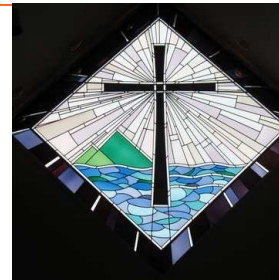




The Creator Connection

Newsletter of Creator Lutheran Church

Singing God's song, Sharing God's love,
Serving God's people.



November at Creator



November 6	9:00 a.m. Worship followed by coffee and fellowship <u>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS</u>	Team Grace
November 13	9:00 a.m. Worship followed by coffee and fellowship	Team Light
November 20	9:00 a.m. Worship followed by coffee and fellowship	Team Hope
November 23	7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Worship	Team Praise
November 27	9:00 a.m. Worship followed by coffee and fellowship	Team Faith

Link to Creator's Calendar: <http://www.creatorlutheran.org/calendar/2011-08>

The Creator Connection is a publication of Creator Lutheran Church 13250 SE Sunnyside Rd Clackamas, Or 97015 503-698-8081 office@creatorlutheran.org; www.creatorlutheran.org		Council President Council Vice President Treasurer Secretary Bulletin boards	Craig Edberg Marc Donlin Greg Dobbe Doug Bennett Eileen Houser, Jane Palmer Cindy Huddleston Toni Hartung Erik Edberg
Pastor Music Director Choir Director	Rev. Dayle Askey David Lee Allan Mair	Administrative Assistant Custodian	



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

From Pastor Dayle



Is it just me or did September and October go by really fast? I'm not ready to think about Thanksgiving OR Christmas, yet. We didn't get much of a summer and I'm just not back in the swing of things! So that's my confession to you.

Since I'm capable of knowing what it takes to be ready for the changes in season, mood and mode in the church, I'm actually quite READY for the busy-ness to begin. But being physically ready and emotionally ready are two very different concepts. So I still feel bummed that I didn't get a full summer! Moving on...

We are now ready to take some time for discernment around Sunday Morning Education time. Please plan to stay for a discussion following worship on November 6th. We'll talk about how Sunday Mornings "look" since we've made the changes to our education format. I'd also like to add a piece: As I've talked to confirmation students and parents we are well aware that Wednesday evening is not the best time for our young people to gather. They have practices and homework and their lives are extremely busy. I'd like to gather them when we can have the best possibility for good attendance. What I proposed to them is that we have confirmation on Sunday morning following worship twice a month. I would then be free to facilitate adult ed. on the other two Sundays. This proposal will be discussed on Sunday, the 6th.

As we turn the page on the calendar and see the TURKEY, be aware that Advent is coming on it's heels. The first Wednesday in Advent is November 30th. We will be using Holden Evening Prayer for most Wednesday services during the season. On Wednesday, Dec. 7th, John Nilsen will have a concert at Creator. TELL YOUR FRIENDS to come!!! While all this is going on, our choir and miscellaneous groups are planning an event for December 10th, that's a Saturday. It'll be fun carols and special music. TELL YOUR FRIENDS to come!

And of course, worship every Sunday morning... singing, praying, learning, being together... I'm thankful for it all!

Blessed Thanksgiving to all,
Pastor Dayle



Creator's Member's Corner will return next month

An Urgent Request

Please help Silidio's sister & family, whose lives are in danger! In 1997, after witnessing the killing of his parents, Silidio escaped from his village w/Lucia and their young children knowing his 5 sisters and their families were also being killed. They ran 7 days from Burundi to the safety of a Tanzanian refugee camp. Ten years later they were identified as endangered if repatriated to Burundi and therefore referred for relocation to the U.S. Silidio's sister, Nyandwi Denise, the one family member not present when the rest of the family was killed now lives in the only remaining Tanzanian Refugee camp, Mtabila, with her husband and 6 children. They are in grave danger of being sought out and killed if she is re-patriated to Burundi as is planned for June, 2012 (the refugee camp closure has recently been delayed from December to June). The killers of their family are now in powerful positions in Burundi and have sought out and killed others returning who might testify against them. We are trying to bring her situation to the attention of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to interview Nyandwi so she may prove the danger she, her husband and their 6 children are in if repatriated. From there, they will hopefully be referred to the US State Dept., like Silidio was for a relocation to the U.S. or perhaps offered a path to Tanzanian citizenship.

