



YOUTH MINISTRY E-BULLETIN

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD + OFFICE OF NATIONAL MISSION

MAY/JUNE 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.

—LIVE LOVE(D)—

2013 National LCMS Youth Gathering July 1-5 + San Antonio, Texas

QUOTE OF THE MONTH . . . “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. **This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him.** This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.” (1 John 4:7-12)

FIRST THOUGHTS . . . 25,000 youth and adults are preparing to make their way to San Antonio for the 12th National LCMS Youth Gathering. Most of these people have been making preparations for the better part of three years. It's exciting! It can be a life changing event. Over the five days of the Gathering, youth, adults, volunteers and hundreds of program people will consider what it means to **LiveLove(d)**.

+ At the Gathering you will explore the meaning of love as you consider that each participant is a “*Beloved*” child of God and a part of God's whole community of believers.

+ You will look at the idea of being “*deloved*” and how sin separates us from the love of God and twists and distorts our lives with all kinds of temptations and cravings.

+ You will be reassured of God's love in Jesus' suffering death and resurrection as you consider “*LOVE Lived*” and how Christ is the embodiment of God's love, truly the love of God in

flesh and blood.

+ “*Live LOVED*” considers our Christian identity formation begun in baptism when God lays His claim on us in water and Word and we become children of God.

+ Which brings us to “*Live LOVE*” where we will consider how we live for Jesus, empowered by His Spirit and live out acts of service which He has prepared for us.

We pray safe travel for all who are coming to San Antonio or another youth ministry or servant event. May God bless and be with us that we are nurtured in the faith in Jesus Christ.

EVERYTHING UP TO DATE . . . Get the latest on the Gathering on the Website: <http://lcmsyouthgathering.com/>

2013 Youth Gathering Offering: Part of the 10/10 Movement

On Thursday morning, July 4, at the National Youth Gathering Divine Service worship, Gathering participants will have the unique opportunity to make a contribution to the Gathering Offering. The offering is a way to support a variety of ministries and resources from the blessings with which God has blessed us. Gathering participants are challenged to bring \$10 for the offering in thanksgiving to God.

The Offering will support a variety of ministry opportunities:

- Offering dollars will support servant event projects at

the Gathering providing tools, equipment and supplies to assist in funding service projects across San Antonio.

- Support will be given to provide Eutychus outreach grants through which church youth groups can apply for up to \$5,000 to reach out to teenagers with the Gospel. (Learn more about these grants at <http://gatheringgrants.lcms.org/>.)
- A gift will be made to the Texas District for a youth ministry oriented project.
- Offering dollars will support **thESource**, a youth ministry online resource provided free to anybody wanting to use solid youth ministry materials, a mission and ministry publication that reaches beyond the Lutheran church. (www.youthesource.com.)
- A grant will be made to support LCMS Young Adult Ministry initiatives for post-high-school men and women. (<http://LCMSyam.org>.)
- Support will be provided for special projects, including potential international projects.
- And finally, the offering will provide to the LCMS Southern District a legacy grant toward continuing efforts to rebuild New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

The Gathering Offering is a way to support the ministry of the Gospel in some creative and useful ways. Checks should be made out to the National LCMS Youth Gathering and noted for "Offering" on the memo line.

The Gathering Offering is one of two great ways to support Gospel outreach in the US and around the world. Join the 10/10 movement and join the thousands of Gathering participants in making a gift of \$10 to the Gathering Offering and \$10 to the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. (Want to know more about LMI, go to: www.lcmsgathering.com/LMI.)

Those who watch the service online Thursday morning will have opportunity to support the offering through a "give now" button. Watch the live stream at www.lcmsgathering.com.

Free Online Gathering Resources

Many resources are available online to assist congregational groups in preparation for July. Please visit www.lcmsgathering.com/communitylife to find the following Pre-Gathering Bible studies:

- LiveLove(d) Introductory Bible studies
- Living Love(d) Together, a book study based on *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- The Live Love(d) Thematic & Scriptural Study: A Primer of First John
- Packing for the Gathering
- Commissioning Service for sending participants on their way (coming soon)

- Communion Study: Living Love(d) at the Lord's Table

Visit www.lcmsgathering.com/downloads to find:

- Recorded informational webinars
- Pre-Gathering promotional videos
- One minute devotional thoughts from Gathering Bible study leader, Rev. Dan Weber

YOUTH MINISTRY 2014 SYMPOSIUM . . . First announcement of our next symposium. Mark your calendars for January 9-11, 2014 at the Airport Hilton Hotel, St. Louis, MO. The symposium will focus on the book, ***Lost in Transition***, a longitudi-



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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://LutheranYouthFellowship.org); 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>.

