



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.**

October 2000 - Volume 1, Issue 2

- **The Benefits and Privileges of Servant Events**
- **List of people and resources available to you!**

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## Willing to Serve

For the youth of St. Paul, it has been an exciting summer. There was the beach trip, a lock-in, softball season, and many times we got together to have fun and to gather around the Word. But if you were to ask our youth what part of youth ministry touched their lives the most this summer, or even this year, it would be the week they spent serving the Lord at Shoshone Base Camp in Wallace, Idaho. This servant event was only one of 70 offered by the Department of Youth Ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. But for our youth it was a time to step out in faith, to work hard, to give of themselves, and to allow God to build them up and use them in some amazing ways.

**...what part of youth ministry touched their lives the most this summer...**

**We are servants not because we serve, but because of who we are in Christ.**



**Here are some photos from the servant event the youth of St. Paul Lutheran attended this last summer.**

(Photos courtesy of St. Paul's, Sherwood, OR)



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servant  
projects it  
is  
important  
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early.**

St. Paul's experience however is not unique. More and more youth ministries are finding the vast benefits that come from mobilizing the youth and involving them in the mission and ministries of the church. We are servants not because we serve, but because of who we are in Christ. And the service that we can render is a response to the Gospel. It is an act of worship. It is living out our faith. When youth catch a vision of servanthood they realize that they can make a difference as God works in and through them. Servants are ones who follow Christ, and yet in their service, they help lead, inspire, and encourage others in the congregation and community to look outside of themselves and their needs, and to care for the needs of others.

Other benefits of servant events can include: cross-cultural and cross-generational experience; focused Bible study and team building before and during the event; developing friendships with youth, adults, and staff from other groups and different ministries; and the service itself that touches lives and aids ongoing ministry long after an individual event is over. Servant events also draw teams closer and challenge the youth to seek after God and His strength to fulfill the task He's given to them. Looking back on the nine years I've spent in youth ministry, I realize another benefit of servant events is that they provide opportunities to plant the seeds of servanthood in future church workers.

Regardless of the benefits, we serve because we are called by God to serve Him and to serve one another. Servant opportunities can range in scope from a few hours to a few weeks. They can involve serving at home, your home congregation, your community, your district, or even with ministries around the country and around the world.

With servant projects it is important to plan early and to spend time preparing your team. If you would like more information on servant events there are resource people available through the district office. There is also a video available entitled: Are You Ready... To Be A Servant?

- written by Rev. Bill Hering, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sherwood, OR You may reach Rev. Hering at 17190 SW Scholls Sherwood Rd, Sherwood OR 97140-8725; (503)625-6648; heringb@teleport.com

Additional information about Missouri Synod servant events can be found on the web at <http://cs.lcms.org/youth/servant.htm>

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## **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 503/288-8383 or email him at [dickw@nowlcms.org](mailto:dickw@nowlcms.org) for the Youth Ministry Consultant in your area.

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## **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](mailto:MAILSERV@crf.cuis.edu), the message: SUBSCRIBE E-BULLETIN

To unsubscribe send, to [MAILSERV@crf.cuis.edu](mailto: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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