

## THE 2008 VIRGINIA SYNOD YOUTH ASSEMBLY - INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS, PASTORS, PARENTS, AND YOUTH WORKERS

### What is Youth Assembly?

The Virginia Synod Youth Assembly is the annual meeting of the *Virginia Synod Lutheran Youth Organization*, to which all Lutheran Youth in Virginia automatically belong. The Virginia LYO is also the group in Virginia that relates to the ELCA Youth Organization. The Youth Assembly runs concurrently with the Synod Main Assembly each year on the Roanoke College Campus.

*This Year's Event is: June 6-8, 2008 (noon Friday to noon Sunday), the same dates as the Main Assembly. (Youth will need to be excused from school on June 6)*

*The Purpose of the Youth Assembly is :*

- to conduct the business of the Youth Organization, including election of the LYO Board
- to inform youth delegates of the church's work beyond their own congregation
- to encourage leadership among youth in the church

☞ *Youth Delegates should understand that the activities and atmosphere of the Youth Assembly are different from those of our other Synod Youth events (Lost and Found, Winter Celebration, Kairos)!*

This year's Virginia Synod Youth Assembly theme is "Blessed to be a Blessing." In addition to building the already strong community of youth we have in Virginia, we will be focusing on the life of stewardship of faith, resources, and one's self. Our speakers will include ELCA Secretary David Swartling and Assembly Bible study leader Cary Mangus.

### Who Attends the Youth Assembly?

Each congregation of the Synod is entitled to send *two delegates* to the Youth Assembly - preferably one of Junior High age and the other of Senior High age. In addition, any youth who is nominated for the LYO Board (see next page) may also attend as a delegate, and if event registration has not exceeded capacity by May 5<sup>th</sup>, each congregation may send a third delegate of any grade level (*if you desire to do this, contact Dave Delaney at the Synod Office - 540-389-1000 or [delaney@vasynod.org](mailto:delaney@vasynod.org) - to make sure there's room*).

Congregations may select their youth delegates in whatever fashion they choose. If possible, *one should be from grades 7-9 and one from grades 10-12* (congregations may send two delegates from the same age group if one from each group cannot be found). If possible, one delegate should be female and the other male. They need not have any prior experience in Synodical activities, but they should be responsible young people who have an interest in the life and work of the church, and they must be willing to abide by the expectations of the event. Youth delegates register using the special form provided for Youth Assembly, and the congregation pays the cost for youth delegates. **No adult advisors are required to come;** the Youth Assembly staff serves as advisors for the event, although the pastor or another adult at the Main Assembly must agree to share responsibility for the youth from their congregation in case there is a need during the weekend.

### What is the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Board?

*The LYO Board* consists of six youth members – one each in grades 9-12 elected by the Youth Assembly, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader appointed by the Board, and a multi-cultural representative appointed by the Board – and three adults appointed by the Synod's Youth Ministry Committee, all of whom serve for one-year terms between annual assemblies.

*The youth members of the Board* are elected at each youth assembly for one-year terms from candidates nominated by their home pastors or congregation presidents, **using the enclosed nomination form**. The 12<sup>th</sup> grade Board member becomes the president of the Board (which entails some additional responsibilities, such as representing Virginia to the ELCA Council of LYO Presidents), and the 11<sup>th</sup> grade Board member becomes the vice-president. The basic commitment of Board members is to attend Board meetings over the course of the year (no more than five) and to attend the next year's assembly. **This expectation should be made clear to candidates before they are nominated.** Use the "Nomination Form" included here

ONLY if a youth from your congregation is being nominated for the LYO Board for the upcoming school year. Nominees will be sent an additional information form which they must complete and return to the Synod Office so that it may be distributed to Youth Assembly Delegates. It includes a section that must be reviewed with the nominee. In addition to the nomination form itself, please notice that there is a reference form to be filled out by a congregational leader.

### **Expectations for Participants in Youth Assembly**

***PASTORS: PLEASE MAKE SURE THESE EXPECTATIONS ARE MADE CLEAR TO YOUR YOUTH ASSEMBLY DELEGATES! PLEASE ALSO NOTE YOUR ROLE IN HELPING THE YOUTH ASSEMBLY STAFF TO ADMINISTER THESE EXPECTATIONS! You or another adult from your congregation is required to sign the Youth Assembly registration form certifying that your youth delegate understands the event expectations.***

- Participants will participate fully in all activities of the Youth Assembly.
- Participants will wear their event name tag visibly at all times.
- Participants will abide by the established guidelines, procedures, and expectations for the Youth Assembly.
- Participants will show full respect to the Youth Assembly adults and leaders as well as the staff of Roanoke College.
- Participants will remain on the Roanoke College Campus except during those times when the entire group travels to the Worship Service.
- No weapons, alcohol, or drugs other than required medications may be brought to the event.
- The curfew, lights out times, and other requirements necessary for the safety of every person and the smooth running of our event will be conscientiously observed.
- All participants in Youth Ministry events sponsored by the Virginia Synod must adhere strictly to the Synod's official guidelines protecting individuals from sexual harassment or other sexual misconduct. No unwelcome touching or suggestive or other inappropriate language is permitted.

***All delegates to the Youth Assembly and their pastors must read these expectations and sign the registration form indicating their agreement to abide by them.***

### **Other Information About the Youth Assembly.**

Pastors and Youth Workers should pass along this information to youth delegates:

- After registering by mail, youth will receive a packet confirming their registration and providing information on what to do upon arriving at Roanoke College, an event schedule, and a map of the campus.

- Delegates to Youth Assembly will be housed as a group on the Roanoke Campus and will be responsible to the adult leaders of the Youth Assembly; delegates must agree

to abide by the expectations of the event.

- Please note the special area on the registration form to be signed by the delegate. There is also a place for the Pastor or another Main Assembly delegate to sign as an agreement to assist the Youth Assembly staff should there be an emergency during the event or should an unusual discipline problem develop.

### **Need More Information?**

If you have additional questions about the Youth Assembly or about the Virginia Synod LYO Board, please contact:

The Rev. Dave Delaney (Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries)  
Virginia Synod, ELCA, PO Box 70, Salem VA 24153 delaney@vasynod.org

(540) 389-1000 (office); (540) 774-4937 (home); (540) 529-6893 (cell number during the Assembly)