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OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL GROUP LEADERSHIP AT YOUTH EVENTS 2024-2025

LOST AND FOUND
NOV. 22-24, 2024
EAGLE EYRIE, LYNCHBURG

This is our weekend faith formation event for 7th and 8th graders. It runs from 8:00 Friday evening to noon on Sunday. We will need 15-20 Small Group leaders and about 15-20 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 ten days before the event to allow time to prepare. The Small Group staff will gather via zoom the Sunday before the event. Most Small Groups have a leader and an assistant or two leaders so that you can share both the joy and the workload as a team. The Synod covers group leaders' registration expenses except for a \$50 processing and supplies fee, which we hope congregations will cover!

Winter Celebration
Jan. 24-26, 2025
Eagle Eyrie, Lynchburg

"Winter Cel" is our renowned faith formation weekend for high school youth (9th-12th graders) and runs from about 8:00 pm on Friday evening to noon on Sunday. We will need leaders and assistants for about 20-25 small groups. The Small Group Leader guide gets sent out to leaders ten days in advance. As with Lost and Found,

we will gather on zoom the Sunday before the event and Small Group leaders pay only \$50 processing and supplies fee.

SEVENTH DAY
MAR. 1-2, 2025
EAGLE EYRIE, LYNCHBURG

This is an overnight retreat (noon Saturday to Sunday early afternoon) for youth in grades 5-6 which offers participants an opportunity to explore one particular Bible story in multiple ways. The format of the event differs from the other weekend events in that there are "Shepherd Groups" rather than small groups and they are not only

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 as we do for the others. We do, however, need adults in planning and leadership roles for the four activity areas: music, interactive storytelling, games and movement, and craft/construction.

NOTE: Seventh Day Shepherd's expenses are not covered by the Synod. All adults pay the full participant fee.

Youth Assembly
June 13-15, 2025
Location TBA

This is our annual gathering of youth to explore the work of the church beyond the congregation. Two youths from each congregation can attend (one from grades 7-9 and one from grades 10-12), plus a third is 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, staying as advisors in the dorms with the youth and 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 23-28, 2025
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 noon on Friday. 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 deeper 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. Small Groups normally 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 can get to bed in time to get the sleep they need and find the week to be spiritually exhilarating for them as it is for the youth. The fee requested for adults is \$50 for processing and supplies.

OTHER EVENTS IN 2024-2025

**CAROLINE FURNACE AND
HUNGRY MOTHER LUTHERAN
CAMPS**



Your Lutheran Camps on the territory of the Virginia Synod offer a wide range of camping and adventure opportunities each summer for youth of all ages. Caroline Furnace is located in Fort Valley, Virginia, and Hungry Mother is in Marion, VA. These sites also make excellent locations for congregational or small-group

retreats. www.CarolineFurnace.org and www.hungrymother.org

Region 9 Bishop's School
June 2025

Virginia Synod is part of Region 9 of the ELCA, which covers the southeast US and the Caribbean. Each year up to 30 youth from the region who have just completed 11th or 12th grade are selected from among applicants for a week of biblical and theological study with theological faculty from our colleges and seminaries.

Applications are available starting in January and are due by the beginning of March. In 2025 Bishop's School will be helping concurrently with Southeastern Synod's Affirm event in Tennessee. The exact dates will be announced early in 2025.

LAUNCH

JULY 7-11, 2025
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 the 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 Servent Event

JULY AND AUGUST 2025
VIRGINIA BEACH

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 youth, and we recruit local leaders to coordinate food

service and other activities for the week. Synod Conferences who would like to add an event like this to their local youth ministry offerings should contact Dave Delaney at the Synod Office.

*For more information on any of these opportunities or answers to any questions you may have, contact **Dave Delaney**, Virginia Synod Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries: PO Box 70, Salem VA 24153. delaney@vasynod.org Cell: 540-529-6893*

