



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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- "Why me?"
- Senior High Youth Gathering Oct. 2-4

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## "Why me?"

The book of Job seems to explore the outer limits of unfairness. God considered Job His servant and said, "There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." (*New Oxford Annotated Bible*) As a result he must endure the worst of misfortunes. At this point the dialogue between Job and his friends becomes an accusation from his friends: "You are suffering greatly because of your sins; a just, loving, and powerful God, would not punish those who do good." But can Job's suffering be as easy as that? Can the undivine ever truly understand the reasons behind suffering?

Many times when things go awry in people's lives their first thought is, "What did I do to deserve this?" Just like Job's friends we are no different. The quick fix to the problem is that somewhere along the lines someone messed up so now you're paying for it. The compassion is almost completely lost within the group of friends. Job's reply probably had a little shock and awe value in that he didn't curse God for all his suffering and pain but instead cursed the day in which he was born and wished to die so that he might still be a believer.

As teachers of the faith we often see the side of people that is broken. People come to us with problems and need help with them now. Their pain is real and suffering is immense. It's hard remembering to have faith that is so raw and real like that of Job. Over the last year this has been the hardest part for me. Hearing people's suffering has been tremendously hard. Hopefully when Christ's people come to us in pain and anguish we can

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point them to the Job story. We can remind them when his life was in horrible shambles he stood firm in his faith and instead of cursing God expanded his own faith. If Job did not suffer to the extent that he did would his relationship with God been as strong? Or would he have forgotten his blessing and let God disappear from his life? The book of Job illustrates that in the end it is not for us to try to rationalize cause of a person's suffering; God reserves that comprehension for himself. As teachers of the faith we get to help comfort and to show God's love and compassion! We can continue to point people to Jesus who suffered the most unfairly so we could have life forever!

—Brittany Closner, Director of Christian Education, Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA ([bclosner@gmail.com](mailto:bclosner@gmail.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.

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### Northwest District Senior High Youth Gathering!

The Northwest District Senior High Youth Gathering is coming up soon. It's scheduled for October 2-4 at the Washington Family Ranch in Antelope, OR. For more information contact Jeff Kranich at [jkranich@hopesseattle.org](mailto:jkranich@hopesseattle.org). The theme is *The Real World*.

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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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