Nyandwi Denise, head of family, UNHCR refugee #051173 (front) 877-97H27275 (back),
Her husband, Nzeyimana Djuma
and 6 children
Mtabila Camp
ZONE A, ROAD 6B #1,
Kigoma region,
Tanzania

We are hoping to get 100 people to commit to sending a letter to the UNHCR! Snail mail is likely more effective, but a note through the online form might be helpful also if that is your preference! Senator Merkley's office has been advising us and said the UNHCR doesn't really have the capacity for advocacy, but that letters wouldn't hurt and might help to get attention for her to be interviewed! Email Debi, debstromb@comcast.net so I can count our contacts! Please stick to details noted above since varying stories may lead to throwing out her case! You can copy the above info in to the "question" section for the online contact at: <http://www.unhcr.org/php/contact.php?opt=TZA>

or send a snail-mail letter (use 3 stamps for regular sized envelope) to:

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Case Postale 2500
CH-1211 Genève 2 Dépôt
Suisse.

2011: Creator's Year of HOSPITALITY

**How we work, day in and day out
to make people feel welcome.**

MONTH			
Jan	C	Children	Learn the name of a child in the congregation each week this month. Greet those children by name every time you come to church. Start developing a supportive relationship.
Feb	R	Receiving each other	Make it a point to introduce yourself to at least one or two people that you don't recognize in church each Sunday. How can you help new comers feel welcome at Creator?
March	E	Engaging Community	It's Mardi Gras! Find one way to help engage our community – how can we help the community know that Creator is here?
April	A	Advocacy	How do we help “make the rubber hit the road” with issues of social justice? What can we do – as individuals, families, and a congregation – help create room in our society for the disenfranchised?
May	T	Talent for hospitality	Determine your gifts and strengths for hospitality – what do <i>you</i> do well that provides welcome and acceptance for other people?
June	O	Outside the Church	How many times this month, can you let someone in your community know that you attend Creator? Can you mention a particular ministry of the church relevant to the community?
July	R	Re(member)ing	Re-acquaint yourself with people in the congregation who you don't know well. Consider who you have been missing at Creator and initiate contact. Is there something they need from us?
Aug	S	Signs	What are the visible signs of our welcome at Creator? Can you come up with another way to make our welcome more visible to the community around us and to the guests who walks in our doors?
Sept	G	Gift	What gift can we provide as a tangible sign of welcome to people who come in to our church as guests? What can you help create as a small token of hospitality?
Oct	I	Inviting	Invite someone you know to attend Creator this month and/or invite yourself to a community event as a representative of Creator.
Nov	F	Fellowship	Attend a non-worship church gathering this month – expand your fellowship connections. Who needs to be connected in fellowship and how can we facilitate those connections?
Dec	T	Telling Stories	Let's talk to each other about our Year of Hospitality. What stretched us? What was hard – and why? What more can we be doing?

2011 Creator's Year of Hospitality

November Hospitality Focus: Fellowship

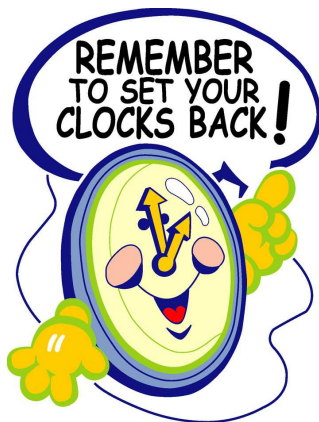
Our October emphasis on **Inviting** continues through the year – have you invited someone to Creator worship or service/fellowship event? (Remember that we have opportunities coming up for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas!) Have you invited yourself to represent Creator in the community?

Our November focus centers around **fellowship**. Think of fellowship as all of the little strands that connect us together as a family. Together, we talk, sing, work, play, and worship – all are opportunities for *fellowship*, for creating strands that weave us together in community. When anyone in the web of the Creator Family rejoices, we all vibrate with joy. And when someone in the family feels pain, we all share in the hurt.

Our question for this month is how we, at Creator, create opportunities for fellowship, and how we take the time to connect others into our community. It is those who are without connection, those who never really find a way into the Creator family, that tend to fall away from us over time. Sometimes, we are so happy with our existing connections that we forget the ongoing need to continuing seeking ways to forge new connections with those who have joined us more recently.

