

### What YSLI participants have said:

- You gain an unknown confidence to lead, make life long friends and develop a stronger relationship with God.
- YSLI has been my favorite church experience yet, and I have learned so much in this program.
- YSLI opens your eyes and teaches you about faith, but beyond that, brings it out to a whole new level... you will never get that type of faith-instruction at Sunday School.
- Because of YSLI I've had one of the best years of my life!
- It's cool that you can learn ways to help you step forth and do things to make things better yourself and not just wait for others to do it. It's a cool feeling.
- I learned that people actually pay attention to what you want to do.

### What Pastors have said about YSLI:

- Leadership training for high school youth has been of interest to our congregation for a number of years and this new program is awesome. Our youth come back from training events pumped!
- YSLI is making space for young people to explore the gift and call of their baptismal faith in Christ. YSLI is an experience that encourages young people to look beyond to a larger view and vision of the church.
- It's a wonderful way to intentionally focus on leadership development. It has fired up our kids to dive into leadership rolls.
- YSLI is exactly the kind of program that supports and furthers our mission of "equipping people for life and service in God's world." We are so excited to have our youth involved.

*A note about the logo:* YSLI is grounded in the



theology of grace. That means that we do not have to "do" anything for God's love. BUT, God does require some things of us: ... *to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.* Micah 6:8 Because God loves us, we are to serve one another. It is not this "serving" that saves us – *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.* Ephesians 2:8. The cross reminds us of that loving grace; the foot reminds us that we are to walk in loving service.

### *Partner organizations*

- ❖ Southeastern Minnesota Synod (ELCA)
- ❖ Habitat for Humanity
- ❖ Lutheran Volunteer Corps
- ❖ Holden Village

### *For more information contact:*

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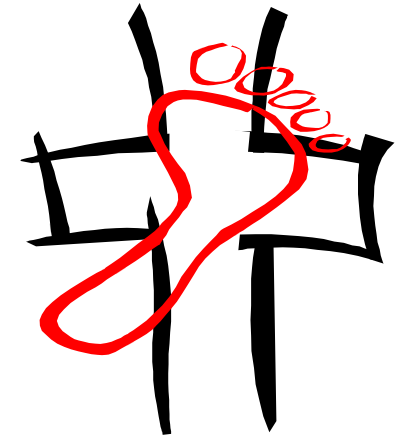
#### Advisory Board Members:

Gretchen Bachman, Good Earth Village  
Elise Chesley, Austin  
Pastor Dan Doering, Waseca  
Pastor Nick Fisher-Broin, Cannon Falls  
Brad Knoch, Northfield  
Keith Oie, Wabasha  
Pastor Meg Sander, Wells

### *About Good Earth Village*

Located just north of Spring Valley, MN, Good Earth Village is an Outdoor Ministry of the church, owned by 143 congregations in Southeast Minnesota. With 500 acres featuring expansive hills, hardwood forests, limestone cliffs, caves, meadows and a meandering trout stream, Good Earth Village offers retreat and camp opportunities for all ages, all year long.

# YSLI



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## Youth Servant Leader Institute

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### 2009-2010

*A Ministry with Good Earth Village*

25303 Old Town Drive  
Spring Valley, MN 55975  
507-346-2494  
www.GoodEarthVillage.org

## What is YSLI?

Youth apply and are selected from ELCA churches in Southeastern Minnesota. This group gathers for a week during the summer and four retreats throughout the year. Each participant develops and implements their own project back in their church and/or community.

## YSLI Projects have included:

- Organizing an intergenerational music ensemble
- Putting together a band to play in worship
- Coordinating an "Adopt-A-Grandparent" program
- Planning intergenerational game nights
- Developing a relationship with local and diverse congregations
- Adding more "spice" to youth groups!

Through your projects you'll discover your gifts and your passions. Through your interviews and support team you'll learn the biggest needs in your church and community. YSLI helps you to connect the two.

"The place God calls you to is the  
place where your deep gladness  
and the world's deep hunger meet."  
~ Fredrick Buechner ~

## YSLI Camp and Retreats are:

- Focused on Leadership Training
- Service Oriented and Practical
- Focused on the local congregation and community
- Based on Biblical models of leadership and faith formation
- Grace Centered and rooted in the Lutheran Faith

## I'm interested... Now what?

Fill out the application (found at [www.GoodEarthVillage.org](http://www.GoodEarthVillage.org) – go to Programs and Retreats and then Youth Servant Leader Institute). Give the reference forms to adults who know you well. Return to Good Earth Village by June 1.

As you consider the application, be certain that you are willing to commit to the week-long leadership camp and the four retreats. Your participation in these experiences is required. YSLI is a one year commitment.

*YSLI Applicants* – talk to your Pastor or youth director/leader before you apply to YSLI. Make sure they know you're applying and that there's a congregational cost (and benefit!).

*Church leaders* – talk to young people in your congregation (current freshmen and sophomores, preferably) and encourage them to participate in YSLI.

### The role of Congregations in YSLI

Church leaders (including Pastors, staff and congregational members) are crucial for a meaningful YSLI experience! Participants will look to their church for guidance, knowledge, support, prayer and participation.

### Cost:

There is a participant fee of \$350 and a congregational commitment of \$350. This cost includes lodging, meals and supplies for a week at camp and the four retreats. If a candidate expresses financial need, there may be scholarship assistance available.

### Why is there a Congregational Cost?

Your congregation will benefit from having a youth in YSLI. Participants can also create and submit a budget for supplies and programming.

## 2009-2010 Dates

Week long Summer Leadership Camp  
@ Good Earth Village is:  
**Sunday, August 2 – Friday, August 7, 2009**

Weekend Retreat Dates are:

**September 11-12, 2009**

**November 13-15, 2009** - church leaders and parents invited to a Friday evening program

**January 8-9, 2010**

**March 19-21, 2010**

## For Parents & Church Leaders

All pastors, youth directors/leaders and parents of YSLI participants are invited and encouraged to attend two events:

### YSLI Orientation:

Sunday, August 2, 2009

4:00 YSLI Orientation

5:30 Dinner

### YSLI Program:

Friday, November 13, 2009

7:00 Ice Cream

7:15 Program

