

# A THREE-PART SPOTLIGHT ON LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH MINISTRY

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We are one of the five founding churches that began the ecumenical youth ministry program in Port Washington/Saukville known as “Lighthouse” in 2018. Our church partners with Grand Avenue United Methodist Church, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Living Hope Lutheran Church, and Parkside Community United Church of Christ. Lighthouse Youth Director, Christin Flucke, welcomes all middle school and high school youth to join the group at any time! Here is their event this month:



**Sunday, December 10th from 6:00-8:00 pm - Christmas Movie Night**

Put on your ugly Christmas sweater or your favorite pjs and settle in for a classic Christmas movie complete with delicious cookies and hot cocoa.

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## 2 OUR GOAL: RAISING \$2,500 FOR LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH MINISTRY

Each year since its inception, Lighthouse seeks \$5,000 for the continuation and growth of its ministry from each partner church. The yearly contribution entitles us to continue as a partner church with representation on its board and helps to ensure this valuable community ministry continues. This year, we have contributed \$2,500 from our church budget and this month, we are seeking an additional \$2,500 from church members and friends who care deeply about this youth programming effort.

Beginning December 3, there will be a Lighthouse display board with giving tags of different dollar amounts (\$25, \$100, \$250) totalling \$2,500. You are invited to take one (or two!) of the tags and write a check to our church. If it is easier, you may make your donation through the **church PayPal account**, just be sure to note that “Lighthouse” is where your gift is to be directed. Thank you!

If you have questions about Lighthouse, please talk to Pastor Scott or Meghan Manderscheid, who represents our church on the Lighthouse Board. We are still looking for an additional volunteer to help represent the church with Meghan on the Lighthouse Board of Directors. If you want to support youth ministry in our community, volunteering on the Board would be a great way to help!

### 3 ANNUAL REPORT FROM LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH DIRECTOR, CHRISTIN FLUCKE

Dear First Congregational Church,

Lighthouse Youth Ministry is a cooperative youth ministry effort of five local congregations from three different denominations, organized as an independent 501c3 non-profit organization. Each congregation provides \$5,000 in annual financial support to assist with operational and staffing costs, as well as two representatives to serve on the board of directors. Board members meet monthly along with the congregational pastors and the youth director in order to provide support to the youth director and monthly programming, oversee the ministry's finances, and serve as communication liaisons.

Our vision for Lighthouse Youth Ministry is to be a safe and affirming community where all youth are: \*WELCOMED regardless of religious affiliation or beliefs, \*EMPOWERED to explore questions of faith and life, and \*EQUIPPED to serve their community and the world.

Throughout 2023 we offered regular youth programming, meeting roughly twice a month during the school year for a variety of fellowship and service activities. Attendance at any given event currently averages around 10 students, and in 2023 we served a total of 38 different students. This year participants have enjoyed a variety of fun events including game and movie nights, a trip to Sunburst, and a canvas painting night this fall to create artwork for the Lighthouse HQ building. We've also had numerous opportunities to practice loving and serving our neighbors through activities like our 2nd "Trick-or-Treat so Others Can Eat" event as well as assembling birthday kits for the local food pantries and Easter baskets for kids through Family Promise. We are very grateful to all of our supporting congregations for your help in collecting the items needed for these projects!

Another big highlight of the year was offering a weekend service trip in August which we called "Hunger Quest". We had six youth participants for the whole weekend, plus four additional students who were able to join us for a portion of the weekend. The theme of the trip was on the issue at the local level as well as on a global scale. We volunteered at a community garden in Milwaukee, served close to 100 people through a community meal in Saukville, and helped pack enough meals at Feed My Starving Children to feed 39 kids in a different country for an entire year. Through videos, discussions, games and worship we learned more about world hunger and poverty and how we as Christians are called to respond. We even got a taste of what it's like to be hungry by fasting for 24 hours. Then, we ended the trip with a fun afternoon at Six Flags. This was a great experience for all involved, and we can't wait to offer a similar trip experience next summer!

As 2023 draws to a close, we thank you for your support, especially most recently at our Giving Tuesday Spaghetti Supper and Silent Auction! Looking ahead, our 2024 plans include a youth conference in the Wisconsin Dells, partnering again with the food pantries and Family Promise to provide birthday kits and Easter baskets, our 2nd annual "Egg My Yard" fundraiser, another summer service trip, and many more opportunities for students to gather together in community for fun, learning, and service to others!

You may contact me at (262) 483-9582 or [christin.flucke@lighthouseyouth.org](mailto:christin.flucke@lighthouseyouth.org). Thank you, and may God continue to bless our work together as we serve God's beloved children!

Christin Flucke, Lighthouse Youth Director