



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.

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Youth Ministry ... for the Long Haul

I can still remember my first Sunday on my internship. I was scheduled to do the Children's message at the 8:00 and 10:45 services. I was very nervous and anxious about being in front of this new community that I was going to serve. This was to be my first "public ministry appearance". My roommate walked in to my room at 7:50 a.m. and asked me if I was supposed to be at church. I flew out of my bed and realized my alarm didn't go off! I had 10 minutes to look presentable and get to the other side of town. This was the first time this had ever happened to me in my life and it has never happened again. There were many thoughts running through my head that morning, some even wondering if this would also be my last Sunday on my internship.

Ministry involves so many different elements, and how we minister to people interweaves with our past experiences and how God has worked in our lives. A wise Pastor I know always says, "God does not waste our experiences." To be in youth ministry, or any ministry, for the long haul there needs to be the confidence that God has called us to serve in the area we are serving and is providing us with the gifts we need to accomplish His purpose. I believe that God has given each of us a heart and passion to serve Him in a specific area, whether we are paid or volunteer, and that we need to honor that passion that God has created within us. The passion God has instilled in me is to work with youth.

One of my most treasured verses is Philemon 6, "I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing that we have in Christ." There are many ups and downs in ministry. There are mountain top experiences and there are valleys that sometimes seem extra low. The ultimate purpose in all that we do is to share Christ with others so that they may have a relationship with God and enter His eternal Kingdom. If there were one thing

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Ideas for
your youth
program!

E-Newsletter
from Synod
Board of
Youth
Ministry

I could share with anyone serving in any ministry area, it would be that ministry is about relationships! The more we share Christ the more we come to know Christ ourselves. The more we allow God to use our past experiences, the more we can relate to others and be real to them.

I made it to church at 8:07 a.m. that first morning. I learned an important lesson that day. God is faithful, and he puts people in our lives to support us, walk with us, and pray with us. No matter how “late” we are, how inadequate we sometimes feel, or how low the valleys get, God is walking with us. He uses the past, encourages us in the present, and leads us in to the future so that in Him we can be in it for the long haul as we share His faithfulness with others!

– Maria Brovick, Minister of Youth and Families, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <mbrovick@redeemerlive.org>

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!

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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