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The Survivor

Western Iowa Synod
Monthly Youth Leader E-news



Ministry with and for our youth

May 2009

Quote of the Month

There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.

- John Andrew Holmes Jr., American writer and minister

Upcoming Events

June 10th - Youth Group Day at Adventureland

Bring your youth group for a day of fun at Adventureland near Des Moines. Join others and get in for the group rate of \$19.50 per person. We will begin the morning with worship at 9:45 a.m. just outside the gates by the shelter area. **Call Lynn and let her know how many will be attending.(712.732.4968) Please RSVP ASAP!!**

July 15-18 - SONSHINE FESTIVAL, Willmar, MN

For more information go to www.sonshinefestival.com

July 22 - 26—National Youth Gathering, New Orleans

Approximately 400 youth and adults from the Western Iowa Synod will be attending the National Youth Gathering this summer.

August 4 - Tour de Revs Ride through Storm Lake

Plan to bring a group of youth from your church to join in the ride or come for food, activities and to hear from the Revs. \$5 each to help cover the cost of the meal. A great opportunity for your youth to become aware of the issue of World Hunger and to be able to help raise funds for this great cause. For idea sheets please visit our website at www.wisynod.org. Help us meet our goal of \$70,000!!

National Youth Gathering Prep Tools

For those of you who missed the concert and rally **“The Light of God Shines Through”** I do have a video available (one shown at the rally) that I can send to you that will give your group an idea of the devastation that happened in the Gulf Coast. Please call or e-mail and I will send you a copy. At the end of the video there is a scene of a stripped tree with a cloth wrapped around it. We were

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scene of a stripped tree with a cloth wrapped around it. We were given some large prints of this scene. An image that depicts Jesus on the cross, with just a few sprigs of green leaves sticking out of the tree, signifying the life that is received through his crucifixion. It contains the verse "For the message of the CROSS is foolishness to these who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the POWER of GOD." 1 Cor. 1:18 If you would like any of these prints to use in your congregation to raise money for your group or for those in the Gulf Coast still in need, let me know and I will send them to you along with the video.

Games/Activities for Youth

Armor of God by Becky Gomez

If you have a group that tends to be rowdy, this should grab their attention while letting them get a good laugh and learn a valuable lesson. You will need a bag full of "ammo" (such as rolled up socks or foam balls), and a sheet of paper with instructions written on it. It should say something like, "Don't listen to what (insert leader name) tells you to do. He/she will try to deceive you. Even if people around you do it, you must not listen." Fold the instructions and give them to one of the youth in your group, telling them to read it immediately, but not to tell anyone what it says. Once he/she has read the instructions, ask for volunteers, telling them that you will give them a surprise if they volunteer (make sure you try to get the one with the instructions to come too). Pick two or three and lead them to your bag of "ammo." Reach in, grab some ammo and begin throwing it at your volunteers. Once you stop laughing, regain control and get to the point. Ask these questions, "Why did the volunteers listen to me?" "Why didn't (insert name of youth who had instructions) volunteer?" Have the youth who didn't follow read the instructions he was given. Then ask, "What do the instructions represent?" Follow up by reading Ephesians 6:10-18 and a discussion about the armor of God and the importance of following God's "instructions."

Amoeba Race

Supplies: Long lengths of rope AND a predetermined track/course.

Divide your group in teams of at least 5 or more. The larger the team size, the more difficult it is. Tie the rope around the entire team at waist level. Make the rope as snug as possible without hurting the students.

Put them on the obstacle course and turn them loose. Teams can be timed during their running of the course, or you can actually have a couple of teams race! The key is to work together as a team to accomplish a common goal.

NOTE: The course can be inside or outside, just make sure the route/course is a safe one! Also, make sure it is clearly defined. It would be a significant bummer for a team to get "lost" because the course was not outlined properly.

Training on the Go

Please see the attachment for your leader training on the go from Doug Fields called "Use Wise Discipline"

Contact Information

If you have questions or concerns regarding youth ministry please contact Lynn at 712.732.4968 or e-mail her at wisle@wisynod.org