



South Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

**Please deliver this letter to
the youth leader(s) of your
congregation.**

1003 Richland Street • Columbia, SC 29201 • Phone: 803-765-0590 • Fax: 803-252-5558 • www.scsynod.com

Dear Leader,

One of my great joys is knowing the South Carolina Synod values our youth not only in our hearts, but in our budget and staffing as well. Our partnership as a synod is a sacred trust that's allowed our synod's youth ministry to grow and flourish over the course of the last 20 years in a way that's unique in the ELCA, as many other synodical youth ministries have been in a period of contraction.

Our youth ministry is "*By, With, and For Youth*", meaning that our youth drive the culture and direction of the ministry. Knowing that this is their ministry, their faithfulness and seriousness about their faith shines through in all we do together. They choose to add or end retreats, help to write the content that drives our events. They struggle with social and theological issues together. They spend time talking about how to include those who are new, and those who may feel left out. In this ministry, they forge life-long relationships with God and each other. Many of us enjoy these relationships forged in our times away from our home youth groups as teenagers as well. Many of us trace our own call to this ministry back to these types of events and leadership opportunities.

This letter to you is to request three things:

1. **Youth Participation.**

My hope is that your congregation will commit to sending youth to these events so that they can have the opportunities that we had as youth to know that we are Church together. No matter how large or small our congregations are, all of us benefit from this partnership because God calls us to continuously expand our reach and our understanding of how God is active in our world. Also, I hope your congregation can include a line for our youth in your budget this year in the form of a pledge.

2. **Financial Support.**

This year we're asking that each congregation consider a pledge of at least \$250 to support this ministry, though we don't want to limit your generosity. Whether you have youth or not in your congregation, you can be an important part of youth ministry in our synod. This money provides support for programming, scholarships, supplies, and the odds and ends that go into it.

3. **Personal Support.**

We have a goal of including as many of our synod's youth staffers as possible at our LCY retreats. This is a great opportunity to get new ideas, refresh your passion, and see your youths grow in faith and love for Jesus. Please email me or call me if this is something you could do after looking at the schedule on the back of this page.

I'd love an opportunity to visit your congregation to talk about this ministry, and to visit with your youth. Thank you for sharing in this ministry in the name of Jesus.

Grace & Peace,

Rev. Eric G. Wolf, Assistant to the Bishop
for Youth & Young Adult Ministry

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