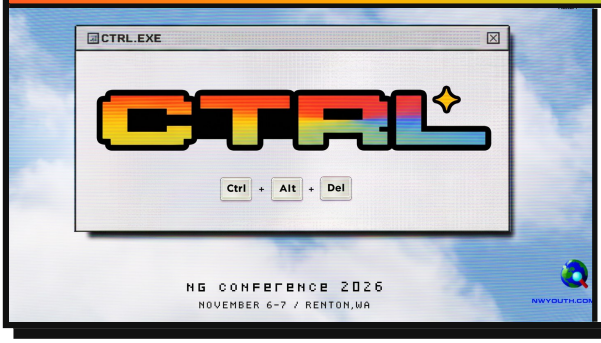
NW Youth Times

What a time to be doing youth ministry!

VOL. 1, NO. 3 — WEEKLY EDITION — WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026 — BY MATT HARDER

NG_CONFERENCE_2026.EXE



CTRL "NO LONGER I" · NOV. 6–7, 2026 · NEW LIFE CHURCH, RENTON

16 days out: bring your students to NG Conference!

Tickets on sale now for Jr. High and HS/College.

Register at nwyouth.com/conf →

Tickets are $90 for everyone after Oct. 15, online or at the door. Jr. high, high school and college.

1 · CULTURE SCHOOLS & FAITH · EVERETT

Bible class during the school day? Washington already allows it.

Nothing new passed in Olympia. But an Everett settlement just made the rules clearer.

BY MATT HARDER



A Youth Alive club. NW Youth photo.

Hey friends! Did Washington just "pass" released time? No. The state has no released-time law. Each district decides.

What's new: on Oct. 13 the Everett School Board settled with LifeWise Academy, which runs off-campus Bible classes in school hours. Everett will change policies, take religious liberty training, apologize and pay $275,000 in fees.

THE GUARDRAILS. Per OSPI, districts may allow it, not must. Off campus, non-instructional time, parent permission, other adults supervising, no school money or staff (Zorach v. Clauson, 1952).

FOR OUR YOUTH MINISTRIES. A door the law already allows. Partner with parents, follow district policy, use background-checked adults and safe rides.

FOR OUR SCHOOLS. Respect their mission and the guardrails: no class time, school money or staff, no pressure on kids who don't go. Serve principals and teachers; don't critique them.

YOUTH ALIVE, RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE. Student led, church fed. Students lead clubs and prayer groups on their own campus outside class time; churches send and support them. It works alongside released time so students reach their own friends.

Sources: Everett Herald (Oct. 14) · Everett Post (Oct. 15) · First Liberty (Oct. 13) · OSPI: Religion in Schools · Everett guidelines · W.D. Wash. order (Apr. 24)

USE THIS IN YOUR TEAM TIME

Takes 10 minutes. Print this page or pull it up on the screen.

READ

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 together (see "2 · Bible").

TALK

1. Which families in our church would want this? Have we asked them?
2. Who could handle permission slips, safe rides and background-checked adults?
3. How do we honor the school: no class time, no school money or staff, and no pressure on students who don't come?

DO THIS WEEK

Read your district's release policy. Then ask one principal or parent: "How can our church serve your families?"

2 · BIBLE

Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road.

DEUTERONOMY 6:7, NIV

3 · LEADERSHIP

Parents sign. Schools release. Church shows up.

WEATHER · WEDNESDAY, OCT. 21

Seattle/Renton	**66/45**	Sunny
Yakima	**70/41**	Sunny
Spokane	**69/41**	Mostly sunny
Coeur d'Alene	**69/46**	Mostly sunny

National Weather Service forecast for Wednesday.

ALSO COMING UP · NW YOUTH

FEB. 25–27, 2027
NW Youth Summit Stone Church, Yakima. Leaders 18+.

APRIL 17, 2027
Create Northwest University. Student fine arts.

nwyouth.com/calendar

Share your Called, Youth Alive or Speed The Light student story here!

nwyouth.com/share-your-story →

Photos and videos welcome.

WINNING YOUTH MINISTRY

Take the free Youth Ministry Zone Check

You check on everyone else first. This one's for your ministry.

winningyouthministry.com/zone-check

NEXT STEPS Call or text Beemo anytime for help or to connect with a team member: **(570) 747-4150**