

TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod Faith Formation

Three target audiences: YOUTH, PARENTS & PRIMARY CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

One purpose: GROW CHRISTIAN LEADERS—*Go FISH!*

The historical shifts happening all around us, the solid research informing us and the opportunity for mission all give us hope for the future.

F-FLUENCY: From a few specialists to people of all ages who know the stories & language of the Christian faith

Praying and practicing a shared language, learning and telling Bible stories and noticing God's movement in our lives is evidence of a fluent faith. Congregations are a training camp for households, as we carry out our baptismal promises. This means a high commitment from everyone— people support what they help create so widespread involvement is important.

I-INTERDEPENDENCE: From individual to people across the globe connected with creation and each other

Living in relationship with our community, our country and our world moves our thinking beyond ourselves. This is an interdependent dance where following Jesus surprises us with concern for more than our own family – maybe for the environment, for people who live in poverty, for our neighbor, for ourselves in relationship with each other—always expanding our circle of concern, passion and hospitality.

S-SENDING: From just coming to church to going into the world

Sending people to work, school (including college), or home with a faith that is questioning, engaging life, growing theologically, influencing daily decision-making and shaping our spending and giving patterns is key. The point is to shift from a “coming to church” paradigm to a “going into the world” way of life, so that people are equipped to articulate their faith as they go. We are a sending church. Think Great Commission... Go... AS YOU ARE GOING! —Jesus

H-HOME: From corporate altar to home altar - Adults practice their faith in Jesus at the kitchen table

Parents and grandparents matter most in passing on faith (confirmed by three decades of research). Parents have to practice at church what we hope they practice in their home. Effectively teaching and maturing the faith of adults is key.

Outcomes: Children, youth, young adults and adults have...

A creed to believe – clarity of Lutheran theology, growing hermeneutical lens, a faith we can articulate

A community to belong to – caring, supportive, accountable Christian environment

A call to live out – high expectations for contributing to the community & world

A hope to hold on to – experience that the Christian story is shaping their lives

A story to share – fluency with the Christian story appropriate to their stage of life

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Faith Practices building upon Anderson's 4 Keys

Caring Crucial Conversations-

Intentional listening

- Encouraging questions
- Small Catechism
- Engaging in crucial conversations
- Decision-making in context of faith
- Support during a time of crisis

Family Devotions-

Listening to God

- 15 minutes a day (Final 15)
- Mealtime grace
- Regular worship
- Bible study

Faith Rituals and Traditions-

Claiming family faith practices

- Sharing faith stories
- Daily practices
- Special occasions
- Cross-generational learning events

Service in Jesus' Name-

Responding to needs

- In our neighborhood
- Through global relationships
- By doing justice
- By sharing resources

Synod Strategies to support leaders, congregations, youth & families



Learn-lead

Christian Leadership Training opportunities for rostered and lay adult leaders with a priority on faith formation including:

- Discerning Call
- Growing Theologically
- Increasing Practical Skills
- Doing Local, Domestic & Global Justice

The congregation is primary for leadership formation so the roles of pastor, elected and appointed lay leadership and future leaders really matter. We need to learn together and influence others.

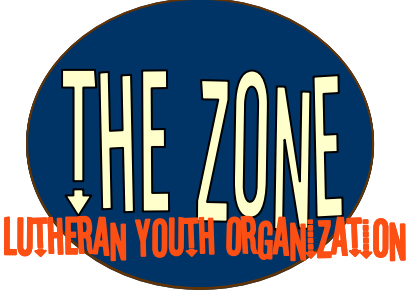


FAITH TOGETHER:

The gift that will grow

Parents & Grandparents—this is for you!

Resources and training for your household— Take one step at a time, one day at a time as your daily life and faith life grow.














THE ZONE

LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION

For High School Youth who want to increase their circle of friends and put their faith into action— this is about doing ministry that matters in our world with people your own age.

