

Greetings in Christ friends!

PNWD Youth Discipleship continues to wait on Synod's appointment of a Director of Discipleship for the WELS. Many of the items in the pipeline for our Synod, and therefore District, for years to come are patiently waiting for a called leader to step in to assist in direction, communication, and accountability for the important work of Youth and Adult discipleship alike.

In the meantime, here is a simple list of fun things to be aware of, together with some materials for you to take back to your congregations!

- WELS International Youth Rally 2018 is Right Around the Corner! Materials are here! Let's work together from here on out this year and next to coordinate efforts with our District to get as many teens as possible there next year!

- Synod's Commission on Youth and Family has been presenting ideas for our Synod and Districts for the last year that are looking to help us expand ways of reaching your youth (newborn through college) and families. The major focus has been our Synod's new program: Schools of Youth and Family. After presenting our "Beta Test" at several WELS congregations since our last Conference some streamlining, fine-tuning, and editorial work has been going on. We look forward to presenting this to our Synod and District next year! Included in the program are ways we as congregations can reach out with the Gospel of Jesus to our:

- New parents
- Grade schoolers
- Post-confirmation high school through college students
- Youth groups
- Mentor programs between old and young
- Ongoing "ageless" worship and devotional life opportunities

- The "New" Blue Catechism is out! There is a copy for you to peruse at the back table. What's different about it? Per [nph's website \(nph.net\)](http://nph.net):

Developed in collaboration with the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary education department, this catechism includes Luther's enunciation and exposition on the six chief parts: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, the Use of Keys and Confession, and the Lord's Supper.

The highlights of this edition include:

- A question-and-answer approach that develops student's ability to discover truths directly from the Bible
- A "Connections" section at the end of each unit that introduces a Bible history or other larger section from Scripture, together with thought questions to elicit discussion
- Quotes from Luther and hymn verses at the end of each unit that encourage use as a devotional tool
- Fresh readability that engages verbal learners
- Full-color layout and engaging diagrams that aid visual learners

Later this summer [nph](http://nph.net) is releasing a "Catechism Connections" book which offers more thought and application questions and sections for students to take notes as they go through class.

Both books are offered in NIV (2011) and the ESV

- Progress has been made for a District online "dumping grounds" for ideas for youth and family ministry. Prayers away that it will be communicated as up and running by the end of summer! Please be ready to jump on and add your resources, experiences, and recommendations a.s.a.p. after!

- Please contact me if you have any questions at 360-471-6300 or andrew.schwartz@ctk-wels.org

Serving Him with you,
Pastor Andy Schwartz