



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.

April 2001 - Volume 2, Issue 4

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The A to Z's of Relational Ministry - Part 3

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

- T: Taking them. Taking kids with you wherever you go. This is perfect for those who feel they "don't have time." Take them on a long drive that you have to make anyway. Going to the airport to pick someone up? Take them. Take them to a lecture, a concert, a play, an athletic event... take them!
- U: Understand. Put your high school or junior high picture in a place where you can see it. Ask yourself how you felt at that time in your life. What those years were like. These are hard times for kids, and we need to understand them as much as we can.
- V: Vision. Dream vision into kids. "Don't be afraid Peter, from now on your catch will be min." (Luke 5) Believe in them, see them as God would see them, as precious children. Lastly, encourage them to go into ministry as a profession, if you see them as having those gifts. We need good folks in full-time ministry.
- W: With. F.F. Bruce summed Jesus Christ's ministry into one word: With. Jesus was just with the disciples. Are we just with kids? Do we ever just kick back and spend time with kids? Kids of today are stressed, and what we need to be about is to be with them with no agenda, no itinerary, but just with them relationally.

This is perfect for those who feel they "don't have time."

...see them as God would see them...

Yield to
the Holy
Spirit.

Let kids
know how
loved they
are.

- X: Xerox. Look for ways to be special to kids. How about Xerox their name in the paper and sending it to them, or xeroxing their picture in the yearbook, writing a letter with a funny caption to them, coping pictures from retreat and putting them on the youth group bulletin board. Be creative!
- Y: Yield. Yield to the Holy Spirit. Listen to His voice. It is Christ who is at work in us by the leading of the Holy Spirit. Thank God, that we are not doing ministry on our own... we can't. Remember this quote as you carry out relational ministry with kids: "God has the tough end of the deal. What if instead of planting the seed you had to make the tree? That would keep you up late at night, trying to figure that one out." (Jim Rohn)
- Z: Zits. Let kids know how loved they are. Kids are so self-conscious, and have such a low self-esteem due to looks, guilt, etc. Let's be the ones who look past the "zits" of kids lives and show them how precious and loved they are. Remember, kids don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

(For parts 1 and 2 of this article check out past Youth Supports issues at <http://www.nowlcms.org/Youth/ysupportslist.html>)

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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