



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.

March 2004 - Volume 5, Issue 3

- The Youth Could Do That!
- *New youthEsource* resource from Synod
- Kaleidoscope! A Great Week!

...someone  
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## The Youth Could Do That!

“I know, THE YOUTH could do that!” I was at a building committee meeting, and we needed someone to take the siding off the old building and pull out all the nails just in case we wanted to use it again. Another time, someone wanted THE YOUTH to move all the junk out of the garage so that we could paint the floor, and another time polish the silverware. You know what? THE YOUTH were not to interested in doing any of those things. I wonder why?

Over the 27 years I have been a DCE, I have found our young people to be a tremendous asset to the church when they are challenged to serve in meaningful service. Each of us wants to serve God using our gifts and talents—perhaps even doing something that few other people can do. Young people of our churches are no different. They are willing and able to do their part in God's kingdom. It is our responsibility as youth workers to find or create those positions and then match young people with them. This takes time and work!

I served a congregation in Wisconsin for eleven years. By the end of that time, of the 32 “eligible youth” 28 were involved in serving the Lord on a regular bases. But you know what? None of them were pulling nails or polishing the silver! These were some areas of service that worked well:

- We had an excellent Faith Inkubators program. (See *Youth Supports* January 2004) My teaching staff included six workers in senior high school. They were wonderful leaders, especially in small group discussion. While we adults could not even remember what it was like to be in 7th grade, they could. They were treasured teachers in that program and they knew it was meaningful work.
- We staffed a food pantry one night a week. It was hard work and sometimes we saw people in difficult situations, but several high school students did an excellent job staffing the food pantry.
- We had a team of boys that loved to take turns running our massive sound system, with its 700 knobs, slides and switches! They stood in the balcony

Others sang with several adults on the contemporary music team...

The word is *meaningful!*

*youthEsource*  
resource!

*K-Scope!*  
*It's where you*  
*belong!*

with earphones on as though they controlled a rock concert.

- Others sang with several adults on the contemporary music team that led worship once a month. They did their part and we also listened to their ideas.
- Some of my best Sunday School Teachers have been in high school. They worked hard, they related well, and they were good teachers.

Of course we had all the usual acolytes, ushers, choir members, and coffee servers, but young people also served on a number of church boards where their input was valuable.

The word is *meaningful!* As youth workers and church leaders, it is our job to be on the lookout for such positions and young people who would be the right fit. Not every person can do every job; what is meaningful to one person may not be to another.

When I was in high school, youth ministry consisted of a group of kids that met twice a month. We had officers and certain activities that the adults set up for us. Today youth ministry is youth involvement in the entire church life. Well-meaning people often say, "We have to take care of our youth, they are the church of tomorrow." No, that is not true! They are the church of today and we had better be sure they are involved in the overall activity of the Kingdom of God.

—Dave Sauer, Director of Christian Education at Grace Church in Eugene, Oregon <[David@glchurch.org](mailto:David@glchurch.org)>

Find past issues of Youth Supports at:

[http://www.nowlcms.org/educational\\_services/NetworkingMinistries/YouthSupports.aspx](http://www.nowlcms.org/educational_services/NetworkingMinistries/YouthSupports.aspx)

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## Want Some Ideas for Your Youth Program?

The Board of Youth Ministry for the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with a grant from Thrivent started a new electronic youth ministry resource available for free on the internet. Check out <[www.youthesource.com/](http://www.youthesource.com/)> The web page is not just for adults, but for youth too with a number of links to other great web sites. Pass it on to your own youth!

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## Kaleidoscope - "It's Where You Belong!"

This year's K-Scope is scheduled for July 11-16 at the Christ Lutheran Retreat Center on the Olympic Peninsula near Belfair, Washington. This creative adventure in living the Christian community (Romans 12) is a six-day experience in spiritual growth for high school youth of the Northwest District. Contact Rev. John Schmidt at <[PJPix2000@cs.com](mailto:PJPix2000@cs.com)> or at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Tacoma, Washington, (253)584-2565.

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