

2023–2025 MISSION GRANT NO. 9  
**EQUIPPING YOUNG LEADERS**  
LCMS YOUTH MINISTRY | \$50,000



## *Youth Leadership and Service — Connection to Christ and the Church*

It is often in the transient time of young adulthood when young people get disconnected from the church. A 2016–2017 survey revealed that only 55% of active LCMS young adults agree that their home congregation ministered to them during times of life transitions. One way to keep young people connected is to give them chances to serve and lead in the church. Yet, even the most engaged of our young adults are not always given these opportunities.

LCMS Youth Ministry has a long history of providing programs, such as YouthLead and Servant Events, designed to train young leaders and give them opportunities for service. YouthLead equips teens to develop and use their leadership skills as they serve Christ within their congregations and communities. Resources and training to equip teens to lead and mentor each other are offered at the annual leadership training event and is facilitated by the YouthLead Executive Team, a group of young people elected by their peers. The event makes use of leadership resources developed to give teens the tools they need to mature in their faith, become leaders in their congregations, and reach out to their peers with the love of Christ. Any high school youth who is an active member of an LCMS church is invited to attend the training event.

This mission grant will help LCMS Youth Ministry develop new curriculums for four new regional YouthLead events to equip teens and young adults to mentor each other and lead each other as they work in the church. A new program will encourage the youth to participate in servant events which will also include leadership development. It is important to know what young people are thinking about their faith and the church, so a new survey will be developed for Generation Z members to take. The survey will guide LCMS Youth Ministries to better care for young people.



*Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity (1 Timothy 4:12).*