



CHILDREN and YOUTH COMMITTEE POLICY

Policy Number	YTH-01
Replaces Previous Policy	New
Approval Date and Approving Body	11/11/2021 - Congregation Council
Next Review Date	11/12/2027
Original Policy Approval Date	
Related to Which Area of Church Business?	Christian Education; Youth
Responsible/Reporting Committee	Children and Youth Committee
Alignment with ILC Purpose and Guiding Principles:	We share God's gift of love with all We nurture our faith through prayer, worship, service, learning, and fellowship We are inclusive, inviting all to join in God's work

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Children and Youth Committee is to promote the education of the children and youth of the congregation in Christian beliefs and heritage, and to foster the relationships and fellowship among the children and youth in our congregation.

BACKGROUND: The Children's Ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America seeks to focus on inter-generational lifelong faith formation of Christian communities found in households, congregations and children-centered ministry settings. As a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life, the ELCA walks with youth into transitional years of life, offering a variety of opportunities for youth to grow in and explore their faith.

POLICY: The Children and Youth Committee, in coordination with church staff, will collaborate to provide experiences that guide our young members to serve, worship and learn how to lead lives of discipleship.

PROCEDURES: The Children and Youth Committee will:

1. Plan and implement a youth Christian education program that:
 - a. Addresses the following age groups:
 - i. Birth through pre-school



- ii. Elementary youth
 - iii. Jr. High and High School youth
 - b. Maintains a six- year education scope and sequence curriculum plan
 - c. Supports a Confirmation program clustered with other Treasure Valley ELCA churches
 - d. Partners with Luther Heights Bible Camp and encourages program opportunities
2. Plan and implement fellowship/social events and service opportunities within Immanuel and the community, including:
- a. Service opportunities within Immanuel (Acolyte, Food Fellowship volunteering, Worship service support, etc.)
 - b. Mission Trip and/or Community Service experiences
 - c. Regional or National Youth Gathering events
 - d. Fellowship activities to promote connections and relationships among all ages of Immanuel youth
3. Engage with families by:
- a. Maintaining an accurate roster of youth who are members of Immanuel
 - b. Communicating in-person, electronically and/or by mail to keep youth and families involved and informed
 - c. Posting announcements for children and youth to Inside Immanuel, in church bulletins, and on Immanuel bulletin boards
 - d. Providing distance/home engagement opportunities for youth and families
4. Administrative tasks (in addition to General Committee policy guidance) include:
- a. Recruiting teaching and youth volunteers as needed
 - b. Submitting a budget request for program support to Finance annually and:
 - i. Working within the adopted budget to the best of our ability
 - ii. Obtaining approval for any expenses that may exceed this budget
 - c. Youth Event Scholarship funds
 - i. Eligible for child/youth (birth through age 19) to help with expenses to a ILC Youth church associated activity, event or camp.
 - ii. Eligible youth must be considered active at ILC: Having attended an ILC sponsored worship, fellowship, service, or youth event twice in the six months prior to requesting funds. No proof of financial need is required.
 - iii. Committee will approve of all distribution of funds
 - d. Reviewing this committee policy regularly, submitting to Council for renewal at least every three years.

References:

<https://elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Childrens-Ministry>



Immanuel Lutheran Church

<https://elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Youth-Ministry>

Policy Review/Revision Tracking:

Date	Reason for Review/Revision	Author
11/11/2024	Regular 3-year policy review and revision	Youth Committee

This document replaces and supersedes all previous versions of this policy.