



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.**

November 2007 - Volume 8, Issue 11

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## Living Out Our Faith

When I was asked to write this article I was told to write it on one thing I would most want to share with those who work with our district's young people. There are a lot of lessons I have learned my first year in Olympia - lessons about trust, dedication, service, leadership, etc. But today's lesson is simply about driving the church van.

Our LWML recently took our church van to Spokane for the district LWML conference. While on the way there, a trucker saw our van driving on the road, he noticed the phone number on the side of the van, and felt compelled to leave a message that went something like this, "I just wanted to thank the people driving your church van. Too often I see buses and church vans speeding and weaving through traffic, but your drivers are obeying the rules of the road. It is so refreshing to see Christians living out their faith even on the road."

"Living out their faith even on the road!" No, I am not going to take this opportunity to talk about safe driving. Everyone with a Christian bumper sticker sometimes drives carelessly, and you don't need me to remind you or to make you feel bad about it. What I do want to talk about is "living out your faith."

I have recently been attending a Christian Life and Witnessing course in Olympia, WA in conjunction with the Franklin Graham Festival coming to Tacoma. One of the key phrases that has been driven home to us is, "Witnessing is not something we do, it is who we are." Or to paraphrasing, "Living out your faith, is not something you schedule into the calendar every second Saturday, but it is something that happens continually as a result of God's goodness and love overflowing in your life." Now to be sure, none of us do this all the time, not even us professional church workers. We sin, we repent, we are forgiven.

My question for us to ponder today is, how can we encourage our young people to go beyond doing acts of witnessing to being a witness.

We help  
young people  
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Ideas for  
your youth  
ministry!

E-Newsletter  
from Synod  
Board of  
Youth  
Ministry

- It is an act of God's Spirit alone that moves an individual to be a witness.
- We have to train and provide opportunities for young and old alike to take part in witnessing.
- We bring witnessing down to simple terms for young people to understand. Rather than talk about going door to door, we talk about inviting a friend to church.
- We help young people discover their gifts, their talents, their unique contribution to the Body of Christ.
- We model. Whether it's through engaging in service projects, inviting a nonbeliever to church, or simply obeying the speed limit, we model a Christian lifestyle and attitude.
- We confess that we are not perfect. We make mistakes, but God's witnesses do not need to be perfect. They need to be forgiven and learn to forgive.
- We rejoice. We rejoice in the ways great and small that God moves our young people to share their faith and their life in Christ with the world around them.

My prayer for each of us today is that God would equip and lead us to be witnesses, to train witnesses, and to encourage witnessing...that we as a Body of Christ may with one voice proclaim all that Christ has done for us.

*-Patrick Wilber, Director of Christian Education, Trinity Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA <[pwromans8@yahoo.com](mailto:pwromans8@yahoo.com)>*

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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