

# LCMS Youth Ministry



## Strong Faith, Fervent Love: Helping Young People Grow in the Faith

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) Youth Ministry faithfully leads, serves, resources and networks youth and adults — working through LCMS districts and congregations — with Christ and His gifts at the heart and center of everything. It provides a context where people are thinking, talking and engaging youth both within and outside the faith. More information about the LCMS Youth Ministry can be found at [www.lcms.org/youth](http://www.lcms.org/youth).

### Resources and services:

- Lutheran Youth Fellowship Leadership Training
- LCMS Young Adult Ministry
- National LCMS Youth Gathering
- LCMS Servant Events, ongoing volunteer opportunities for youth to engage in service
- Lutheran Youth Corps
- *thESource*, a website that provides Jesus-centered resources for those at work with youth in Lutheran congregations and beyond

# Helping Young People Grow in Their Faith

by Melanie Ave

**B**eing fully immersed in God's love."

That's how one teenager who attended a Lutheran Youth Fellowship Leadership Training event said he felt afterward. Bolstered by what he learned at the meeting, the teen said he was able to share the message of God's unending love and mercy with a friend.

---

**"The challenge is to help them understand that Jesus is real."**

---

Sponsored by LCMS Youth Ministry, about 60 youth and adults typically attend these trainings, where they learned how to reach other young people for Christ.

That is the No. 1 goal of LCMS Youth Ministry – helping young people grow in their faith in Jesus Christ, said the Rev. Mark Kiessler, the ministry's interim director.

"Young people have a great capacity for learning about the world God has created, for caring for others in their community and for understanding how their Christian faith intersects with their daily lives," Kiessler said. "It is a great blessing and opportunity for congregations to support and love young people in Christ as they learn about God's plans for them and also encourage them in times of celebration and life's challenges."

LCMS Youth Ministry aims to faithfully lead, serve and provide resources and networks for youth



Duane Will and Ryleigh Ewald from Caro, Michigan, and Anissa Mably from Elk River, Minnesota set the initial posts for a handicap ramp during the Fixin' Up The Thumb Servant Event.

and adults within districts and in congregational settings with a vision of hope and celebration in the name of Jesus Christ.

In addition to Lutheran Youth Fellowship, the ministry also oversees the LCMS Youth Gathering, LCMS Young Adult Ministry and Servant Events. It provides a host of Jesus-centered resources for people who work with youth through theESource website at [www.YouthE-Source.com](http://www.YouthE-Source.com).

In August 2014, LCMS Youth Ministry launched a new mercy-focused opportunity, the Lutheran Youth Corps. Thirteen young people spent seven days actively involved in service, learning and community outreach in Philadelphia during the program's inaugural pilot.

The full program is expected to

launch in 2015 and provide service opportunities for a 12-month period of time for young people between high school and college or college and full-time work.

Kiessler said LCMS Youth Ministry wants to create a context where people are talking, thinking and acting positively with regard to ministry with youth.

Other recent highlights of LCMS Youth Ministry include:

- At the 2013 LCMS Youth Gathering, more than 5,000 of the event's 25,000 youth and adult participants were deployed into the city of San Antonio to serve at more than 100 off-site servant event opportunities, donating an estimated 20,000 volunteer hours to the community.
- Nearly 3,000 youth and adults participated in more than 70 servant events around the Synod in the summer of 2014.

Looking to the future, LCMS Youth Ministry hopes to expand intergenerational ministry; to reach and support young adults in their faith; to provide solid, practical Lutheran resources to support congregational youth ministry; and to provide leadership training for teenagers, lay volunteers and professional church workers.

"Our churches and communities are blessed by the presence of young people," Kiessler said. "It is our goal to support parents, church workers, volunteer leaders and church members as they encourage young people in their faith development and understanding of God's love found in Christ alone."

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, CARO, MI / GREG ARNETT

Office of  
National Mission



Youth Ministry

