



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 2005 - Volume 6, Issue 7

- Summoned to Serve? Get Oxygen!
- **K-Scope!**

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## Summoned to Serve? Get Oxygen!

I remember my first airplane flight in the 60's. It was a quick way to travel from the midwest to the East Coast for a Christmas at home. I remember the sight from the window seat. I could hardly take my eyes off the clouds with the piercing sun weaving through the late afternoon sky. Below the cities, towns and farm houses dotted the landscape. The rivers, fields and crops painted a picture hard to forget for this teenager. It was an awesome view of God's creation.

I must admit that now there are times I close the window shade and have little interest in what lies outside the plane. I don't know when that first began to happen, but I know that I have taken the beauty of God's creation for granted. I don't mean to do that, I just have other things on my mind. I even have an MP3 player that has an abundance of music soothing to my ears. Add a portable DVD player to make the time move more quickly on a three hour flight. Rather than enjoying the experience I endure it. I talk with a lot of travelers and the story is similar.

I had become a stale airplane traveler. There have been times when I became a stale worker in God's kingdom.

There is a lot to be said about the instructions given by the flight attendant before the flight begins. He or she commands us in case of an emergency to put the oxygen mask on before we assist the child next to us. This makes sense in church work. We must be healthy before we can help others.

Begin in Prayer and God's Word. Translated: Get on your knees on a regular basis. Open and read God's Word. You already have the resources on your shelf. I have never met a church worker who didn't have a moment or more in life when they acknowledged a distance from God when it came to prayer. Find a time to pray and study. It is time to get the Breath of Life!

There is a roller coaster ride that professional church workers experience. In the past 6 years I have sensed that those having the most ups and downs have been director's of Christian education. It is hard to stay up when you are doing it by yourself. There is no character in either the Old or New Testament that succeeded on their own. Then and now we must seek God's will and help.

Prayer and  
study of God's  
Word is  
essential.

E-Newsletter  
from Synod

Servant Event  
Possibilities

Ideas for Your  
Youth  
Program?

It takes healthy church workers, those on oxygen, to be there for children and families. I have yet to meet an unhealthy church worker who conducted a sustainable ministry. Sooner or later, but mostly sooner, depression sets in because they are more susceptible to criticism and those sour moments. It builds and builds until the worker is knee deep in crisis. Some move on and try it again only to see similar results.

Oxygen is important...it is the breath of life! Prayer and study of God's Word is essential...it is the breath of life!

If you are gasping for oxygen and interested in the resources that are available, send me an e-mail or call. It could be a most important e-mail or call you make!

IMAGINE!

Ephesians 3:20-21 *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!*

*Amen. (NIV)*

—Dick Weniger, Director of Education Services, Northwest District LCMS  
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Find past issues of Youth Supports at:

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

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## 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.

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## 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](http://dcs.lcms.org/youth)>.

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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.youthsource.com/](http://www.youthsource.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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