How can you help create opportunities for fellowship? How can you build connections with other people who walk into our doors? How can you create strands that help bond together the Creator family? Does our welcome at the door persist over the long-term by creating ways for our newcomers to become connected with those of us who are already bonded?

What other ways can you think of to be an *inviting* congregation?



Fall Back

Sunday, November 6, 2011

Don't forget or you'll miss out on an extra hour of sleep!

Council News



NOVEMBER NOTES FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The hospitality theme for this month is Fellowship: “Attend a non-church gathering this month and expand your fellowship connections”. This is the time of year when we traditionally renew our relationships with friends and family after a busy summer and the transition brought on by the school year. The pace of activities picks up even more during this time of year. Try to make time to gather together even if for a short while to relax and get to know other people in our community better.

This month signals the close of the church year with the beginning of Advent when we await the coming of the Christ Child. Church Choir resumes practices on Wednesday evenings. Plans are being made for Christmas programs.

November also is the beginning of the holiday season when we celebrate Thanksgiving. It is a time for counting our blessings during the past and also planning ahead for the coming year. Our annual Stewardship drive takes place this month. It is the time when the Church Council prepares the budget for 2012. Last year, the number of pledges received far exceeded the totals submitted in the past. This year we are looking to improve that number even more.

For the past four years, Creator has had a “barebones” budget. In fact, the budgets have declined. Our hard working church staff hasn’t had a raise in four or five years. Work hours have been cut in some areas. The cost of our essential services continues to increase. As our facilities age, maintenance needs to occur. For the past few years, this attention to our facility has had to be deferred due to lack of funding. This trend cannot continue to the point where major problems arise and we do not have the necessary resources to fix them. In many cases, the longer a situation exists, the more expensive it becomes to repair.

As we prepare our pledges for the coming year, I ask you to prayerfully consider increasing your commitment by one or two percent over last year. If you haven’t pledged in the past, please think about doing so this year. The more pledges that are received, the easier it becomes to prepare a more accurate balanced budget.

Remember Creator Power: it begins and continues with each of us.

Shalom,

Craig Edberg

Come on in! Join in the discussion at Soul Cafe

Finally, a sacred space on the web where Lutherans can meet, get together, and talk about what's really going on. We can share ideas and information resources to step towards the solutions we need to the issues we care about most. A tool to build the future together. Check it out: www.soulcafe.org

Fall Stewardship

Stewardship: Living Faithfully in the Promise

It is hard to believe how fast this year has gone. We are now in full swing into the holiday season. It is also the time of year we as a congregation need to reflect on what we want to pledge for 2012. As I mentioned in an earlier piece, stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. As members of Creator's congregation, we have the responsibility to ensure a successful future of the church.

That being said, it is so important for every member of Creator to complete a pledge card this year. The budget of Creator is directly based on the pledges we receive, and it is so important for us to be able to create a budget that is reflective of the giving our members choose to pledge. At Creator, we have approximately 110 'giving units' or households. I would like to put out a challenge to the congregation to get 75% of our 'giving units' to complete a pledge card.

I ask that over the next few weeks you sit down, think, pray, and reflect on what you feel you could pledge for the upcoming year. I want to be clear that it is not about the dollar amount you pledge, but the act of pledging. By completing a pledge card, you are taking a stand that you want to see Creator be around for future generations.

God Love Ya,
Marc Donlin
Council Vice President

Simply Giving: check it out A simple and convenient way to give

This fall, consider signing up for electronic giving. Creator Lutheran Church relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Please contact the church office for details or pick up an application form in the porch area.

Thank you!



Consecration Meal

On November 27, 2011 we will consecrate the offering of our gifts for the coming year with a celebratory brunch following worship.

Celebrate!

Ministries of Creator

Nursery Schedule for November



November 6- Farrell's
November 13- OPEN
November 20- Donlin's
November 27 – (Thanksgiving Weekend) –
Heidi Steen

Many thanks to our nursery volunteers. If you wish to volunteer please contact Melissa Donlin, Nursery Volunteer Coordinator. (All volunteers have been screened with a background check.)



