



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.

July 2002 - Volume 3, Issue 7

- **Bad News and Good News!**
- **Youth Ministry Helps!**

Looking at
the results
from the
survey taken
at the 2001
Synodical
Youth
Gathering in
New
Orleans....

The
challenge set
before you
today....

Bad News and Good News!

"I've got good news and I've got bad news." This classic type of joke was one of my favorite types of humor when I was growing up. You always knew that no matter how good the "good news" was, the "bad news" would always trump it. Looking at the results from the survey taken at the 2001 Synodical Youth Gathering in New Orleans . . . I've got good news and I've got bad news!

"If the results of a poll taken at this year's National LC-MS Youth Gathering are any indication, young people in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are spending less time in Bible study or devotions (bad news) but consider themselves active in the Church (good news), pretty much agree with the Synod's strong stands against abortion and sex outside of marriage (good news), but seem somewhat more accepting of homosexuality (bad news)." — from a press release of the LC-MS Board for Communication Services.

I've got good news and I've got bad news! The good news is that someone (Lutheran Youth Fellowship) thought to ask a portion of our Synod's youth some tough questions. The bad news is: "does anyone care what they answered?" The good news is that many of their responses were in tune with the will of God. The bad news is that other responses seem to echo what the world is preaching. The good news is that the results of this poll are available to us. The bad news is our hesitancy to use this poll or its results to engage our young saints in active discussion, teaching and growth.

The challenge set before you today is to use the poll and its results as tools to bring the Scriptures to your youth in places in their lives "where the rubber hits the road." HOW?

- Copy the poll from the web site below and share it with your group. Then discuss the results with them. How did they compare with the National sample? Were they surprised by any of the questions or results? Which questions were the most difficult to answer? How hard was it to answer the poll honestly?
- Check out the "things that concern me" section of the poll (question #35) and focus Scripture and attention on those topics that drew the most concern;
- Use areas of misunderstanding of (or disagreement with) Biblical truths as topics for study and discussion;
- Equip and train your youth to share those areas of strength with their unbelieving friends;

The Good News is the Gospel of Jesus Christ which answers the concerns and needs of all ages and all saints.

Youth Ministry Helps

- Allow a leader from among the group to choose a topic and make a presentation or lead a Bible study; and
- Above all, remember that “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (The New International Version, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House 1984.)

“I’ve got good news and I’ve got bad news.” The bad news is that we tend to shy away from real discussion on tough issues. Are we afraid that the Bible alone is insufficient? The bad news is found in our surrender to the world on social issues and opinions. The Good News is the Gospel of Jesus Christ which answers the concerns and needs of all ages and all saints. The Good News announces the Lord’s forgiveness for where our opinions divert from His truth and His will. The Good News is life, mind, and soul changing. Hey, I guess I was wrong – there are times when the Good News trumps the bad!

The press release quoted above serves as a very good summary of the poll. You can access the release by going to www.lcms.org/news/2001_095.html. If you’re interested in the poll itself, you can find it at <http://dcs.lcms.org/?s=youth> – click on LYF on the left side, the poll is then available about 2/3 of the way down the page.

- [Mark Adams](#), Pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hermiston, OR and a member of Northwest District Youth Task Force.

Find past issues of Youth Supports at:
<http://www.nowlcms.org/Youth/ysupportslist.html>

Youth Ministry Consultants in Your Area

Youth Ministry consultants help you to either fine tune your youth ministry, refresh it or get you started on a complete overhaul. Contact Dick Weniger at the district office at 503/288-8383 or email him at <dickw@nowlcms.org> for more information on how a Youth Ministry Consultant can help you and your congregation!

The Department of Youth Ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has several Internet resources available to you.

One of the items is a monthly E-Bulletin to “provide current information on youth events, resources, updates, plus various & sundry items of interest to youth workers (and youth) of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.” To subscribe to the Youth Ministry E-Bulletin send this message: SUBSCRIBE E-BULLETIN to MAILSERV@crf.cuis.edu.

To unsubscribe send the message: UNSUBSCRIBE to MAILSERV@crf.cuis.edu.

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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