



YOUTH MINISTRY E-BULLETIN

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD + OFFICE OF NATIONAL MISSION

FEBRUARY 2013

Welcome to the **Youth Ministry E-Bulletin**, an email newsletter from the LCMS Youth Ministry Office providing current information on youth events and resources in the LCMS as well as various and sundry items of interest to youth and youth workers in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Terry Dittmer, editor.

FIRST THOUGHTS . . . 350 Lutherans in distinctive green ski hats joined half-a-million marchers for the March for Life, January 25th in Washington, D.C. It was the 40th anniversary of the Supreme Court Roe vs Wade ruling that legalized abortion in the United States. LCMS Life Ministries hosted a Life Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Crystal City.

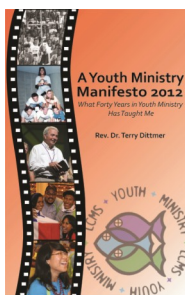


73 of those registered for the conference were youth. In speaking to the youth, Dr. Peter Scare, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, noted that while abortion is certainly a moral and ethical issue it is profoundly human. He called attention to the banners, posters and

signs the marchers carried and observed how many included pictures of babies. He noted that the March was about the 55 million babies that have been aborted since 1973. Conference participants celebrated Divine Service on Friday morning then headed for the Washington Mall for the Rally and March. Temperatures hovered in the 20's but that didn't diminish the commitment of the marchers. The passion and love for the unborn were palpable when we joined the thousands of people on the Mall. The Conference ran through Saturday with youth and adult tracks. A number of speakers referred to Life as the issue for today's Millennial generation. That was much in evidence in the number of youth on the Mall. In the 2010 LYF Youth Poll, 73% claimed to be pro-life. Obviously, though, we have work to do on the other 27%. The conference was a great step in that direction.

NEW PUBLICATION FROM TERRY DITTMER AND THE YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE . . .

A Youth Ministry Manifesto: What 40 Years in Youth Ministry Have Taught Me by LCMS Youth Director, the Rev. Dr. Terry Dittmer, has been published by the Office of National Mission—Youth Ministry. Dittmer briefly traces his own career and the history of youth ministry in the LCMS and then offers his observations about building an effective youth ministry effort in a congregation. Copies are available to download



at http://issuu.com/lcmsyouth/docs/ym_manifesto or hard copies may be requested from the Youth Ministry Office.



REGISTRATION FOR THE GATHERING REMAINS OPEN.

The Registration fee increases to \$345 on March 2. Register before the 2nd and save a few bucks. Registration remains open 'til May 1.

Looking for a **BIBLE STUDY** to use with your youth as you prepare for the Gathering? Hot off the press (on the website) is a Gathering Bible study based on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's influential book, *Life Together*. This resource will grow your group in togetherness and care for each other as you prepare for July. Find both the leader's guide and participant handout online at www.lcmsgathering.com/communitylife.

Not attending the Gathering but know a group of teens or young adults who would be interested in the *Life Together* study? Please pass the information along! A leader's guide and participant handout are available at www.lcmsgathering.com/communitylife.

We're just over 20 weeks out from the event. Wondering about the latest Gathering developments? **The Spur** provides Gathering news that 'gets to the point'. The latest issue has just been released. Beware of potential sarcasm. Read at your own risk: www.lcmsgathering.com/spur.

THE GATHERING STORE is open online (<http://www.lcmsgathering.com/Index.asp?PageID=14110>) Check it out for T-shirts, hoodies, buttons—all to make an appropriate Gathering fashion statement.

MUSICALLY TALENTED YOUTH . . . The National LCMS Youth Gathering offers a variety of ways for youth to share their gifts. Youth involved in voice, music, or dance are encouraged to be a part of the Gathering's choir, liturgical dance ensemble, or wind symphony as part of the Gathering's Divine Service. Other congregational youth music groups can apply to lead an evening time of prayer and praise as part of Gathering nightlife. Encourage your youth to find out more information and apply at www.lcmsgathering.com/youth.

SERVANT EVENTS for summer 2013 remain open for registration. Check out the opportunities at <http://servantevents.lcms.org/>

MASTER CALENDAR—[CLICK HERE](#) . . . We try to keep track of the kinds of youth events being presented across the synod in district and university settings. The master calendar, as we know it, can be found [here](#). Also, click on the websites of other youth ministry partners which can be found in the indicia box to the right.

NEW WEBSITE UNLEASHED! . . . www.lcmsYAM.org is designed to support your post-high school young adults. Often in need of encouragement, point them to our revamped Web site. Find blogs, podcasts, useful links, FAQs, videos, devotions and Bible studies. Send an email blast to all your former youth and point them to our site.

