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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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- Refuse to Lose!
- Youth Ministry Resources

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Refuse to Lose!

Many of us have fond memories of our college years. For me, the experience of playing on a 3-on-3 intramural basketball team was particularly meaningful. Intramural sports provided the opportunity for my friends and I, some of whom were somewhat athletically challenged, to indulge ourselves in competition absent from the classroom experience. Although it was not required, my team had a motto, "Refuse to Lose." We took basketball very seriously. During our weekly games, no matter what the score or who the opponent was, we maintained this "refuse to lose" mindset. Our glorious season ended in a two point victory in the final game. We were not only the tournament champions but we also held an undefeated record. Now, years later, my friends and I still love to reflect on our accomplishment.

As called ministers of the church and more importantly as called children of God I wonder, "Do we approach our call with the same mentality?" Jesus gives the command to every Christian in Matthew 28:19a to, "Go and make DISCIPLES of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and TEACHING them to obey everything I have commanded you." God chooses to touch lives today through common people like you and me. What an overwhelming task and privilege! Can I ask, "Do you refuse to loose?"

As we consider our mission from Christ we must examine who we are called to reach. Our call is really beyond midweek youth night and Sunday morning, but it clearly extends to all people who do not yet know Christ. Lately, I have been thinking again about that old "refuse to lose" mentality. We must stop giving in to the fact that people are dying all around us without knowing their Lord and Savior. Paul says it this way in 2 Corinthians 5:16, "So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer." Everyone you lock eyes with through out the day is valuable to Christ.

For me working with youth who are engulfed in their own teenage worlds, I struggle with how to reach students in a tangible and relevant way. Maybe you feel

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that way too. If we are to reach people of the world then we must get in touch with the culture they live in. I am not suggesting the church adopt popular culture but engage it for the sake of the Gospel. We must gain a hearing ear for the needs of our community, families, and students. In order to truly do so, we may need to step outside the "normal" boundaries of youth ministry. I am not enamored by the culture, but I am responsible for the Great Commission. Christians should not conform to the world they live in, but they must understand it to know their audience. In other words, we must stop at nothing and refuse to lose in order to share the Gospel with God's lost children.

Do you know what the youth in your community are interested in? Do you know what they do away from their time at church? Are you aware of the trends? Are you afraid to explore their world? Christ gave us an example of a man who immersed himself in people's lives: the good, the bad and the ugly. He did this in order to touch their souls and truly teach them about love and forgiveness. As messengers of Christ's awesome love, let us follow his example, get our feet wet, our hands dirty, and start doing real life changing ministry. There is no one unreachable. I'm going to refuse to lose. I'm not just playing church. I'm challenging my students beyond their comfort zone. What about you?

—Bobby Walston, Director of Student Ministries, Faith Lutheran Church,
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Find past issues of Youth Supports at:

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

E-Newsletter
from Synod

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.

Ideas for Your
Youth
Program?

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/> 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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