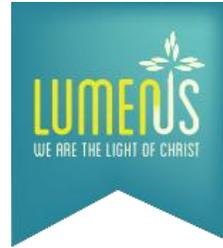


Youth Ministry



**“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity.”
1 Timothy 4:12**

Active involvement of youth in the faith community is a critical issue. Lack of participation by youth in church and ministry activities is a concern. There is also a growing concern that disengaged youth and their families leave the parish community and don’t return. If addressed successfully, potential outcomes include an increase of active youth and their families in the parish community, the potential to attract and retain a generation of faith community members, and a vibrant faith community.

Areas of Discovery

- Surveys show that youth especially value service, social connections and activities that promote spiritual awakening and awareness.
- Highland Catholic School and the Lumen Christi Faith Formation Program include over 450 children who are readily available for faith development through church and ministries.
- Our youth program coordinator works part-time (20 hours / week) through a contract with Side-by-Side ministries.
- Current youth ministry programming primarily consists of:
 - iServe Program – held during school year, 1x month service program, 6th to 8th graders, typically attracts ~ 25 students;
 - Weekend retreats via Side-by-Side Ministries - offered occasionally during school year, with participation less than desired (per YM coordinator), and leadership opportunities for high-school age youth;
 - Summer Stretch – designed for 6th to 8th graders, typically 40 to 50 students per week, with leadership opportunities for high school youth;
 - Guatemala mission trip - annual trip, high school youth - ~ 6 students from LCCC.

Conversation Starters

- How do we ask the youth of Lumen Christi Catholic Community and their families what would stimulate their involvement and participation in the parish community and then listen to and act on their input?
- How do we actively involve youth in the celebration of the Mass and parish ministries?
- How do we demonstrate to our youth that their gifts are welcome and needed in the parish community and beyond their confirmation?
- What else would stimulate families’ development of their faith and participation parish life?
- If increased investment is needed to expand youth outreach, will we need to divert resources currently used elsewhere to promote this effort?