave Delaney know.*

**JUNIOR HIGH  
SERVANT  
EVENTS - JULY  
& AUGUST, 2012  
LOCATION TBA**

Groups of youth who have finished 6th-8th grades and adult leaders from their congregations gather for a week of daytime servant work and evening faith reflection together. Congregational adults take on most of the leadership responsibility for their own youth, and we recruit local leaders to coordinate food service and other activities for the week. For 2012, this event will be offered in at least two locations in the Synod! Watch for details!

**The ELCA Youth Gathering, "Citizens with the Saints" a sequel to our 2009 gathering, will once again be in New Orleans, July 18-22, 2012 for youth who have finished 9th-12th grades. Go to: [www.elca.org/gathering](http://www.elca.org/gathering)**

### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INVOLVED:

- The Youth Leader Roundtable (see the insert that accompanies Lost and Found and Winter Celebration registration forms) is a special small group for adults who work with youth in congregations. We are also interested in identifying adults who may eventually want to move into a leadership role in these groups.

For more information on any of these opportunities or answers to any questions you may have, contact **Dave Delaney**, the Virginia Synod Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries: PO Box 70, Salem VA 24153. Office: 540-389-1000. [delaney@vasynod.org](mailto:delaney@vasynod.org)