



A service of the
Northwest District
of the
Lutheran Church -
Missouri Synod

Youth Supports

A resource to encourage and empower youth leaders for the expansion of the Lord's kingdom.

September 2000 - Volume 1, Issue 1

- **Welcome!**
- **Prayer as a key part of your ministry!**
- **List of people and resources available to you!**

Welcome!

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For the last seven years the youth ministry leaders of the Northwest District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod have published and distributed the *Youth Talk* newsletter to some 5,000 teenagers in Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Because of recent budget cutbacks at the district level, the decision was made to discontinue the *Youth Talk* newsletter.

The decision was also made to provide a short monthly newsletter called *Youth Supports* to help encourage, empower and adults who are doing youth ministry in the congregations. To minimize the costs, the *Youth Supports* newsletter would be distributed to most of the congregations by means of the Internet. Those congregations that don't have access to the Internet would receive a hard copy of the newsletter by mail.

This is the first issue of the *Youth Supports* newsletter. The issue includes an article written by a Director Christian Education, David C. Hoover, and a section listing other youth resources (including people resources) that you may or not be aware of but are available for you to use.

Please, if there is a special subject you would like to see covered in this newsletter, please contact me either by email <forgivn@agora.rdrop.com>, by phone (503/244/4558) or by mail: 3405 SW Alice St., Portland, OR 97219. One of the resources you'll find referred to below is the work of the Youth Ministry Consultants, one for each major region of the Northwest District. Feel free to contact them for more intensive and personalized help.

The Lord's continued blessings to you and through you! - Glenn Zander, editor

A Word and Words to Youth Workers

The first word is pray. Pray before you plan anything. Pray before you plan everything. Pray before during and after events for their success. Not for numbers but for the people that God allows to be there. Remember 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22: Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.

The words of advice are put on God's *rubber robes of righteousness*. These *rubber robes of His righteousness* will help keep you from all evil that is mentioned in verse 22 from above. In keeping

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...how to
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them on you can avoid many of the pitfalls some youth workers face. You will stay focused on your ministry for Him, through you, to your charges. Through your staying close and true to Christ first and foremost, your youth will see in you what you most want them to see – a real Christian in word and deed. This is something that is very important because you may be the only Christian influence in some of their lives and they may only experience Christ's presence in you.

His *rubber robes of righteousness* will also help when Satan and people come at you with false accusations, words of advise said in love, other ideas that you don't think are very good or fit into your (really God's) plan, the gossiping, backbiting, power struggles, etc. that you will find in ministry – especially youth ministry.

If you are young and starting out, find a respected mentor, a sage experienced person, and seek their counsel. Have them be your prayer partner! Request to have your congregation install you as a youth worker if you are not already officially installed. This will cause the congregation to officially recognize you as a member of the ministry team and be a recognition of God's ministry through you. I am mindful of this in light of Paul's letter to young Timothy in 1 Tim. 4:12-16.

Also be mindful of Paul's exhortation to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:22-26 as how to handle disputes, distractions, etc.

May God richly bless all of you that help Jesus Christ shine in the youth of today

David C. Hoover, DCE

Youth Ministry Consultants in Your Area

The Northwest District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod has trained individuals in each major geographical area of the district in order to help you with your youth ministry. Please call the Dick Weniger at the district office at 503/244-4558 or email him at dickw@nowlcms.org for the Youth Ministry Consultant in your area

The Department of Youth Ministry of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has several Internet resources available to you.

- A monthly E-Bulletin about national and regional events throughout the country. To subscribe to the Youth Ministry E-Bulletin send, to MAILSERV@crf.cuis.edu, the message: SUBSCRIBE E-BULLETIN
- To unsubscribe send, to MAILSERV@crf.cuis.edu, the message: UNSUBSCRIBE
- To find out about Bible studies, song books, and other resources available from the Department of Youth Ministry, check out the DYM Web site: <http://cs.lcms.org/youth>

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This and other issues of Youth Supports and other youth resources may be found on the web at <www.nowlcms.org>