



# 2016 Montana Synod Youth Report

Promoting Unity is one of the Strategic Benchmarks of the Montana Synod. While this happens in a myriad of ways in the 130 congregations here in Montana and Northern Wyoming, nothing promotes unity like a snowball fight!

Over President's Day weekend (Feb. 12-14) 50 youth and adults came together at Hope Lutheran Church in Bozeman, MT to WORSHIP, SERVE and PLAY. With the theme, *Live to Love and Love to Live*, we



explored the abundant life given us as children of God in ways that only the young (and young at heart) can appreciate. The weekend was packed with opportunities and experiences of a life lived in community. Together we learned about the many things we have in common, played capture the flag in the snow, worshipped with the Hope Lutheran youth band, danced, played and soaked in the Bozeman Hot Springs. We also utilized a Thrivent Action Grant to purchase fabric for 17 fleece blankets that we tied for children and families in need in Montana.



At the event were youth from Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Billings, St. John's Lutheran in Helena, American Lutheran in Harlowton, Trinity Lutheran in Choteau and Hope Lutheran in Bozeman. A special thanks to Hope Lutheran for hosting the event and to Thrivent Financial for the Action Grant.

With the great success of this event, we are planning to hold a similar retreat next year somewhere in central or eastern Montana...Keep your ears open for more information and your snowball throwing arm in shape!



By: Jason Asselstine, Associate to the Bishop