



## Ohio District Youth Ministry Team

'*One Message – Many Contexts*', is just the phrase to sum up ministry to and with the youth of the Ohio District LCMS. Getting the *one message* of God's love delivered to the young people within our District's bounds and beyond is a challenge because of the '*many contexts*', of a child or teen's life.

Take into account all that a youth might deal with in today's society: **family** (whether the family is strong, single-parented, wealthy, poor, single-childed, multi-childed, struggling and the list goes on), **school** (gifted, learning difficulties, decisions, college-bound?), **activities** (band, choir, sports, 4H, drama and more!), **work, church**, (worship, service, meetings and activities), **friends** (dealing with life's ups and downs, fashion, music, fads . . .does this list end?) and finally **being an individual** . . . a young person growing up in 2009 is living a life filled with many contexts.

Living in a Lutheran Church Missouri Synod District that makes the life and faith-walk of today's youth a priority in the ministry of the District is a privilege. The Ohio District is one of a handful of District's that has made the decision to have someone on staff to care for and support the adults and youth of the region in all aspects of child and youth ministry. Along with that Ohio is a District that supports hosting gatherings and events to draw young people together in the name of Jesus Christ.

Going beyond *hearing* the message of caring for the young, adults and teens are given the opportunity to serve on the Ohio District Youth Ministry Team. This team of nine teens and 6 adults continue to strive to make events held within the Ohio District meaningful. The event list has grown from a Senior High Leadership conference of years ago to include:

The Ohio District Sr. High Gathering (held annually the third weekend in November)

Two Junior High Gatherings (held the first two full-weekends in March)

A week long Servant Event (the last full week in June – annually)

Providing District unity at the LCMS National Youth Gathering (held tri-annually)

Ohio District events remain strong in content and faith-sharing opportunities. Ohio District pastors share God's Word as they lead devotions and Sunday morning worship. Keynote presenters and musicians are firm in their faith and openly share through presentation and song. Activities promote the growth of Christian friendships among youth of varied backgrounds but still from Ohio . . . and all children of our Heavenly Father! Service projects and events open the door of opportunity for the realization of what others are dealing with in their everyday life.

The invitation to give support to youth ministry in congregations, as well as at District events, to adults and youth is always welcomed by the YMT. The Team is a source of varied personalities, backgrounds and experiences that make them a valuable resource to our District. The possibility to get involved in training opportunities for youth and adults is always available.

Staying connected to the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod is accomplished by having youth of the YMT attend the National Council of Lutheran Youth Fellowship and the LCMS National Youth Gathering. Adults have the chance to learn, brain-storm and grow along with other LCMS workers through training that is offered at the Youth Ministry Symposium, National LCMS Youth Workers Conference as well as local sharing opportunities which includes the Ohio District DCE Network.

Looking to the future, we strive to remain strong in the sharing of the gift of faith in local congregations, regional activities, District events and the National LCMS Gathering.



National LCMS Youth Gathering – New Orleans  
July 17 – 21, 2010

**“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God,  
and that by believing you may have life in His name.” John 20:31**