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The new format for Sunday School seems to be working very well. Children aged 3 through 5th grade are invited to come into the fellowship hall following the Children's time. There they have an opening song and classes and crafts that expand on the lessons for the week.

The children return to the sanctuary during the Hymn of the Day.

Many thanks to Marie Rowland and Lisa Isaacson and parent volunteers for their help in making education at Creator a success.

Thanksgiving Worship (and Pie)



Thanksgiving is a time of worship and praise to our maker who has given us all good things. We rejoice in all we have received and we rejoice in the harvest.

Please come to sing God's praises with a Thanksgiving Worship service on Wednesday evening, November 23 at 7:00 p.m.

There will be pie to eat following service. Look for the sign up sheet in the narthex so you can sign-up to bring your favorite kind of pie!

O, Give Thanks to the Lord for He Is Good!

Ministries of Creator



* **Baloni from Toni**

A Habit of Thanks

How do you show your thanks for a gift? Do you say 'thank you'? Do you write a thank-you note? Do you show by your actions your appreciation through doing a favor or being thoughtful of the time and needs of someone else? Do you look for ways to give back?

The gifts we each have received from God are too numerous to count, too amazing to be understood by our minds, but our hearts can respond with gratitude. What shape does that gratitude take?

In the Offering time we say "everything in heaven and earth belongs to God. We joyfully release what God has entrusted to us". These gifts with which we have been blessed are not ours alone—they have been given to us as a trust by our maker and we are required to be good stewards of not only our treasure but our time and talents. Not only are we instructed not to hold too tight to these gifts, we are instructed to be 'joyful' in releasing these gifts for the work that God intends for them. This is not always easy: it is a discipline due to the fact that it is NOT easy! We see that discipline is defined by Webster as 'training that corrects, molds or perfects the mental faculties or moral character'. It is no small coincidence that the words for disciple and discipline come from the same Latin root word: pupil.

How do we know if our training, our discipline is going well? Our heart will tell us. When our actions say 'thanks', our hearts fill with gratitude, our hands are open, and our gifts don't hold us too tightly, then we can be sure that thanksgiving is always with us.

**Blessings,
Toni**



*Choir Rehearsals
Begin Wednesday,
November 9
7:00 p.m.*

*All are invited to join the
Creator Festival Choir as they
rehearse music for the holiday
season.*

*Rehearsals are on Wednesday
evenings at 7:00 p.m. Nov. 9
and 16; following
Thanksgiving worship on
November 23 and after
advent worship beginning
November 30.*



Choir Concert



A Creator Christmas

On Sunday, December 10, 2011
7:00 p.m the Creator Festival Choir,
directed by Allan Blair will present a
concert of Christmas Music. Mark
your calendar and please plan to at-
tend this special event.

Ministries of Creator

CREATOR'S FALL FUNDRAISER PENNY DRIVE

They are everywhere you look... Pennies! They are on the street, in your dryer, on the floor of your car and certainly in your couch cushions. Grab them all up and bring them to church.



This is how it works:



Each Spirits Works Team will have a container.
The goal is to have the most points by Advent.
Every penny is worth one point.

You can take points away from other teams by adding silver coins or paper money to their collection jar. The amount taken away is equal to the amount put in. (i.e., a dollar bill will subtract 100 pennies collected).

The Spiritworks team with the most points in the end will be served dinner by the Church Council.



John Nilsen in Concert
Wednesday, December 7, 2011
Creator Lutheran Church2

7:00 p.m.

Free-will donation requested.
Invite your friends and neighbors and come listen to wonderful holiday music by recording artist and Creator friend John Nilsen.

Ministries of Creator

Interested in Membership?

All who worship in the community are part of our "family". If you are interested in becoming a member of the community and would like to learn more about Lutheran Christians and Creator, we will be having new member classes during the adult Ed hour in November. Specific dates will be determined following the Sunday morning meeting on November 6th. Watch the parish news for more details.

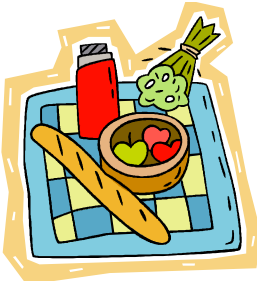
Our Facility

Many of you may not be aware that the Creator facility is home to other community groups during the week.

