



A service of the
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Missouri Synod

Youth Supports

A resource to encourage and empower youth
leaders for the expansion of the Lord's kingdom.

March 2009 - Volume 10, Issue 3

- Pray?
- Free youth ministry resources!

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Pray?

My name is Benjamin Bauer. I am a Director of Christian Education at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Aloha, OR. My ministry responsibilities include Confirmation, JR High Youth and SR High Youth Ministry.

When Rev. Glenn Zander asked me to write an article for Youth Supports I asked him what I should write about. He basically said that I should talk about something that I have learned while in Ministry that might help out others. So here we go.

Lately I have struggled with my prayer and consequently my faith life. I have written Bible studies, prepared retreats, and worked on various projects with out bowing my head. I have not asked for guidance, help, support, or given praise to my Heavenly Father for any of the work I have done as of late. My Bible studies, my retreat, and my work has only gone as far as I could take it. And yet it can go so much further.

We tell our youth and children and even adults to pray. We say Jesus prayed. Here is what Jesus says to his disciples about prayer.

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak. — Matthew 26:41 (NIV)

His disciples do not pray and they do fall into temptation. They are more worried about their body (they fell asleep) than the spirit. Jesus prays, and he has the ability to face his accusers.

I don't want to be Jesus, but, I do want to tap into the power that I can receive

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Free
resources for
youth
ministry!

Free
newsletter
from the
Board of
Youth
Ministry!

from prayer. I want God to come and give me guidance in my studies, ministry, and time with the Youth. I want to give up control and allow the Holy Spirit to work as he wants, not as I want. Prayer is a good way for me to “step aside” and let God have his way.

Sometimes I find myself not doing the things I am teaching my students to do. Sometimes I do the things I tell them not to do. This time, I am making a change. I am in prayer before writing my studies. I am in prayer before leading a class. I give thanks to God after a session.

—Ben Bauer, Director of Christian Education, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Aloha, Oregon (thes5_11@hotmail.com)

Ed.: I had arranged for Ben to write this article several months ago and sent a "friendly reminder" to him at the beginning of February. One of the things I wrote was:

The subject is your choice. I suggest that you prayerfully answer this question to come up with the subject: "If there's just one thing I can share with those doing youth ministry, volunteer and full time, that would be blessing to them, what would it be?"

*Little did I know that the word "prayerfully" would have the impact it did!
May we all make good use of the tremendous gift of prayer!*

Find past issues of Youth Supports at:

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

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/> The web page is not just for adults, but for youth too with a number of links to other great web sites. The November site included a four part Bible study on Jesus and culture and an article on how to respond to the issue of homosexuality.

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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