



A service of the
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Missouri Synod

Youth Supports

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

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- One is the Loneliest Number...
- E-Newsletter help
- K-Scope '06 Information

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One is the Loneliest Number...

One of the hardest lessons to learn in ministry of any kind, Youth Ministry being no exception, is the lesson of teamwork. This is especially true of the detail-freaks and perfectionists among us. We expend long and tediously intricate hours developing the perfect plan for ministry in our congregations, and then we work the plan. Because it's OUR plan we are the only ones who know how it is supposed to work, and we are hesitant (let's say ferociously and territorially defensive) about allowing anyone else into our finely tuned theater of operations because they, having far less experience with the plan than us, and far less investment in the plan than us, are sure to mess it up by doing things differently than we would do them if we were the ones doing everything ourselves.

For a while we can pull it off, because we are young and strong and determined, with a library full of great ideas and resources, and energy to spare. We get used to receiving the accolades that come with a job well done, and the undying admiration, and sometimes adoration, of the youth and families we so willingly and tirelessly serve. It feels good to be the one in charge and the one responsible for all the great things happening in our areas of ministry. And then the unthinkable happens - our opportunities for ministry expand. Not that that's a bad thing in itself, we want our ministry to expand. But it expands beyond our ability to maintain on a personal level. Because we have always been the one in charge, we struggle to keep up with growing demands on our time, resources, and energy. Pretty soon, we find ourselves running a little behind, then a little more behind, then flat out late, from event to event, gradually compromising the scope and quality of the things we do so that we can still manage to stay personally in charge of an ever-widening ministry plan until we wake up one morning and look in the mirror to discover that we have spread ourselves so thin we can see through ourselves!

Ok - actually, that's a recurring nightmare I used to have in the early days of my ministry. Then I read Ephesians 4:12 and figured something out. God has gifted us and placed us in ministry to serve, yes, but also to equip, nurture, and grow other people to serve with us. Trying to do everything yourself is the quickest way to fatigue and burnout. We serve a faithful God. He put you where you are because He knows what you can do, and He, at least, expects that when you put your gifts to use with His guidance, your ministry will grow beyond your ability to handle it all

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E-Newsletter
from Synod

K-Scope
Information!

yourself. That's why He put you in ministry with a family of believers. Somewhere among the faithful saints that surround you are other people that God has gifted and brought into your church so that you can take what you know and pass it on; so that you can share your passion, and your expertise, and your plan for ministry.

And here's the best part: those other people - they want to serve! They are looking for a way to use the gifts God has given them to build His kingdom. So all you have to do is find each other, then embrace the concept that your way is not the only way and, sometimes, maybe not even the best way, so that they will be free to use their gifts without necessarily having to squeeze them into your personal mold. You don't have to go out and recruit a full-blown Ministry Team all at once. The best Ministry Teams grow like the best Ministries - one person at a time. Find someone who is already naturally interacting with the people your ministry focuses on. Get to know them, and if they share your enthusiasm and calling, invite them to become your partner. You will have just doubled your resources, your energy, and your capacity to do ministry. I'll leave you with Ecclesiastes 3:9-12. God put us together for a reason. Learning how to share your ministry will help insure that you are able to continue doing it productively and joyfully for years to come.

—Jeff Kranich, Director of Christian Education, Hope Lutheran Church, Seattle, Washington <jkranich@hopeseattle.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.

Kaleidoscope on the Hood Canal

This year's K-Scope is scheduled for July 9-14 at the Christ Lutheran Retreat Center on the Olympic Peninsula near Belfair, Washington. This creative adventure in living the Christian community is a six-day experience in spiritual growth for high school youth of the Northwest District. Contact Rev. John Schmidt at <KScopeNOW@cs.com> or at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Tacoma, Washington, (253)584-2565. The event is limited to 35 participants. Cost is \$150.

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