



A service of the
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Youth Supports

A resource to encourage and empower youth
leaders for the expansion of the Lord's kingdom.

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- How Are You Touching Lives?
- Check out Servant Event Possibilities

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How Are You Touching Lives?

The other night a friend and I were talking about my internship and whether or not I was going to accept the offered call to stay at this church or if I was going to leave. He asked me a plethora of thought-provoking questions! "What does this church offer you?" "How do you fit in?" "What would you miss most if you left?" "What are you unhappy with here?" "What things would you change?" But perhaps the greatest question he offered was this: "How have you influenced the youth in your ministry?" Rare as it may be, I was struck silent. How do I answer that question? How does *any leader* answer that question? Then I realized something: I didn't want to. At this point, I don't ever want to be able to answer that question. Let me explain.

The reason I wanted to go into DCE ministry, initially, was because I didn't really want to grow up. I assumed that a DCE just hung out with kids all day; how bad could that be? Concordia, Seward, fortunately knocked that thought process out of me right away. Luckily I was able to find a reason: I was going into the ministry because I wanted to be used as a tool that would affect and challenge peoples' faith lives. That's what my youth leaders did for me when I was growing up. They challenged me, helped me grow and were constantly there for me when I needed them. They allowed me to explore options and opportunities. They allowed me to plan events, big and small, for our group. They took me and my ideas seriously. They brought openness, trust and honesty into the relationship—things I'm eternally grateful for learning. These are the reasons I wanted to be a DCE.

Now, if it sounds like I've answered the question, you're right, BUT I answered the question for *my* youth leaders, not myself. The way I see it, if I can list off the ways I've touched the youth in my ministry, I'm taking the glory away from the One who truly deserves it. After all, He is the one who brought me to this place, to this time, and to this ministry. He is the One who gives me the strength to daily continue

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E-Newsletter from Synod Board of Youth Ministry

Servant Event Possibilities

youthEsource resource!

on this path of service. He is the One who gives me the words to say in times of trouble, joy and plain old sleepiness.

“If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.” (1 Peter 4:11)

So the next time a friend sits on the couch next to me and asks, “So, how have you affected the youth in your ministry?” I’ll be able to look them square in the eye and say, “I don’t know”, and I’ll be okay with that. Someday, maybe one of my youth will come back to tell me the ways I impacted their lives and then I’ll know the ways that God has touched their lives through me. In the end, isn’t that our goal?

—Jamie Jennemann, DCE intern, at St. John Lutheran Church in Palmer, Alaska. <dce@st-john-lutheran.org>

Find past issues of Youth Supports at:

http://www.nowlcms.org/educational_services/YouthSupports.aspx

E-Newsletter from Synod Board of Youth Ministry

The Board of Youth Ministry for the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has a monthly e-bulletin with youth ministry information. To subscribe to it, go to <http://www.lcms.org/enews/> and follow the directions.

Check Out Servant Event Possibilities

The Board of Youth ministry coordinates and helps to publicize Servant Events hosted by LC—MS congregations and groups. The new list for summer 2005 events is now available. Find out what possibilities there are for your group at <dcs.lcms.org/youth>.

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/> 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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