NEW AT *thESource* . . . Go to www.youthESource.com for the latest in practical youth ministry resources. [Don't Forget the Word](#), by Bo Chapman, sharing the Gospel is one of the most important things we can do. [Pentecost Worship Outline](#), by Beth Niggemeyer, use this worship outline for a special Pentecost worship experience. [Easter Bible Study: He is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!](#), by Candice Hill. Take a fresh look at the Resurrection account this Easter and get a renewed appreciation of what God did that Sunday morning. Devotion: [Dark Times](#), by Bo Chapman. Even in the darkest of times, God is with us. Betwixt: Middle School Ministry: [Phrases Youth Leaders Never Want to Hear](#), by Cassie Moore. "That was today?" and other phrases you never like to hear, and how to respond. Youth Ministry Classics: [Bible Study: My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?](#) God never forsakes us. So, what do we do when we feel forsaken?

TEENS AND TRENDS . . .

Physical Activity Key for Teenagers . . . Does being physically active really make a difference in teenagers' lives? Yes, say researchers. In comparing teenagers who were physically active versus those who were sedentary (and spent more time in front of screens), researchers found that young people who were physically active had a higher quality of life. The higher quality of life involved their physical body, their emotional life, their social life, and their school life (*Pediatrics*, "Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviors and Health-Related Quality of Life in Adolescents," June 11, 2012).

The Upside and Downside of Christianity . . . Young people have mixed feelings about Christianity today. On one hand, 76 percent say that Christianity has "good values and principles." Yet, 62 percent say that Christianity today is "judgmental," and 64 percent say that contemporary Christianity is "anti-gay" (*Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs*, "A Generation in Transition: Religion, Values, and Politics among College-Age Millennials," April 19, 2012).

More Teens Having Oral Sex . . . More teenagers are having oral sex before having sexual intercourse, say researchers at the Centers for Disease Control. For teenagers between the ages of 15 and 17, 12.5 percent of males have had oral sex and no intercourse. Eight percent of teenager girls have had oral sex and no intercourse. Twenty-seven percent of males and 24 percent of females have had both whereas only 7 percent of girls and 5 percent of guys have only had sexual intercourse without any oral sex (*USA Today*, "Teen Oral Sex Rates Reflect a 'Hierarchical Reordering,'" August 16, 2012).

What Does Your Church Budget? . . . George Barna reports that churches typically budget only 3% of its budget on ministry to/with teenagers and 2 percent on ministry to children. (*Futurecast: What Today's Trends Mean for Tomorrow's World*, Tyndale House Publishers, Copyright © 2011 by George Barna.)

In just a few days, as I write, we will have observe Ash Wednesday. May God bless your Lenten journey to the cross and empty tomb.



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The LCMS Youth Ministry Office regularly reviews events, resources, program and information from a variety of non-LCMS sources for the purpose of informing and resourcing our readers. In citing any of these, the YMO does not mean to imply an endorsement of the entire editorial or theological opinion of the source organization. Bulletin readers are advised to use their discretion in the use of these materials or participation in such events.

The LCMS Youth Ministry Staff: Rev. Dr. Terry Dittmer, Director; Rev. Mark Kiessling, Associate Director for the National LCMS Youth Gathering; Jim Lohman, DCE, Associate Director for Gathering Arrangements and LCMS Servant Events; Krista Miller, Associate Director, Gathering Registrar and Operations Manager; Amy Gray, Projects Coordinator; Rev. Steven Cholak, Project Coordinator, - Special Ministries and Megan Loomis, DCE, Assistant Gathering Registrar.

The Youth Ministry Office is a ministry area of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, Office of National Mission; LCMS Youth Ministry Websites: www.lcms.org/youth; [Lutheran Youth Fellowship](http://www.lcms.org/youth); LCMS Servant Events: <http://servantevents.lcms.org>; National Youth Gathering: www.lcmsgathering.com; *thESource*: www.youthESource.com; Young Adult Ministry: www.lcmsyam.org; Youth Ministry Office: 1-800-248-1930, ext. 1155; Email: youth.ministry@lcms.org; LCMS Campus Ministry: www.lcms.org/lcmsU LCMS website: <http://www.lcms.org>.

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Recognized Service Organizations and other youth ministry resources include Campus Ministry (www.lcmscampusministry.org/StudentConnect.php); Higher Things, (www.HigherThings.org); Five:14 from Lutheran Hour Ministries (www.lhm.org/five14/); Octane (www.octaneministry.com); Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ (www.oafc.org); Phil's Friends (www.philsfriends.org) and a number of Lutheran camps. Check their websites for more information.

