

FILL UP!

SMALL GROUP WORKSHOPS

2012 WELS International Youth Rally

On Thursday and Friday (June 28-29) of the rally four timeslots are set aside for small group workshops. Twenty-five options are listed below (10 spiritual, 11 recreational run by UT staff, and 4 for youth leaders). Please note:

- Everyone must sign up for at least 2 spiritual workshops and no more than 2 recreational workshops.
- If you choose to pay for and go on an off-site excursion on Friday you will only be able to choose your 2 spiritual workshops on Thursday.
- The youth leader workshops are not “mandatory;” youth leaders may choose to attend other workshops.
- Workshop options are subject to change and will be closed as they reach capacity.

Spiritual Workshops

During online registration you will have the opportunity to choose 2-4 of these.

S1. “The Real Me Is Real . . . and Awesome!”

Every person struggles with questions about our value or importance. Perhaps that's particularly true during the teen years. Does God have something to say to me about my value, about my importance? He sure does! And it's uplifting and encouraging!

Pastor Thomas Kock serves at Living Word Lutheran Church in Gray, Tennessee, where he was assigned in 1992 upon graduation from the Seminary. The congregation has grown from 20 people to over 250. Kock and his wife Beth have four children, three of whom are now teenagers.

S2. Using Your Gifts: How do I figure out what my unique gifts are and how to use them?

“For we are God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10). You are God’s workmanship—what an awesome concept! This interactive workshop will focus on discovering how each of us is uniquely gifted and how we can best use our God-given gifts.

Dr. Rhoda Wolle is the Director for the Academic Success Center and an Assistant Professor of Education at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee. She received her BS in Education from Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota. She was awarded an MA in Education with special emphasis on at-risk students from Marian University, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Rhoda earned her PhD in Educational Psychology from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She has spoken internationally to thousands of educators, parents, and teens on the topic of education. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, music, and walking her dog Kipper.

S3. Challenges and Myths About College

You’ve heard stories but what do you really know about life at a public university? What’s true? What’s fiction? Are you prepared to face the challenges and stand firm in your faith? Pastors Brokmeier and Vann will help you identify some of those myths and challenges. Most importantly they will share ways to Fill Up so you won’t be Fed Up.

South Dakota State University is located in Brookings, South Dakota, where Ken Brokmeier pastors a congregation and oversees WELS Campus Ministry. Charlie Vannieuwenhoven previously served the WELS Campus Ministry at Minnesota State University—Mankato. He currently pastors a congregation in Tampa, Florida. Both Pastors Vann and Brokmeier serve on the WELS Campus Ministry Committee.

S4. Facebook and Friends: Witnessing on the World Wide Web

Ever wonder what Jesus would think about your status updates on Facebook? Ever think about how many people read your words? Words have such power—positive and negative. Colossians 4:3-6 says, “And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the message of Christ. . . . Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” In this presentation, we will look at negative and positive elements of Facebook, and how, as Christians, we can use this social networking tool to help rather than hurt.

Aimee Lau is a 4th year PhD student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, currently studying how Facebook can be used in educational institutions. Additionally, she serves as an adjunct professor in the Communication Department at Wisconsin Lutheran College. Aimee is a member at St. James, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

S5. Speaking the Truth in Love to Non-Christians

In this sectional we will look at how God’s people spoke the truth about the one true God to those who worshiped false gods. We will consider how God’s Old Testament people in captivity gave clear testimony to their faith. We will follow the Apostle Paul to the city of Athens in Acts 17 and before King Agrippa in Acts 26, in both instances knowing his audience and responding appropriately. These examples will give us great application for sharing our faith with non-believers.

Pastor Matt Brown has served as pastor at Beautiful Savior Lutheran church in Clarksville, Tennessee, since July of 2000. When he graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary he was assigned to help start Beautiful Savior. Clarksville is a very diverse community because of a large military presence. The congregation is made up of many people who are new to WELS. Pastor Brown is married to Katie and the Lord has blessed them with four children: Joseph, Sam, A.J., and Ella.

S6. For Males Only—Follow the Leader to Become a Leader

Boys, do you know what it means to be a man? Do you have what it takes to be a man? Come to learn how God called you to be a man, to be a leader. Jesus gives us both the ability and the example to follow his lead by leading others he puts in our lives.

Pastor Ben Berger works with teens at Mount Olive Lutheran Church and Fox Valley Lutheran High School in Appleton, Wisconsin. He is married to Heather and has two children: Eliana (5) and Andrew (3).

