

# NEBRASKA SYNOD YOUTH MINISTRIES 2024-2025

## **MATTHEW 5: 17. "LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE"**

Knowing we are all children of God, loved and forgiven, Nebraska synod youth ministries are grounded in our baptismal promises. We challenge youth to let their light shine by raising disciples who know they matter, they belong, there is a place for them, and they have gifts to share. We do this through offering programs that equip, empower and challenge youth to become leaders, servants, and faithful followers of Christ as they explore their vocation and call and by empowering the adults who lead these youth with networking, resource sharing and tools to facilitate growth.

*Youth Ministries*



Under this umbrella, the synod has the following programs already in place for 2024-2025 year. Watch the website ([nebraskasynod.org](http://nebraskasynod.org)) for updates on cost, locations and registration.

**FALL LIVE AND LEARN KICK-OFF EVENT  
6TH-12TH GRADE  
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2024, 4:00-7:00 P.M.  
\$15 IN PERSON (LOCATION TBD), NO CHARGE ON-LINE  
WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?**

Kick off your youth ministry year with the Nebraska Synod. Join us in person for food, fellowship, Bible Study and conversation. Or, gather with other youth groups near you or as your own youth group and share in a meal. Then, tune in on-line for Bible Study and conversation and to start thinking about leadership and how you will let your light shine.

What does it mean to be a disciple? How is our faith reflected in our daily lives and through our values, our decision making and the ways we use our gifts?

Hear stories from "every day" disciples who have shared their gifts and begin to think about how you might share your gifts this year. Get a taste of upcoming programs and think about how you are called to dig deeper into your gifts. Where does the world need you and how will you lead?

**FAITHFUL LEADERSHIP LAB-SHINE!**  
**LUTHERAN YOUTH OF NEBRASKA (LYON) FALL EVENT**  
**9TH-12TH GRADE**  
**NOVEMBER 22-24**  
**LOCATION TBD**

What does it mean to be a leader? How do you lead? How do leaders live out their faith? What's the difference between leading from the front and leading from behind? How do leaders see? How do they think? How do we lead like Jesus? The weekend will involve a series of speakers who lead in daily life through their faith with practical "how to" breakout sessions such as how to facilitate a large or small group, how to lead without using your voice and how to think like a leader. We will determine our own leadership styles and learn how to best use them with opportunities for hands-on practice and peer and self evaluation. Large group worship, Bible Study, fellowship and fun and time for prayer and self reflection will all be a part of this weekend.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL GATHERING: STATEWIDE DAY OF SERVICE**  
**5TH-9TH GRADE**  
**APRIL 12, 2025**  
**LOCATIONS ACROSS THE STATE**

A day of learning who you are as a child of God, leaning about your neighbors and discovering how everyone's gifts and needs intersect through games, activities, service projects, Bible Study and worship at sites across the state. Meet other middle school youth in your area.

**LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**  
**9TH-12TH GRADE**  
**MAY 29-31, 2025**  
**LOCATION TBD**

This weekend allows us to continue to explore what it means to be a faithful leader. In the fall, we explored how to be leaders in the world. The spring event allows us to think about how we can be leaders IN and FOR the church. What does it mean to be a leader in the church? How do we live out our baptismal promises? How do we advocate, support, worship and pray with and for one another. Join in parts of synod assembly to learn how the church works and how you can be a part of it, and spend time in our own workshops-digging deep into specific areas of interest such as teaching, music, worship and bible study, advocacy or global mission. Take steps to make a difference and be heard as you use your gifts and passions to live out your call as a member of the Church.

**THE JOURNEY  
9TH-12TH GRADE  
JULY 6-12, 2025  
NASHVILLE, TN**

Travel to Nashville with other high school youth from the Nebraska Synod as we learn to live and work in community. We will learn to use our gifts as we learn about the gifts our neighbors in Tennessee bring to the table. Together, we will serve, laugh, worship and ask questions. Bible study and worship will help us explore who we are as beloved disciples and children of God and what it means to be in community. This is not a vacation, it's a chance to learn, grow and reflect together in a new place that looks different than our own neighborhood. As we engage with others, we will learn more about ourselves and about all God's children.

**DIG DEEP "POP-UP" EVENTS  
6TH-8TH AND 9TH-12TH GRADE**

These unique events are opportunities to participate in small group intense learning cohorts focused on taking a deep dive into topics such as accompaniment, advocacy or vocation. These will be weekend or day long events at sites throughout the state depending on the program topic. We will explore diverse communities and the social issues affecting our own communities as we get to know our neighbors. Watch the website for dates, topics and locations.

**ADULT LEADERS:**

We are stronger together when we share the gifts, resources, time and talents God has given us. The Nebraska Synod will help bring us together through a monthly e-newsletter, online zoom learning sessions, area gatherings in person, a youth leader and volunteer "day of learning and sharing" and a resource page on the website.

2025 resource sharing and synod sponsored networking will focus specifically on child protection policies and trainings.