



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.

October 2007 - Volume 8, Issue 10...

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I took off  
my Superman  
cape...

"God, I can't  
do it...you do  
it."

## How Good Are You?

I took off my Superman cape and reluctantly hung it in the closet many years ago. The cape nor I have been near a phone booth since. The temptation is always there.

My first year of youth ministry had been very exciting and the response had been incredible. I was spending hours above and beyond expectation. Programs and projects just seemed to fall into place. So when a member recommended we take on a special project, I was eager to get started. The project was to raise funds to purchase a piano for the Waterfront Rescue Mission in our city. We would raise \$1500 in three months and present the piano at their annual fund raising banquet.

While things had come easy before this, we soon were faced with problems. Our spaghetti dinner actually lost money. We couldn't sell enough candy to make a good profit. Donations were nonexistent. Two weeks from the banquet and we had less money than when we started.

Following our most recent failure, I began my morning as I usually did, in prayer, kneeling at the communion rail. My tone with God was different. I was failing and angry. My prayer was short and to the point, "God, I can't do it, if you want those people to have a piano, you do it." I prepared myself for a humbling experience. I walked out of the church that morning and met an old friend. "I been meaning to help with your project," he said as he handed me a check. For five days, person after person, brought donations large and small. The piano was delivered on time. My prayers since have frequently been "God, you do it! I'll be here to help"

How often do we dive into project or situations as if we possess a superman cape? In doing so, we not only ignore the help of God but we bring undeserved attention to ourselves. We all like to have that pat on the back, and it is all right to get them. However, if we depend only on our own ability, we minimize the power of God. Then there is the adversary, the devil. How did he tempt Adam and Eve? He created doubt, and doubt can be deadly.

It is not how good of a DCE you are (or volunteer, or pastor,) it is how good Jesus is that counts!"

Ideas for your youth ministry!

E-Newsletter from Synod Board of Youth Ministry

In teaching DCE's at Concordia University Portland, I frequently say to my students, "if you take only one thing away from your training, take this: It is not how good of a DCE you are (or volunteer, or pastor,) it is how good Jesus is that counts!"

May your emphasis, regardless of what you are doing, fund raising, fellowship, Bible Study, be on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Be a tool in His hand. When you do that, people will see you as pretty good at what you do.

-Dean Hansen, Director of Christian Ministries, Concordia University, Portland, OR <[dhansen@cu-portland.edu](mailto:dhansen@cu-portland.edu)>

Find past issues of Youth Supports at:

[http://www.nowlcms.org/educational\\_services//YouthSupports.aspx](http://www.nowlcms.org/educational_services//YouthSupports.aspx)

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### Want Some Ideas for Your Youth Ministry?

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/](http://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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### 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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