



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.

June 2009 - Volume 10, Issue 6

- Change
- Free youth ministry resources!

...summer is a
time for
change.

"Jesus Christ
is the
same..."

Change

This month we begin summer, and summer is a time for change. Each and every day we face change, but it seems that especially the summer months often involve a multitude of changes. We change our clothes for warmer temperatures, we change our schedules for children being out of school, and we change our everyday routines for special vacations and summer camps.

Change can be very hard when we have to change jobs or move to a new location or we lose a good friend or relative. Yet change is inevitable. Just as much as our events and schedules change, our bodies change as well. Our hair grows, our muscles change, and maybe our waistline changes. I heard a statistic at the LCMS NW District Gathering in November 2008 that every five years the cells in our body have completely replaced themselves! So we are literally not the same people today as we were five years ago. And five years from now we will be completely different people again. Our bodies change and our friends change and our jobs change and our likes and dislikes change.

But God and His love never change. His promises written 1000's of years ago are still true today and will still be true tomorrow and next year and 200 years from now. Hebrews 13:8 reminds us that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Amidst all of the changing circumstances we face today with the economy and job loss and companies declaring bankruptcy and worldwide health concerns, we can rest in the promise that God never changes. His comfort and guidance that He gave to the Israelites in the desert and to the disciples after Jesus' death is the same comfort and support He gives to us.

We tend to worry about tomorrow and what the future will hold, but we can really never know. My mother has a sign on her refrigerator that says "Don't worry about tomorrow - God is already there." That is the truth for us today. God already knows what will happen, and He has promised to take care of us. As Matthew 6:25-33 says, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what

God never
changes, and
He is with us.

K-Scope
scheduled for
August 2-7!

Free ideas
for your
youth
ministry!

you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." When the times are tough and we don't know what tomorrow will hold, we need to seek His kingdom and His righteousness and know that He will provide.

As things around us constantly change, sometimes we just need to stop and take a moment to remember that God never changes, and He is with us. Change is inevitable so we don't need to fear it. Instead we should embrace it and get excited about the new opportunities. Each day holds new opportunities for discovering something new about ourselves and those around us and about God's goodness in everything that happens. May we live each day to the fullest!

—Becky Rumsch, Director of Christian Education Intern, Grace Lutheran Church, Pocatello, Idaho (rebalucky@yahoo.com)

Find past issues of Youth Supports at:

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

Kaleidoscope 2009

Kaleidoscope 2009 has been scheduled for Aug. 2-7 at the Delano Bay Christian Camp on Washington's Key Peninsula about 25 miles west of Tacoma. The event is for youth who are entering 10th grade in the fall of '09 through to '09 graduates. Contact Rev. John Schmidt at 253-582-4043 or Jubilate@comcast.net for more information.

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.

Except as noted, all text and photographs are © Northwest District of the Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod. All contents, except as noted, may be duplicated for use in local congregations as long as the source is noted. If you have any comments or responses for this publication, please contact Glenn Zander, 2142 NE McDonald Lane, McMinnville, OR 97128 <forgivn@stjohnmac.org>