



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.

January 2007 - Volume 8, Issue 1

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...all things can be done through Him, the source of all power.

The Power and Making a Difference

I was going to finish this article on Friday morning, December 15, 2006, but God had other plans. We lost our electrical power (which I always take for granted) on Thursday evening, December 14, at 11:00 p.m. at home and in our church buildings. At times, we take the Power of God for granted also.

People take electrical power for granted. We see the effects of electrical power through the lights in our homes, the cold refrigerators and freezing freezers, and the heat and warmth that the furnace gives off. When we lose power just as I did on December 14th, we as humans have a tendency to moan and complain about how miserable life is without electrical power.

God has shown the people of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Tacoma that they do not need to have a heated sanctuary or a pipe organ to worship God. This was shown to them on Sunday, December 17 as the church buildings were still without power. The two services were held across the street in the Concordia Lutheran School gymnasium which was operating on half power. This was the Sunday morning that the Children's and Youth Christmas Service was to be held. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the youth and leaders demonstrated that all things can be done through Him, the source of all power.

Those of us who serve in Youth Ministry sometimes feel that we are not making an impact in the lives of the youth and their families whom we serve in the name of Jesus. God, in his time, shows us in many ways and through many people how we make an impact in the lives of the people whom we serve.

When I did my internship in Superior, Wisconsin from 1999 to 2000, God showed me in his time that I was, through the power of the Holy Spirit, making a difference in someone's life.

It all started when I met a special family. The mother had three children from a previous marriage. She was divorced and had married a single man who had never been married. Together, they had two more children.

The oldest child was in the alternative high school after becoming involved in drugs and alcohol. He had been arrested for drug possession, robbery, and

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Ideas for Your Youth Program?

vandalism. I visited with him in the county jail several times and counseled with the family. The time in the county courthouse was a challenge during the trials and sentencing. He ended up in drug and alcohol treatment in Superior, and at times he was able to join us for youth activities at the church.

In my human mind, I never thought that he would be joining us for worship services. However, God showed me that I was wrong through his power and his time. One Sunday morning is when God showed me that he is powerful and in control. Our pastor, one of the elders, and I were doing the communion distribution. I was distributing the bread, followed by the individual cups and the common cup. The young man was the first to be served with the bread. When he and I made eye contact, we both knew that the Holy Spirit was in total complete control. The two of us could barely hold back tears of joy.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, he has been off drugs and alcohol since 2000. He graduated from the University of Michigan in May of 2006 with a Bachelor's Degree in Biopsychology with high honors. He manages one of the floors of the research building at the university and is planning to continue his education in a Doctoral Program, probably in Psychology.

When I remember the situation that happened in Superior, Wisconsin, it shows me the remarkable Power of God. This situation and others remind me that sometimes we are able to see an end result. God uses us as his conduits to make a difference in the lives of the youth and families whom we serve.

I challenge each and every one of you to remember an outcome of ministry where you experienced a result, positive or a negative. God is our Power Source, in both positive and negative situations. His power never goes off! As far as electrical power, be thankful for the power that we have in our homes, churches, and businesses. Be thankful even when the power goes out! God's Spiritual Power is teaching us trust Him in all things.

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Find past issues of Youth Supports at:

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

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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