Boy Scouts, a Yoga class and a large AA chapter all use Creators building. This is an outreach ministry to the greater community. Beginning soon there will be an AlAnon group meeting weekly at Creator as well.

It is our privilege to be able to share what we have with others.

Lunch Gatherings



No Fellowship Lunch activities are planned for November and December. There are other opportunities for fellowship during the holidays so please make a point to share in these opportunities!

Contact Eileen Houser if you have ideas for monthly, mid-week gatherings such as brunch, Bible Study and/or service projects.

Ministries of Creator

Good Gifts Catalog

Many times we are overcome by the amount of need in the world. We have people in need here at home and around the world. We are called to respond with love and care but the need is overwhelming. How can one person make a difference?

This Advent, the Wednesday evening offering will be collected and used toward a gift from the Creator community to a community in need somewhere in the world. The amount of our total donation can determine what we give as a congregation so give generously on Wednesday evenings. Look in the Good Gifts catalog and see what can be done if we all give a little to help a lot!

There is another chance for **individuals** to help out as well through the **Lutheran World Relief Good Gifts Catalog**. Help a family by buying a goat for them, or a sow, or chickens. Give it as a Christmas gift on behalf of a friend or relative—they will receive a card telling them about the gift you have given in their name. Perfect for that person who has everything.

Watch for the **Fair Trade Handcrafts Catalog** as well. This has beautiful hand-crafted goods from around the world, fairly traded through Lutheran World Relief. They will ship gifts for you. Easy and unique gift giving at your fingertips.

Hunger Awareness

Monday, Oct 24th was designated "Food Day." Last week's *Oregonian* had an article which discussed the pros and cons of giving cash or giving money to food banks. The staff asked around some local food banks and found that essentially both are good ways of giving. Money can be used more efficiently by food banks as they can buy more food for the money than we can. But there are some things which they cannot buy so efficiently: baby food and infant formula are two of them. Then there are the foods that are the "non-essential" such as cakes, cookies, and candy which are greatly appreciated and give a little perk to the recipients.

Of course, the staples continue to be vital and the variety provided by donations of food are always welcome at food banks: canned chicken, tuna, and salmon; nut butters in addition to peanut butter; cooking oil; shelf stable milk; and low fat / low sugar products. Also needed are boxed meals, dried beans, rice, cereal, and 100% fruit and vegetable juices.

Paper products and personal hygiene products are not covered by food stamps, so there is always a need for them on the food bank shelves.

It doesn't matter if you choose to donate money, or if you prefer bringing a bag of food to be delivered to the food bank. What matters is that you give. The need is so great in our community and does not seem to be abating. The Creator community supports King's Cupboard, the food bank in the basement of King of Kings Lutheran church in Milwaukie.

Diane Mattox

For November Please Bring Boxed Meals

Ministries of Creator

THANKS!

A BIG thank you to my crew of helpers for the Harvest Party this year!!! I could not have pulled this off without you--and we had such a fun time!!

Mary Steinberg, Katie Miles, Jamie Winthrop, Debi Stromberg and Lisa Ludwig.

To the Creator Youth: **JayDee and Kendra Huddleston, and Brie Voss**

And to our apple juice presser extraordinaire~~**Paul Kemp:**)

Also, thanks to those who brought chili and other food to share. It was delicious and an enjoyable way to spend the evening together. Much appreciation to everyone who voted for the "best chili":) I was asked (since my chili recipe won last year), does the winner have to be the Harvest Party chair next year?? Well, I wouldn't deprive anyone else of having a good time, so please feel free to jump in next year (even though my #4 chili squeaked by with the most "votes" this year--lol)

And, finally, thanks to everyone else who helped out who I may have overlooked in acknowledging. All help was appreciated very much! Trish Voss

Thanks to all who helped with Sparkle Day: **Mary Lou Irving, Don and Kris Knepper, Bob and Gladys Armstrong, Eileen Houser, Diane Mattox, Shirley Peterson.**

Susan Nolte makes beautiful Confirmation banners each year. Thank you, Susan.

Thank you, **Annie Miles**, for again organizing the Poinsettia Sales for the Youth Group.

Thanks to **Cindy Huddleston** for continuing to work to find fundraising opportunities for the youth group.

