



Religious Recognitions for Lutherans

National Lutheran Association on Scouting

<https://www.nlas.org>

This presentation is available at



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Religious Emblems Programs

Over 40 faith-specific groups participate in Religious Emblems Programs

- Developed and administered by the participating faith groups
- Encourage youth to grow stronger in their faith
- Taught by the faith group clergy or appointed lay person

They are owned by the church



Scouting America's Duty to God brochure states, "The religious emblems programs are programs (youth faith-specific religious educational courses and adult recognition) created by the various religious groups (faith-specific) to encourage youth to grow stronger in their faith. ... The Boy Scouts of America [Scouting America] has approved of these programs and allows the recognition to be worn on the official uniform, but each religious organization develops and administers its own program. ... The religious emblems programs should be presented to youth members and their families ... through their faith-based organization. Religious instruction should always come from these organizations, not from the unit leader." The Religious Emblems Programs is a resource Scout Leaders can and should use to help youth to understand their duty to God. Scouts involved in the religious emblems program of their faith tend to remain in Scouting longer and achieve higher rank advancement.

Note: The Duty to God brochure is undergoing revisions; the most recent revision is presented here ->

<https://www.praypub.org/Data/Sites/1/media/resource-library/promotional-resources/duty-to-god-brochure-2022.pdf>



The Religious Emblems Programs are encouraged by

Scouting America



Girl Scouts of the USA



But they can be earned by all Lutheran Youth

- Siblings & friends
- Sunday School
- Confirmation

3

Clickable Religious Emblems program chart for Scouting America, in either 8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17" size, is available at <https://dutytogodbsa.org/portfolio/religious-emblems-brochure/>

Girls in GSUSA may consider earning the My Promise, My Faith pin in combination with the religious recognitions

https://my.girlscouts.org/content/dam/gssn/images/Faith_Handout_EnglishDescription.pdf



Religious Emblems Programs

The Lutheran Religious Emblems are owned and approved by



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

The Lutheran Churches use the Religious Emblems used by many Protestant & Independent Churches through the Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.)



How do the Religious Emblems become Lutheran

if they are used by many Protestant and Independent Churches?

- The Lutheran Churches collaborated on and approved them
- Taught by a Lutheran pastor or a trusted lay person
- Substantial interaction with the youth's family and their pastor*
 - Increasing interaction with the youth's pastor* with age
- Each recognition is reviewed and approved by the youth's pastor*

*provision can be made for youth who do not have a family pastor

5

*provision can be made for youth who do not have a family pastor



What are the Lutheran Recognitions?



PROGRAMS OF RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES WITH YOUTH (P.R.A.Y.), 11222 S. TOWNE SQUARE, STE. B, ST. LOUIS, MO 63123
PHONE: 314-645-3118 OR 800-933-PRAY (7723) FAX: 314-645-3018 E-MAIL: INFO@PRAYPUB.ORG WEB: WWW.PRAYPUB.ORG

Jesus and Me (Grades K-1)
Children will be introduced to Jesus as the Son of God, but in familiar terms so that young children can see Jesus in their own everyday experiences. This curriculum uses the "Jesus-Sand Craft" as a hands-on component. After every lesson, children will create a new page to extend their craft. The craft will be an interactive way to not only retell the stories of Jesus, but to create into the story and relate to Jesus.

SECTION 1: Jesus Was a Storyteller
SECTION 2: Jesus Was a Teacher
SECTION 3: Jesus Was a Friend
SECTION 4: Jesus Was a Healer

God and Me (Grades 2-3)
Children will become best friends with Jesus and tell their story of "God and Me" together. Children will make a game in each lesson and keep their games in a **CASEBOOK (God and Me Exploring GOD)**. These games will reinforce the Bible lessons and provide opportunities for families to explore God's love together.

SECTION 1: God Created Me
SECTION 2: Jesus is God's Gift to Me
SECTION 3: I Can Talk with God
SECTION 4: Because God Cares for Me, I Can Care for Others

God and Family (Grades 4-6)
The God and Family program will help children understand the importance of family and God's role in a healthy family. Children will compare families and "papa," and they will make a pizza as they study how families can grow together in God's love.

1. CHRIST FOUNDATION: We are God's Family
2. SALUCE: Family Heritage, Spiritual Heritage
3. TOPPINGS: Our Talents and Gifts Strengthen Our Families
4. CHEESE: In God's Family We Live and No Matter What Because We're Loved

God and Church (Grades 6-8)
The God and Church program will be a journey to meet Jesus, worship God, and witness and minister for Christ. Participants will create a video or a photo album to share their faith journeys with others.