Find us on Facebook: LCMS Youth Ministry: www.facebook.com/LCMSYouthMinistry; LCMS Servant Events: [LCMSServantEvents](http://LCMSServantEvents.org); National Youth Gathering: [LCMSyng](http://LCMSyng.org); **thESource:** [youthESource](http://youthESource.org); LCMS Young Adult Ministry: [LCMSyam](http://LCMSyam.org).

Follow us on Twitter: LCMS Youth Ministry: @lcmsyouth; LCMS Servant Events: @lcmsservantevent; National Youth Gathering: @lcmsnyg; **thESource:** @youthESource; LCMS Young Adult Ministry: @lcmsyoungadults.

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.



nal study from the National Study of Youth and Religion, looking at young adults and what makes them a challenge for ministry. Rampant consumer capitalism, ongoing failures in education, hyper-individualism, postmodernist moral relativism and other aspects of American culture are all contributing to the chaotic terrain that emerging adults must cross. The symposium will include two of the co-authors and DCE Tom Couser, whose book, ***Passing the Torch***, explores how we pass on values and faith in an increasing faithless world. Details coming soon. This is an event you won't want to miss if you are at all concerned about today's late and post-high school young adults.

CAMPUS MINISTRY . . . An effort has begun to reconnect campus and town/gown ministries and rebuild a campus ministry network in the LCMS. Intentional Campus Ministries are being asked to register with LCMS U online. Check out <http://lcms.org/lcmsu>.

NEW AT thESource . . . Check it out. It's all free at www.youthesource.com.

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

YOUNG ADULT WEBSITE NEWS! . . . Check out <http://LCMSaym.org>.

TEENS AND TRENDS . . .

Teens Thinking Too Narrowly about College . . . When you ask high school seniors and juniors for their criteria for picking a college, most will say that money is key in their decision. Experts, however, say that high school students are overlooking another important factor that could drive up the cost of college: the amount of time it takes to finish a Bachelor's Degree. Today, only 38 percent of college students finish their college degree in four years. If you look at how many finish in six years, the percentage is only 58%. Only 30 percent of incoming college freshman look at a college's graduation rate, which experts say is a key economic factor to consider (*USA Today*, "College Selection Often Relies on Cost," January 24, 2013).

The Type of Music Teens Listen to . . . Researchers have discovered that the type of music that young teenagers listen to can be linked to whether or not they get into trouble. Young teenagers who like rock, heavy metal, gothic, punk, rhythm and blues, hip-hop, trance, and/or techno/hardhouse music are more likely to get into trouble in the early and later teen years. Teenagers who like conventional pop music (also called chart pop), classic, or jazz music tend to not get into trouble (*Pediatrics*, "Early Adolescent Music Preferences and Minor Delinquency," February 1, 2013).

Teens and Mental Illness . . . One out of five teenagers today has a diagnosable mental illness. Researchers have found that the teenage years is often when many mental illnesses first arise. The most common type of mental disorder for teenagers is depression. Teenagers with mental illnesses are much more likely to act in risky ways, such as getting involved in abusing alcohol, drugs, or having unprotected sex (*Child Trends*, "Mental Health Disorders," January 2013).

Teens Taking AP Exams . . . In the past 10 years, the number of high school students taking Advanced Placement (AP) exams has doubled. While that's good news, experts worry that some high school students are getting more opportunities than others. For example, white students make up 59% of the U.S. student population while African American students make up 15% of the student population. Yet 62% of white students pass an AP exam compared to only 5% of African Americans. In addition, it also appears that it matters where student attend school. More than 48% of students in Maryland take an AP test whereas fewer than 15% of students in Mississippi do (*USA Today*, "Report: Advanced Opportunities for Students Uneven," February 21, 2013).

Marketing Cigarettes to Teens . . . When teenagers shopped in stores that banned cigarette displays, they were less aware that the store sold cigarettes and were much less likely to try to buy cigarettes. Banning cigarette displays in stores had more impact on teenagers trying to purchase tobacco products compared to banning cigarette ads (*Pediatrics*, "Influence of Tobacco Displays and Ads on Youth: A Virtual Store Experiment," January 1, 2013).

Parenting Troubled Teens . . . Parents who care for young people who have trouble regulating their emotions and their behaviors have high levels of caregiver strain and stress. Too often interventions focus only on the young person who is having difficulty. Yet, the parents also need services and support. (*Journal of Family Issues*, "Relationships Between Child Emotional and Behavioral Symptoms and Caregiver Strain and Parenting Stress," April 2013).

Look for the next issue of the Youth Ministry E-Bulletin in July, after the Gathering. In the mean time, we pray you safe travel, a blessed summer and hope to see you in San Antonio.

God be with you!!!