Religious Recognitions for Lutherans

National Lutheran Association on Scouting

https://nlas.org

Religious Emblems Programs

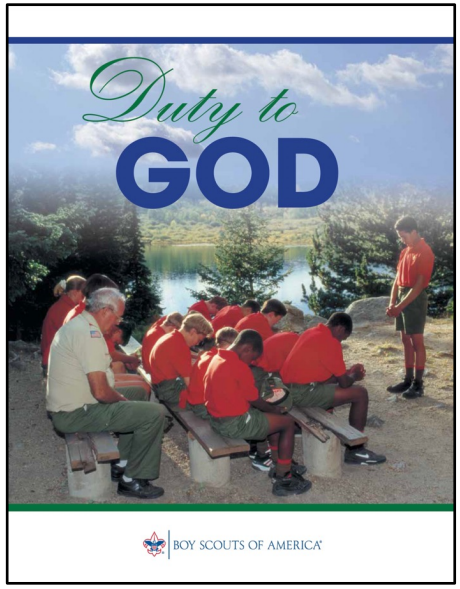
Approximately 40 different faith-specific groups participate in Religious Emblems Programs

- Developed and administered by the participating faith groups
  - That is, they are owned by the church
- Encourage youth to grow stronger in their faith
- Taught by the specific faith group clergy or appointed lay person

The Religious Emblems Programs are encouraged by

American Heritage Girls

Boy Scouts of America



Girl Scouts of the USA

But they can be earned by all Lutheran Youth

- Siblings & friends
- Sunday School
- Confirmation

Religious Emblems Programs

The Lutheran Religious Emblems are owned and approved by

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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 in and approved them
- They are taught by a Lutheran pastor or a trusted lay person (appointed or approved by the pastor, much like a Sunday School or VBS teacher)
- There is substantial interaction with the youth's family and their pastor*
- They have an increasing level of interaction with the youth's pastor* with age
- Each recognition must be reviewed and approved by the youth's pastor*

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

What are the Lutheran Recognitions?

PRAY Awards

PROGRAMS OF RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES WITH YOUTH (P.R.A.Y.), 11123 S. TOWNE SQUARE, STE. B, ST. LOUIS, MO 63123

PHONE 314-845-3318 OR 800-933-PRAY (7729) FAX 314-845-0038 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 Scroll Craft" as a hands-on component. After every lesson, children will create a new page to extend their scroll. The scroll will be an interactive way to not only retell the stories of Jesus, but to enter 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 GAMEBOX (God And Me Exploring BOX). 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 "pizza," and they will make a pizza as they study how families can grow together in God's love.

1. CRUST-FOUNDATION - We are God's Family
2. SAUCE - Family Heritage, Spiritual Heritage
3. TOPPINGS - Our Talents and Gifts Strengthen Our Families
4. CHEESE - In God's Family We're Loved No Matter What! Because We're Loved, We Follow Rules
5. BAKE - Being in God's Family Helps Us When Things Are Tough
6. EAT, SHARE, ENJOY! - In God's Family, We Share as a Response to God's Love

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 I - My Journey: Meeting Christ
- Meeting Jesus, the Person
- Meeting Jesus, the Son of God
- Meeting Jesus, the Head of the Church

UNIT II - My Journey: Worshiping God
- Learning how Christ Worshiped God
- Exploring How My Congregation Worships God
- Discovering How I Can Worship God

UNIT III - My Journey: Witnessing and Ministering for Christ
- Learning How Christ Witnessed and Ministered to Others
- Exploring How My Congregation Witnesses and Ministers to Others
- Discovering 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 expect us to do it on our own.
SECTION 3: Each of us must make a personal response to the call of God
SECTION 4: God gives strength to face adversities.
SECTION 5: God can accomplish great things through those who are willing to do God's will.

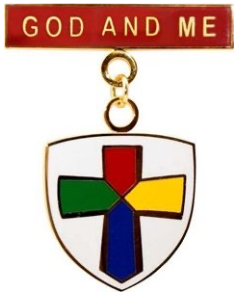
Four-Star Recognition

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 Award). Start now: students cannot go backwards to earn younger awards!

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

What are the Lutheran Recognitions?

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 (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 (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 (Grades 6-8)
God and Church leads youth on a three-part faith journey of: meeting Jesus, worshiping God, witnessing and ministering for Christ. Participants 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 sharing what they have learned on their faith journeys. Young people have the opportunity to work with their pastor or other Christian adult as they study the church's structures and objectives, participate in service projects, and strengthen their relationship with Christ.

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.

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 American Heritage Girls, Girl Scouts of the USA, or Boy Scouts of America who have successfully earned the four (4) core 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.

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 and completion of at least one service project for the chartering Lutheran organization). All members of the unit are authorized to wear the LRE patch. The LRE is awarded by application from BSA, GS-USA and AHG units.

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 BSA, 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 agency programs (such as BSA, 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.

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.

How Does MY Child Get This?