UNIT 1: My Journey Meeting Christ
• Meeting Jesus, the Prince
• Meeting Jesus, the Son of God
• Meeting Jesus, the Head of the Church

UNIT 2: My Journey Witnessing God
• Learning how Christ Witnessed and Ministered to Others
• Exploring How My Congregation Witnesses and Ministered to Others
• Discerning How I Can Witness and Minister to Others

God and Life (Grades 9-12)
The God and Life study is based on the life of the Apostle Paul as recorded in Acts 9:1-31.

SECTION 1: God calls all kinds of people
SECTION 2: God doesn't respect our sin or our race
SECTION 3: Each of us must make a personal response to the call of God
SECTION 4: God gives strength to face persecution
SECTION 5: God can accomplish great things through those who are willing to do God's will

Four-Star Recognition
A special recognition is available for young people who complete the four core programs in the P.R.A.Y. series: God and Me, God and Family, God and Church, and God and Life. Jesus and Me does not count toward the Four-Star Awards. Start now: students cannot go backwards to earn younger awards!



VISIT WWW.PRAYPUB.ORG FOR INFORMATION AND TO ORDER BOOKLETS ONLINE.

The Lutheran Awards brochure is available at <https://www.praypub.org/Data/Sites/1/media/denomination-resources/lutheran/pray-lutheran-brochure.pdf>
Search by Faith to find contact info for Religious Emblems of other faith groups <https://www.praypub.org/religious-emblems>



What are the Lutheran Recognitions?

JESUS AND ME



Jesus and Me (Grades K-1)

Jesus and Me introduces Jesus as the Son of God in a way that young children can see Jesus in their everyday experiences as a storyteller, teacher, friend, and healer. A hands-on “Jesus Scroll Craft” helps children tell their story of Jesus and Me.

Recognizing that parents and guardians are responsible for the faith development of their children, Jesus and Me requires their participation and encourages parent-child interaction.

GOD AND ME



God and Me (Grades 2-3)

Children will become best friends with Jesus and tell their story of “God and Me” together. Children will make a game in each lesson and keep their games in a GAMEbox (God And Me Exploring box). The games reinforce the Bible lessons and provide opportunities for families to explore God’s love together.



What are the Lutheran Recognitions?

GOD AND FAMILY



God and Family (Grades 4-6)

God and Family helps youth to understand the importance of family and God's role in a healthy family. Children build a "pizza" as they study how families can grow together in God's love and build their understanding of God's love for their families. They choose "family projects" to be done together with their family at home.

GOD AND CHURCH



God and Church (Grades 6-8)

God and Church leads youth on a three-part faith journey of: meeting Jesus, worshiping God, witnessing and ministering for Christ. They make a plan for daily Bible reading and memorize a creed or statement of belief or passage of scripture. They create a video or a photo album to share what they have learned on their faith journeys. Young people have the opportunity to work with their pastor or other Christian adult to study the church's structures and objectives, participate in service projects, and strengthen their relationship with Christ.

8

An optional pin for the youth's specific denomination can be worn on the ribbon of the God and Church emblem. This is purchased from the P.R.A.Y. web store: <https://store.praypub.org/god-church-lutheran-pin>



What are the Lutheran Recognitions?



God and Life (Grades 9-12)

God and Life helps youth understand their call to a life of discipleship. God and Life focuses on the life of the Apostle Paul as recorded in Acts 9:1-31, that describes how Paul encountered Christ and was changed forever. Youth plan for daily Bible reading, experience the joy of serving others, write a statement of commitment, and explore what it means to live one's life for Christ. They have the opportunity to interview their pastor on his/her life decision to pursue an occupation of ministry.



Additional Faith Recognitions



P.R.A.Y. Four-Star Recognition

The P.R.A.Y. Four-Star Recognition is an award available from P.R.A.Y. for young people who complete the four core programs in the P.R.A.Y. series – God and Me, God and Family, God and Church, God and Life. The program recognitions must be earned in order because students cannot go backwards to earn younger religious emblems.



NLAS Four-Star Scholarship

The NLAS Four-Star Scholarship is a competitive scholarship that is open to all youth registered with Scouting America or Girl Scouts of the USA who have successfully earned four (4) P.R.A.Y. Program recognitions and are seniors in High School. Two (2) \$500 Scholarships are available annually and are paid directly on the student's behalf to the designated institution for post-secondary education.

P.R.A.Y. Four-Star Award – <https://www.praypub.org/four-star-award>

NLAS Four-Star Scholarship – https://nlas.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/NLAS-4-Star-Scholarship-application_r2026.pdf



Additional Faith Recognitions



NLAS Lutheran Recognition of Excellence

The Lutheran Recognition of Excellence is awarded by NLAS to recognize outstanding scouting units that are chartered by Lutheran congregations or other Lutheran organizations and have met the criteria established by the National Lutheran Association on Scouting (such as completion of the appropriate Religious Emblems Program for their age level and religious affiliation, participation in the local Lutheran congregation Scout Sunday observance, completion of at least one service project for the chartering Lutheran organization, and participation in worship opportunities while away from their home congregations on Sundays). All members of the unit are authorized to wear the LRE patch. The LRE is awarded by application from Scouting America or GS-USA units.