Mary Lou Irving has been working to be sure that there are fresh cedar chips on the playground and is working to be sure our parking lot lighting and electrical system is working properly as we get into the long nights of the winter season. Thanks, **Mary Lou!**

Thanks to **Debi Stromberg** for helping to keep details straight concerning next year's National Youth Gathering—and thanks to chaperones and participants as well! What a great trip that will be.

Thanks again to our wonderful worship band, whose leadership was so essential to worship for the past 3 months! Thanks **Alan Mair, Gary Schulstad, Jon Lindstrom, Peter Overvold, Shirley Peterson, Vaune Kemp, Annie Miles and Pastor Dayle** .

Congratulations Confirmands!

This year Grant Gerritsen, Kendra Huddleston, Nathan Kemp, Analise Nzocumugani and Rachel Hibbs were confirmed in their faith on Reformation Day, October 30, 2011

We rejoice with them as they continue their faith journeys.

Community Happenings



*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Presents the
Third Annual
Earth Care Summit
January 30, 2012
5:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Highland Christian Center
7600 NE Glisan
Portland, Or*



*This is an opportunity to explore
Environmental Justice and Faith*

Presented by EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns

*Cost is \$25 to attend
\$200 to sponsor a table*

Pick up a registration brochure on the table in the porch area



*Fair trade coffee,
cocoa and
chocolate*



Fair Trade ministry here at Creator is an great way to enjoy good coffee while working for social justice. The items available—coffee from around the world, cocoa and chocolate—are purchased through the Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project and provide a living wage as well as safe and environmentally responsible working and growing conditions. Brew some justice with your coffee.

Fair trade items will be available for sale on the first Sunday of each month.

Community Happenings



A Labyrinth for Creator

As you all know, or have heard I [Ryan Musser] am creating a Labyrinth at Creator Lutheran Church. The Labyrinth is being built on the far East side of the church property. I have started on the project already. We have laid down 3/4 Minus which is the base of the Labyrinth. We are making great progress toward finishing this project! YAY! However, there are things that still need to be completed. We are trying to figure out a date to finish this monster of a project but don't worry, it will happen. On a good note, donations have been going great and we are making great progress! If you do make a donation PLEASE put your name on the envelope or somewhere other than the check so I am able to find your name and write you a thank you note. Thank you for your support and donations.

Sincerely,
Ryan Musser

If you wish to donate to Ryan's project and wish to receive a tax deduction, please make your checks out to Creator Lutheran Church and mark Labyrinth on the check and on the offering envelope.



PLANNING AHEAD? A PLU CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS CONCERT IS COMING TO PORTLAND WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2011, 7:30 P.M. AT THE SCHNITZER CONCERT HALL. FOR TICKETS CONTACT WWW.PLU.EDU/CHRISTMAS THIS IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO START THE HOLIDAYS!



Backpack Buddies Time!

Backpack Buddies is getting back to work to get those meals to hungry kids at area elementary schools. If you wish to be a shopper or you wish to deliver the bags, please contact Toni Hartung in the Creator office toni.hartung@creatorlutheran.org



Youth News for November



*ELCA National Youth Gathering is next Summer
(July 17-22, 2012) in New Orleans!*



39,000 Lutheran Youth (entering 9th through completed 12th grade next summer) will gather for music, speakers, workshops, fun and continued service to Hurricane Victims! It will take a full year of our Creator "Village" support to help our youth get to this worthwhile event! Please encourage your friends and neighbors to support our fundraisers, or "adopt" a youth with a small monthly contribution or offer to assist on planning for a fundraiser! This is a BIG event and a tremendous opportunity for our youth! (And registration is just around the corner!)

We'd like any interested youth to be able to attend, so will be fund-raising like crazy this next year! Total for hotel, registration and flights will likely be nearly \$1800/person- we've already got approximately \$300/person set aside in youth funds so far (assuming an estimate of 12

-14 youth attending)...please help make the following fund-raisers successful.



Coming up in November

Families of National Youth Gathering youth - bring your fund-raising ideas and prepare to get excited to hear some details about next summer's event in New Orleans! Watch your email for details about meeting time and place!

facebook

Please join Creator Lutheran Youth Group on Facebook to keep up to date on Youth events. E-mail Cindy Huddleston if you need help with joining. Cdroses2@yahoo.com