



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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- Beepicheep
- www.youthsource.com

...the
ultimate
startup
ministry: The
Internet
Church.

We were told
to dream big
and we did.

Beepicheep

More than five years ago, a group of DCEs, district executives, pastors and interested lay people met in the living room of Ed Krueger, Mission Executive for the California-Nevada-Hawaii District to talk about the ultimate startup ministry: The Internet Church.

We were told to dream big and we did. We dreamed of a single site with active hubs staffed 24/7 by volunteers in each of the 35 districts ready to be there with a comforting, caring – and local – “voice.” We dreamed of someday being able to connect people to Christ – and other Christians – using our words, our hearts and our minds. We dreamed of serving communion to those who can’t get to church online. Before you scoff, ask yourself, have you ever prayed over the phone? Ever been to a big church where you saw the elements consecrated in a cry room TV screen?

Our core doctrines included:

- “Virtual is Real,” meaning real relationships can be formed apart from person-to-person;
- “Quality or Bust,” meaning it was no longer good enough just to be good enough – we had to be outstanding to be noticed on the highly competitive Internet; and
- “A New Creation Every Day,” meaning we needed to be creative or relevant enough to give people a reason to return every day, or at least regularly.

And how exactly is that different from the way we serve in our churches now?

Are we striving for real relationships in different ways? Has “It’s good enough for Sunday” replaced “It’s good enough for government work” as the new byword for garbage? Are we providing for our youth something vibrant enough for them to invite their friends to?

This is the normal part in the article for me to brag about the way I’m doing things at my church, and “Aren’t you pathetic for not thinking of it first?” I could trot out a few things I’m happy with in my ministry, but I’m probably not much different than you. I’m trying a few new things here and there, running things up the proverbial flagpole. Sometimes they salute, sometimes they don’t. Nor do I have a Panacea Bible Verse – that’s another trick authors use – that will bring 21st Century ideas that’s supposed to solve all our ministry problems.

No, this article is not really about the Internet, it’s not really about my ministry, and it’s not about your ministry – and here’s a shocker – it’s not even really about Jesus, although ultimately I guess it is, if you are able to gain some courage from it.

Because courage is what this article is about. And when I think of courage, I

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Beepicheep.

E-Newsletter from Synod Board of Youth Ministry

Servant Event Possibilities

youthEsource resource!

think of mice, specifically, Reepicheep the mouse from CS Lewis' *Narnia Tales*.

Reepicheep is the ultimate chivalrous, courageous character. I admired him above all other characters in those stories for his willingness to rush headlong into a battle despite the odds against someone of his stature being able to affect the outcome. Reepicheep is pure courage.

So when it comes time to stand up for a new ministry idea you believe in, especially regarding the Internet, be Reepicheep. When it comes time to sit down with your praise band and say, "Guys, this is really not working because I feel that the quality of our musicianship is not attracting people to our church," be Reepicheep. When it comes time to throw out the old ministry and the popular programs that are spiritually detrimental, be Reepicheep. Is that event (ski/mission/famine) more because you like it, or because it's doing your youth some actual good. Be Reepicheep.

Or, to shorten it further, Beepicheep.

Hmm. Maybe Beepicheep.com...?

—Tim Ihssen admits he has been a burr in the rear of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for 13 years. He is currently serving as a DCE at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Tacoma, WA. <bobbbeeflips@yahoo.com>

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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