

October 15, 2024



Dear Faith Leaders,

**The NGLS Youth Ministry Team is looking for young people between 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade to join a Synod-Wide Dungeons and Dragons Club.**

**WHY?** Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) is one of the most popular and well-known table-top roleplaying games in the world! **It is a great game for anyone interested in using their imagination for a shared story, while building up social and critical thinking skills.** D&D is a roleplaying game in which players create their own characters and progress them through a story. The Dungeon Master (DM) or Game Master (GM) serves as both narrator and referee for the players, introducing and controlling the world with which the players interact. We are excited to introduce this game to interested youth, and to use the storytelling, creativity, and teamwork inherent in D&D, as a way to have meaningful faith conversations with youth. The club will primarily meet online, with in-person retreat dates determined by club members.

**A message from Pastor Jack Busche:**

*Last summer at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, I was on-site as the camp pastor for Week 5. One evening at dinner, a few campers were excitedly talking about a D&D game they had played with their cabin, and because I have played D&D and games like it since I had been their age, I offered to lead a short game for them. Over two evenings (after their camp day was done), I was able to lead a game with campers and camp staff that was a ton of fun, and which led to the idea of using this game as a way to connect with other youth in our synod in a faith-oriented setting.*

*For anyone who has enjoyed fantasy or science fiction like Lord of the Rings or Star Wars, D&D and tabletop gaming in general, can be a great way for us to tell our own stories in fantastical worlds, heroically saving the day or learning how to recover from failure. These worlds that we play in exist entirely in the imagination, but quickly we become invested in our character, and in the story we make together. I see tabletop gaming as a pro-social hobby, which is fun and helps people of all ages build up critical thinking skills and teamwork.*

*My hope for a faith-centered D&D game for our synod youth is that as we adventure together, we take time to reflect on how the choices we make affect others, and to learn to appreciate the contributions that each player brings to the table. Everyone has a role to play, and gifts to contribute. We are all a part of the Body of Christ, diverse but unified, better together. I love this hobby, and I hope there are youth interested in playing with us!*

Youth (or parents) are invited to complete this survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LP78WPC> to help us determine a date and time for an Interest Meeting. You may also email [youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org) for more information. **Anyone interested in learning more is welcome!**

In Ministry Together,

Pr. Jack Busche, Grace Lutheran - Gwinn and  
Stefanie Ehle, NGLS Youth Ministry Coordinator