



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.

February 2001 - Volume 2, Issue 3

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The A to Z's of Relational Ministry - Part 2

Dear partners in ministry,

What a tremendous gift our Lord has given to us with His incarnation! Christ's coming has changed everything... and His life, death and resurrection continue to change lives today. As we work with kids in ministry I'd like to challenge you to see yourself as the hands and feet of Christ, being the incarnation of Christ for kids today. In order to reach kids with the gospel we would do well to remember the words of 1 Thess. 2:8 — "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well."

On our own we can do nothing, but through Christ we can do all things. I hope and pray that this list of A to Z's will be encouraging and insightful as you carry out relational ministry with those whom God has placed in your midst!

Peace in Christ,

Dave Crisi, DCE
Trinity Lutheran, Hillsboro, Oregon

H: Homes. We need to be in kids' homes. What a great way to find out about a kid. What is on their walls? Near their beds? What are they reading? Whom do they live with? What type of environment is it? This, by the way also gives great credibility with the parents.

I: Interests. If you are interested in a kid, and ask enough questions, odds are, relationally you will get somewhere. Ask them SLIR questions: School, Likes & Dislikes, Interests, and eventually about their Relationship with Christ.

J: Journal. Journal everything. Names of kids, who you are praying for, how you are feeling, what you are learning from the Lord, and any great thoughts you heard in a sermon or at a seminar. "We need to be talking more to God about kids than kids about God."

K: Keep confidence. This is one of the fastest ways to ruin a relationship. The beauty of Jesus Christ to us is that we can be vulnerable with Him, that He loves us where we are at, and there are no strings attached. We need to express this type of transparency with kids.

L: Listen. Kids get talked to at home, at school, at church, at work, and so on. Let us be as the Lord is to us, "I love the Lord, because He hears me; He listens to my prayers. HE listens to me every time I call to Him." (Psalm 116)

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Make the
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Relation-
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- M: Make the most. Make the most of every opportunity. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that because you have a demanding schedule and limited time that you can't be effective. Each moment is a gift from God.
- N: Names. Simple. Know kids' names. Find a way to remember.
- Q: Question. Question kids constantly. Question methods being used in your ministry. Are they still reaching kids? Are kids growing? Question people you respect. Questions spur on growth.
- R: Risk. Relationships are risky. Without risking ourselves in relationships we will miss the opportunity for real growth. Constantly put yourself on the cutting edge with kids. Don't be comfortable, i.e., meeting new kids, challenging kids you know well, and trying things you have not tried before.
- S: Susceptibility. Being susceptible to making a fool out of yourself, trying something new, or something you can't do. These are all things we ask kids to do, so we should be the first in the process.

(Part 3 of this article will be coming up in the next issue!)

Kaleidoscope

Kaleidoscope is a great week long youth event for up to 4 youth per congregation. You can read and see photos about it at

<http://www.nowlcms.org/Youth/YTalk/April00/yt0004a.html>

This year's K-Scope is scheduled for July 9 - 14 at the Christ Lutheran Retreat Center at Belfair, WA. Contact Jeff Kranich at HopeSeattle@aol.com or (206) 937-9330 for more information!

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>.

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> for the Youth Ministry Consultant in your area.

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