



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 2006 - Volume 7, Issue 7

- An Opportunity to Share Christ's Love
- E-Newsletter help
- K-Scope '06 Information

An Opportunity to Share Christ's Love

“Well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master's happiness!” Matt 25:21

We had our plates of food in front of us and drink in hand. I organized my papers and called the meeting to order. Our parent and youth meetings usually happen after second service because it's a good time for us to gather, fellowship, and meet about needed details. Many times the little ones will stay as well and eat as we discuss upcoming events. But this meeting would be different. As I discussed the topic of developing a youth board and making sure that ministry was purpose-driven, I noticed a pair of young eyes staring intently in my direction. For story purposes I will call her Suzy. She is 5 years old and the youngest in a family of four siblings. As I continued my topic, her eyes did not leave me, and I realized that Suzy was waiting for her turn to speak. “Suzy, is there something that you would like to say?” I asked. “Yes,” replied Suzy, very matter of fact, “I want to know why when I talk to God he doesn't answer back.”

Talk about being thrown a curve ball! Suzy obviously figured since this was a meeting about God, we prayed at the beginning, than the discussion must be open to any questions. She assumed since she was at the table, she too must be invited to share what was on her heart. Well, the parents and I stumbled around for a short reply to her question in order for us to move on to “more important” details, but Suzy was not to be satisfied with a pat answer. She just restated her question, assuming that we must not have understood what she was asking. And it was then it hit me. Here we were dealing with mundane details about youth events and effective fundraising strategies and little Suzy was the only one dealing in the important matters. She was asking, “How do I get to know this God, How do I talk to Him?” She figured since we prayed, we must know the secret; we must know how to hear his voice.

In youth ministry, we are asked to manage lots of little details, events, and activities that stimulate fellowship and education. So often, if you are anything like me, you are constantly in search of the next big thing for your youth to get involved with and do. But God is not so concerned with how many events we've organized,

“I want to
know why
when I talk
to God he
doesn't
answer
back.”

“How do I
get to know
this God?
How do I talk
to Him?”

God has given
me a window
of opportunity
to share the
love of
Christ..with
each of them.

E-Newsletter
from Synod

K-Scope
Information!

Free Ideas for
Your Youth
Program!

money we've fundraised, or even phone calls we've made in any given week. He is more concerned about our faithfulness with what we've been given; not what we can invent or create outside of that. During Youth Night last Sunday evening, I told my kids that my job as youth leader was not primarily to create fun activities, even though I love playing! God has given me a window of opportunity to share the love of Christ and His desire to have a personal and intimate relationship with each of them. I must be faithful to that calling first. Now yes, only the Spirit can work faith in their hearts, but I want to make sure I'm there to help them begin or continue their conversation with God.

As the bible verse says and I paraphrase, "I must be faithful with a few things first," meaning the spiritual life of the students and servants entrusted to me, and then "God will put me in charge of many things." He will bring more students, or more helpers, more activities and more life to the ministry. After all, most of us got into youth ministry to speak life into those we come in contact with (o.k. and maybe play paintball every once in awhile) so let's be about our Father's business. Be Faithful, and watch God bring in the harvest with that faithfulness!

—Darcy Barnhart- Associate in Youth, Family, and Campus Ministry- St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Portland, Oregon. dbarnhart@cu-portland.edu

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.

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!

Except as noted, all text and photographs are © Northwest District of the Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod. All contents, except as noted, may be duplicated for use in local congregations as long as the source is noted. If you have any comments or responses for this publication, please contact Glenn Zander, 2142 NE McDonald Lane, McMinnville, OR 97128 <forgivn@stjohnmac.org>