



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.

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LCMS Youth Sharing Jesus

The O.A.F.C.
is a Christ-
centered
youth
witnessing
program
endorsed by
the Lutheran
Church-
Missouri
Synod.

The Best Kept Secret in the LC-MS

The O.A.F.C. (Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ) is a Christ-centered youth witnessing program endorsed by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Founded in 1970, this important mission opportunity now includes teams in 16 districts with more than 40,000 Ambassadors trained and commissioned in the last 25 years. Enjoying a long tradition east of the Rocky Mountains, the O.A.F.C. now has a Chapter well established in the Northwest. The Northwest Team, more than four dozen strong, includes youth from McMinnville, La Grande, Salem, Lebanon, Roseburg, Hermiston, Ontario, Walla Walla, Moses Lake, Portland, Baker City, and New Plymouth, Idaho. These youth, accompanied by their Advisors, travel the Northwest one weekend a month sharing the glorious news of Jesus Christ through dramas, songs, and witnessing surveys. O.A.F.C. is not a professional performance group. Our major goal is "youth telling about Jesus." While our songs, dramas, and puppet plays are often quite entertaining, spreading the gospel through witnessing and door-to-door surveys are our most important activities.



Members of an OAF-C-NW team visit the LC-MS International Center in St. Louis

A typical weekend is conducted as follows:

A Friday night youth gathering or "Happening" is held to welcome the travel team to the host Congregation. Songs, plays, and witnessing methods are shared as team members are introduced to their host families.

On Saturday morning, the team meets for prayer and prepares for the witnessing survey. The team then canvasses areas selected by the host congregation, witnesses and leaves an invitation to attend worship service on Sunday morning. Later, the survey results are tabulated and prospect forms are given to the host congregation for follow-up. The remainder of Saturday is spent in bible study, a visit to a local nursing home, and preparation for Sunday.

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On Sunday morning, the team conducts an all-age Sunday school and participates in the Worship service. The weekend concludes with a potluck meal provided by the host congregation.



An O.A.F.C.-NW group sings at a Nursing Home in Lebanon, Oregon

The most gratifying aspect of O.A.F.C. is the impact the program has on the youth involved. Of Ambassadors involved in the program for 2 years or more, 60% go on to full-time church work as adults. Teenagers sharing their love for Christ through monthly weekends grow in their faith and encourage others to do the same. A visit from a travel team can inspire a stagnant youth program into increased participation and attendance. Often youth that we meet have not experienced other teenagers who are excited about sharing all that Jesus has done for each of us. Parents are often surprised at how bold in faith their children become through sharing the gospel with other youth.

In summary, a visiting O.A.F.C. team provides great value in terms of outreach to the community, identifying prospective members for the host church, and in ministry to local nursing homes, all for the nominal cost of weekend housing and potluck meals for the youth involved.

The Northwest team of O.A.F.C. will gladly come to any LC-MS church in the Northwest district. For more information or to schedule a weekend, contact Matt Kindred at: (503) 472-0144, or E-mail him at mattk@onlinemac.com.

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 7-12 at the Christ Lutheran Retreat Center at Belfair, WA (Hood Canal area). Registration cost is \$140. Contact Pastor John Schmidt at Kscopenow@cs.com or (253) 584-2565 for more information!

Youth with a Calling?

Our two seminaries have scheduled special events for those considering a call into full time church work. Check out [Christ Academy 2002](#), at Concordia, Ft. Wayne from June 16-29, 2002 and [Exploring Church Careers Event \(ECCE\)](#) scheduled for Aug. 3-6, 2002 on the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, campus.

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K-scope!

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