LRE application for Scouting America – https://nlas.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/SA-LRE-app-2025_fillable.pdf

LRE application for GS-USA – https://nlas.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/GS-LRE-app-2025_fillable.pdf



Adult Recognitions



Servant of Youth

The Servant of Youth Award is bestowed by NLAS to recognize distinguished volunteer service to young people through one or more civic youth agency programs (such as Scouting America, GS-USA, AHG, Campfire and 4-H). The award is by nomination. The nominee should be an active member of a Lutheran congregation OR be an active member of another Christian congregation who has a minimum of 5 years of service to the church and to Lutheran young people through a civic youth agency affiliated with a Lutheran congregation.



Lutheran Lamb

The Lamb Award is bestowed through NLAS on behalf of the youth ministry departments of the national Lutheran Churches. The purpose of the Lamb Award is to acknowledge the distinguished service of Lutheran adults in fostering the spiritual growth of youth through church and civic youth serving programs (such as Scouting America, GS-USA, AHG, Campfire and 4-H). The award is by nomination. The person must be an active member of a Lutheran congregation and have a minimum of 10 years of distinguished volunteer service to the church and to one or more of the civic youth agencies.

12

The Servant of Youth application is available at <https://www.praypub.org/documents-resources> -> Lutheran Servant of Youth

The Lamb Award application is available at <https://www.praypub.org/documents-resources> -> Lutheran Lamb



Additional Adult Recognitions



P.R.A.Y. Building Faith in Youth Award

The Building Faith in Youth Award is designed for Protestant congregations to recognize individuals who have contributed significantly to the youth ministries of their church through the P.R.A.Y. programs (God and Me, God and Family, God and Church, and God and Life). The award is by nomination from a Protestant congregation. The nominee must demonstrate exceptional Christian character and be active in a Protestant congregation, use the P.R.A.Y. programs to disciple young people and their families and to support the Christian Education program of the local Protestant congregation, and have a record of using and supporting a P.R.A.Y. ministry with a minimum tenure of three years.

The Building Faith in Youth application is available at
<https://www.praypub.org/documents-resources> -> Building Faith in Youth Award



Resources

- PRAY Program description – <https://www.praypub.org/pray>
- P.R.A.Y. resources for Scouting America – <https://www.praypub.org/scouting-america>
- P.R.A.Y. resources for Girl Scouts – <https://www.praypub.org/gsusa>
- Scouting America resources for Religious Emblems – <https://dutytogodbsa.org/portfolio/religious-emblems-brochure/>
- GS-USA resources for Religious Recognitions – https://www.girlscouts.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsusa/forms-and-documents/about-girlscouts/gs-and-faith/PRAY_Chart.pdf
- P.R.A.Y. virtual Religious Emblems programs – <https://www.praypub.org/virtual-programs>
- P.R.A.Y. Four-Star Award – <https://www.praypub.org/four-star-award>
- NLAS Four-Star Scholarship – https://nlas.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/NLAS-4-Star-Scholarship-application_r2026.pdf

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Resources

- LRE application for Scouting America – https://nlas.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/SA-LRE-app-2025_fillable.pdf
- LRE application for GS-USA – https://nlas.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/GS-LRE-app-2025_fillable.pdf
- Servant of Youth application – <https://www.praypub.org/documents-resources> -> Lutheran Servant of Youth
- Lamb Award application – <https://www.praypub.org/documents-resources> -> Lutheran Lamb
- Building Faith in Youth application – <https://www.praypub.org/documents-resources> -> Building Faith in Youth Award
- Lutheran Awards Brochure – <https://www.praypub.org/Data/Sites/1/media/denomination-resources/lutheran/pray-lutheran-brochure.pdf>
- Search by Faith for Religious Emblems of other faith groups – <https://www.praypub.org/religious-emblems> -> Search by Faith
- NLAS membership application – https://nlas.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/NLAS-Application-2025_fillable.pdf

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Who is NLAS?

NLAS was formed to assist the offices of youth ministry of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the churches that became the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in relation to civic youth-serving agencies such as Scouting America, Girl Scouts of the USA, Campfire USA and 4-H.

NLAS is a national association of volunteer members that operates in partnership with the offices of youth ministry of the ELCA and LCMS to encourage Lutheran congregations, schools and other organizations to extend their ministry to children, youth, and families using the programs of these civic youth-serving agencies, and advocates emphasis on duty to God and encouraging growth of faith in youth in the programs of our youth-serving partners.

<https://www.nlas.org>