



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.

May 2001 - Volume 2, Issue 5

- **God's "Special" People**
- **Kaleidoscope!**
- **List of people and resources available to you!**

...it is a place that takes care of God's special people.

God, used that time to alleviate the fears...

God's "Special" People

When you hear the words "Good Shepherd" you may immediately think of the verse in John 10:11 which reads, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Or perhaps you remember John 10:14 which reads, "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me."

Maybe you are a literalist and get a mental picture of Jesus with a staff standing among a flock of sheep. Perhaps you are a visionary, and when you hear the words "Good Shepherd," you see Jesus standing among His flock of people. Whatever images or thoughts that are conjured up by this phrase, I would like to add another meaning or image to the words "Good Shepherd."



Some of you may or may not know of the organization for mentally and physically challenged adults called Good Shepherd Lutheran Home. To give you a "youth" definition of this organization, it is a place that takes care of God's special people. They are provided with a roof over their heads called group homes, food to eat and some even have jobs. They are also given an opportunity to participate in Crosswalk, a Bible study / craft and activity time. This is where this story begins.



Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Forest Grove, Oregon sponsors one of the Crosswalk times for some of the group homes in Western Washington County. These Bible studies are held the first Sunday of every month and led by a wonderful servant by the name of Terry Putnam. I was having a difficult time with my then 12 year old and her 12 year old self-centered ways so I decided to expose her to the Crosswalk experience in the hopes that in serving others she would change.

God, on the other hand, had different plans! He used that time to alleviate the fears and misconceptions that often come with working with people that have disabilities. Since the first time we attended Crosswalk, the entire youth group has become involved and is always asking, "When is Crosswalk"? We have had the

...the entire youth group...is asking, "When is Cross-walk?"

...everyone is special in our Good Shepherd's heart.

opportunity to share in their pizza and bowling party, their annual Christmas party and to continue to serve at Crosswalk. Friendships have been established between the youth and residents as well as fun times and memories that could not have happened otherwise. This is a wonderful learning and growing experience for the kids and adults. My prayer is that if you have Good Shepherd residents that attend your church, you too would become involved and be able to experience what Mt. Olive is blessed to have. If there is one thing that we have learned from God's "Special" people it is that no matter what you look like or act like, everyone is special in our Good Shepherd's heart.



For more information on how your youth group can be involved, contact Terry Putnam at Good Shepherd Lutheran Home of the West, (503) 693-7881, extension 107. —
Photos and article are from Chris Miller, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Forest Grove, Oregon.

Find past issues of Youth Supports 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.

Except as noted, all text and photographs are © Northwest District of the Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod. All contents, except as noted, may be duplicated for use in local congregations as long as the source is noted. If you have any comments or responses for this publication, please contact Glenn Zander, 3405 SW Alice St., Portland, OR 97219 <forgivn@agora.rdrop.com>