Global Mission
Disaster Prep & Recovery
Day Camp

Synod Strategy	Synod Outcomes	Congregational Practice	Congregational Commitment	Practice at Home
 <p>Learn-lead</p> <p>Strategic leadership training for rostered & lay adult leaders</p>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders are growing in their own faith Leaders are equipped to empower others in their faith Leaders exchange ideas, support each other and work together to grow faith in their communities Leaders know best practices to strategically lead their own congregation deeper in faith 	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Congregations develop systems for growing and stretching leaders Congregations use a shared language including the 4 keys, for talking about God and faith formation Congregations practice the Faith Together events to strengthen ministry in their homes Congregations are aligning priorities around new paradigms 	 <p>Leaders take advantage of “learning exchange” opportunities that apply to their context and then lead new practices in their congregation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Synod Assembly Leadership Gatherings Preparation for the ELCA Youth Gathering Networks that connect to passions & gifts The Disciple Project Continuing education & training opportunities Field trips Spiritual or planning retreats Distance learning / Webinars Degree programs Coaching 	 <p>Practice the 4 Keys with support from leaders</p>
 <p>Faith Together</p> <p>Resources, training and networks for parents and grandparents</p>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Parents and grandparents are growing in their own faith People are equipped to start congregational parent & grandparent support groups Training and resources are available Experiences of liminal space* are regularly available through cross cultural immersions, retreats, learning opportunities, day camp or outdoor ministries <p>*liminal space: A threshold or thin place where God seems near enough to touch</p>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Parents and grandparents are doing faith practices in the congregation that support household faith Parent and grandparent training and support groups are available locally Cross-generational service learning experiences are practiced together People are encouraged to participate in outdoor ministries, day camp ministries, cultural immersion experiences, retreats, learning opportunities, etc. 	 <p>Parents & grandparents participate in regular worship and learning opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent and grandparent groups / Small groups Faith Together training events Congregational cross-generational experiences Outdoor ministries Cross-cultural immersion experiences Service learning / Doing justice <p>Families use the 4 Keys to shape their life at home by practicing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Final 15 Mealtime grace Bedtime stories Caring conversations Cross-generational serving Outdoor or day camp ministries 	 <p>Practice the 4 Keys as they are practiced together in the congregation</p>

Synod Strategy	Synod Outcomes	Congregational Practice	Congregational Commitment	Practice at Home
 <p>Synod-wide peer ministry to practice consequential faith with 8th—12th graders</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students & adults becoming fluent in the faith and engaged in ministry that matters in our world 2. Students & adults networked beyond local congregation 3. Students & adults encounter liminal space 4. Students & adults practice Christian leadership that stretches their gifts 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Growing student & adult leaders impact congregational youth culture 2. Networked students will increase congregational participation in Global Mission, Disaster Prep & Recovery and Day Camp 3. Equipped adults will lead in the congregation 4. Parents will learn about action team areas and practice faith language with their students 	<p>The congregation supports students by mentoring children and youth into leadership by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becoming a Safe Haven Congregation • Holding high expectations for equipped adults who work with children and youth • Supporting children and youth in times of crisis (death of a family member, divorce, etc.) • Inviting & mentoring youth into significant leadership roles (worship, leadership teams, music ministry, etc.) • Commission students as they go to the LYO Leadership Zone, The Disciple Project, outdoor ministries, day camp, etc. • Listening and learning from and with youth as they grow in their faith, wrestle with questions, etc. • Accompanying youth leaders so they can assume responsibility—this may mean stepping aside or sharing leadership in new ways • Supporting parents and care-givers in their faith and life 	<p>Practice the 4 Keys as they are practiced together in the LYO Leadership Zone and mentored by the congregation</p>

Notice the alignment: All strategies are about growing Christian leaders.

These three strategies are aligned to support student and adult leaders (including parents and grandparents) in the congregation for household ministry that grows mature faith as we live out the Gospel in the world. This commitment to growing Christian leaders is an intentional effort to grow consequential faith. That is to say, faith that shapes everything in our life as we try to live like Jesus a little more each day.