

Since Synod Assembly, SESLYO has had 2 events: Affirm and a SESLYO board meeting at Lutheranch. Affirm was held in early June at the University of West Alabama. This year's theme for Affirm was GODISNOWHERE. This theme has been used for all synod youth events since last August. Also, Affirm invited two pastors from Michigan, one being former SES Pastor Beth Birkholz, to come down and see how Affirm operated. These pastors were trying to make an Affirm like event for Michigan. They were successful in doing so and held the first "Affirmigan" at the end of the summer. Over the summer we had several youth from Bavaria tour our synod. Several of these youth also attended Affirm, where many of them developed close relationships with other youth. The SESLYO board meeting was held on the first weekend of August. At the board meeting, we develop the theme for all synod youth events and plan for the SESLYO Assembly in March. This year, board members were focused on developing a theme that could be used in different ways. We came to a consensus for the theme to be "chosen." For SESLYO Assembly, we will be focusing on three different branches of the theme: Chosen to Walk, Chosen for Grace, and Chosen to Grow. Our theme verse this year will be John 15: 16-17: "You did not choose me but I chose you. And I Appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another." Lastly, I would like to thank you for the continued support this synod gives to all its youth events and organizations.