#1 Contact a Religious Emblems counselor

- Contact your pastor or youth education coordinator first
  - The spiritual instruction of Lutheran youth is a primary concern of the youth's pastor and congregation
  - Some pastors prefer to present the course themselves, but others are comfortable with appointing a lay person to be the counselor
  - Some pastors are not familiar with the Religious Emblems program, or may just not have enough time to develop and present the course
- Then, what to do?
  - Contact your Unit or District Religious Emblems Coordinator (BSA), Troop Shepherd (AHG) or Troop Leader for possible counselors
    - Ideally, these leaders would discover appropriate faith group counselors as various youth take Religious Emblems programs (remembering that they are church-taught)
  - Contact other congregations or other units nearby
  - You may have to educate your pastor
    - Obtain the Religious Emblems brochure (from your Council store or online from P.R.A.Y.)
    - Buy the student and counselor booklets (from Council store or P.R.A.Y.)
    - Review the program with your pastor
  - Consider whether you can become a Counselor
    - Consult your pastor on appropriateness
    - Initial levels (e.g., God and Me) often oriented toward being done by family

How Does MY Child Get This?

#2 Select dates & time and format (Counselor and initiating parent)

- Reviewing the content of the program, select a periodicity (weekly, bi-weekly, weeknight or weekend)
  - Allow time for service projects, meetings with youth's pastor, # of Bible readings required
- Pick the best suiting format (classroom, in home, virtual)
- Select a starting date and meeting time
  - Allow time to advertise, recruit additional students and order materials
  - Consider whether there is latitude to change time and days as others join
- Reserve meeting space, as necessary

#3 Advertise

- Church bulletin and newsletter
  - Your own and other local congregations
  - Charter congregation
  - Remember youth does not have to be a scout to participate
- Your Scout unit and other units nearby
  - Troop Chaplain & Chaplain Aide, Troop Shepherd, Leaders and committee
- Scouting roundtable
- Unit & District Religious Emblems Coordinator

How Does MY Child Get This?

#4 Organize

- Confirm dates & time with participant parents; adjusting as needed
- Review parent attendance/ involvement (have a parent meeting, if necessary)
  - Mandatory for Jesus & Me, highly recommended for God & Me, God & Family
  - Invite parents to participate in the course as Mentor – taking the course along with their child
  - While this is a church event and not a scouting event, make sure all youth protection requirements of the congregation and scouting program are met (protection for you, the youth, the church)
- Notify pastors of youth participants of their participation and to expect discussion requests from youth
- Purchase the student, mentor and counselor booklets (from Council store or P.R.A.Y. online store)
- Plan/prepare your lessons
- Prepare materials for object lessons and crafts (+2, for demonstration & for example)
- Prepare welcome letter and schedule for each parent & participant
- Send email reminders prior to first class

How Does MY Child Get This?

#5 Execute

- Enjoy your interaction with the youth
- Assist by discussing/ suggesting service projects as needed
- Encourage the Bible readings
- Encourage them in speaking with their pastors
- Encourage that final sign-off with their pastor
- Be amazed at some insights you will discover with and about them!

#6 Celebrate

- Collect the signed off sheets and order the medals
  - Encourage denominational pins for God & Church
  - Have them notify their unit advancement chairpersons of their achievement
  - For BSA members, have them notify their Advancement chairperson to order and present the Silver on Purple knot, No. 5007, during a troop meeting or court of honor
    - May be worn by youth or adult members who earned the knot as a youth.
- Have them schedule a Religious Emblem presentation with their pastor, preferably during a worship service
  - Make effort to attend if you are invited
- Schedule an ice cream or pizza party to meet one last time and celebrate

Resources

- PRAY Program description – https://www.praypub.org/pray
- P.R.A.Y. resources for BSA – https://www.praypub.org/bsa
- P.R.A.Y. resources for Girl Scouts – https://www.praypub.org/gsusa
- P.R.A.Y. resources for AHG – https://www.praypub.org/ahg
- BSA resources for Religious Emblems – https://www.scouting.org/awards/religious-awards/
- GS-USA resources for Religious Recognitions – https://www.girlscouts.org/en/footer/faith.html
- AHG resources for Faith Awards – https://americanheritagegirls.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2020-AHG-Faith-Awards-Program-Overview-web.pdf
- P.R.A.Y. virtual Religious Emblems resources – https://www.praypub.org/virtual-resources
- P.R.A.Y. Four-Star Award – https://www.praypub.org/four-star-award
- NLAS Four-Star Scholarship – https://nlas.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/NLAS-4-Star-Scholarship-application_r2022.pdf

Resources

- LRE application for BSA – https://nlas.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/BSA-LRE-app-2021.pdf
- LRE application for GS-USA – https://nlas.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/GS-LRE-app-2020.2.pdf
- LRE application for AHG – https://nlas.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/AHG-LRE-app-2021.pdf
- Servant of Youth application – https://nlas.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/servantofyouth2020.pdf
- Lamb Award application – https://nlas.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/lamb2020.pdf
- Building Faith in Youth application – https://www.praypub.org/documents-resources
- 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
- NLAS membership application – https://nlas.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NLAS-Application-2021.4f.pdf

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 Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the USA, American Heritage Girls, 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://nlas.org