S7. For Females Only—Living Your Life with God in the Lead

Ladies, your role as a woman and child of God is vitally important to both God's kingdom and this world. Join me as we explore how God created you with the talents to carry out his plan for your life as you lead and support others while serving Him.

Ms. Mary Weimer lives in Appleton, Wisconsin, where she works as a Health Educator and Prevention Specialist. After high school she served six years in the United States Air Force and then received her Bachelor's Degree in Human Services and Leadership from the University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh. Along with traveling and working out, Mary enjoys volunteering as the Teen Bible Study leader at Mount Olive Lutheran Church.

S8. God-Pleasing Relationships

High school is full of pressures when it comes to dating and relationships. Whether you've been dating the same person for four years or have never talked to someone from the opposite sex God has something to tell you as you go through your high school years.

Matt Westra is Pastor at Living Promise Lutheran Church in Morristown Tennessee. Previously he served as a mentor at Lighthouse Youth Center in Milwaukee, WI. He has been married to his lovely wife Rachel for two years.

S9. Living as a Teen in Troubled Times

Have you lost a parent, a classmate, or a close friend? Has your family experienced divorce, alcoholism, or even unspeakable troubles? This sectional will recognize that sin affects our lives in many different ways and will equip us to use our faith and the power of God's Word to sustain us as we live in troubled times.

Pastor Joel Gaertner serves at Faith Lutheran Church in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where he works with the youth ministry of the congregation and helps the families of Faith's Lutheran Elementary School. He has been a regular speaker at teen events and other youth rallies.

S10. Music Ministry: Get It Going, Keep It Growing

Join Branches Band for practical discussion and hands-on experience in planning, preparing, executing, and diversifying music in worship and service to the congregation. Topics will range from working with pastors and adult leaders, to song selection, rehearsing, basic arranging, and creative ways to serve through music in the Sunday morning worship service and beyond.

Branches Band serves WELS/ELS congregations by providing music for worship services, Christian concerts, schools, and other church events and programs. Their music is available on CD, iTunes, and also as sheet music. Members Andy and Rachel Braun and Jeremy Bakken have served over 200 congregations in more than 40 US states and also in Canada.
www.branchesband.com

Youth Leader Small Group Workshops

L1. We're In This Together

This topic will emphasize that ministry to the youth that does not include parents is really no ministry at all. Without a doubt, parents are the most influential people, positive or negative, in the lives of youth. Therefore, this session will focus in ways to involve and partner with parents in the ministry that you are doing with their children.

L2. Count Me In

This topic will explore things that must be done to ensure that any ministry to youth has the right team of people involved. Finding and keeping staff/volunteers is one of the biggest issues facing youth ministries today, and it doesn't have to be that way. Therefore, this session will focus on recruiting, training and sustaining youth workers.

L3. Bringing the Word to Life

This topic will help to better understand that the way we teach God's Word to youth has a huge impact on what they learn from us. God has gifted people to learn according to certain learning styles/modalities that must be accommodated in our teaching methods. Therefore, this session will focus on teaching that engages all learners.

L4. Tend It and They Will Stay

This topic will discuss how continuous improvement of the ministry is a function of how much prayer, commitment, time, effort, evaluation, and celebration is put into it. Therefore, this session will focus on maintaining quality, confidence, and participation in your ministry to youth.

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Recreation Workshops

You may choose to attend up to 2 of these during online registration. Make your choices early; workshops will close as they reach capacity. Dress appropriately (including good shoes). Equipment will be provided.

- R1. Basketball**
Lace up your hi-tops and strap on your headband: you can play this fast-paced game with your friends to claim the “conference title.”
- R2. Tennis**
We’re serving up a good time on the hard court for all you netters out there.
- R3. Sand Volleyball**
Don’t miss this chance to get down and dirty at the sand volleyball court next to the Aquatic Center.
- R4. Ultimate Frisbee**
Don’t miss your chance to get in on this favorite!
- R5. Flag Football**
Pass, run, or juke, just don’t let them get your flag!
- R6. Kayaking**
Cool off at this awesome session while you practice the wet exit, strokes, and even roll techniques that all beginner kayakers need to know!
- R7. Rock Climbing**
Get a grip on the session that is a fun challenge for climbers of all levels.
- R8. Badminton**
Grab a racquet and send your birdie flying!
- R9. Soccer**
GOOOOOOOOAL!! The world’s most popular sport is looking for the next champion!
- R10. Racquetball**
Bounce, serve . . . DUCK!
- R11. Whiffle Ball**
Come play America’s favorite backyard game.