

THE CONTACT



AFLC YM Newsletter for those in contact with youth

Summer 2019

Teens Contributing to Congregational Life



Agents or Objects?

I've appreciated our connections with other organizations pursuing healthy, biblical youth ministry. One such group is the National Network of Youth Ministry (NNYM). During their Youth Ministry Executive Council that I was invited to as a National Youth Director, a veteran NNYM staff member stated, "We need to stop looking at teens as objects of ministry and start looking at them as agents of ministry."

Our implications are many!

Discipleship looks differently if we are inviting believing teens to see their influence in the lives of teens and children around them. Evangelism shifts into the hands of Christian teens sharing the Gospel with their peers at school, on sports' trips, and in the neighborhood. Congregational life morphs into a broader view of the Body of Christ when we remember that these adolescent saints are co-heirs with us in Christ.

Do we need to continue to share the Gospel with teens? Absolutely! But we need to be guarded from simply seeing them as "objects" to which we minister, and begin to see teens as Kingdom agents because of the cross and empty tomb.

Who in your sphere of influence is under 18 years old and can be encouraged this week as a Kingdom agent of Christ?



*Pastor Jason Holt
AFLC Director
of Youth Ministries*

YOUTH WORKERS WEEKENDS

January 17-19, 2020

An Annual Retreat for Those Who Serve Teens

Registration Options: Saturday Seminar \$60
One Night \$120
Full Weekend \$150

New for 2020—Buy One, Get One Half Off!
(from the same congregation)

Best Rate by January 2, 2020

www.aflc.org/youth



Video Community

60-minute offerings for volunteer and vocational youth leaders

Tuesday, Jun 18 at 3PM (Central)

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/306350773>

Thursday, Jun 20 at 8PM (Central)

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/437575669>





Reference Room

By: Pr Brett Boe

Teens Contributing to Congregational Life

With a full heart I smiled as I scanned the room full of teens and adult leaders gathered in circles of chairs. It was the culmination of prayerful planning that our team had done in preparation for FLY Beyond. The Lord had guided us to an idea of hosting a “job fair” of sorts for teens to learn about specific ways for them to use their spiritual gifts in congregational life. My heart was full as I listened to the leaders passionately share how God had used them in their congregation, from leading a Bible study, to serving in maintenance around the church building, to serving in a nursery area. I was thrilled to think of these teens being empowered and encouraged to go back home to find their niche in their home congregations.

Over the last twenty years as I have personally moved from being a teen myself, to being a youth leader, a leader for planning youth events, and now a pastor-teacher, I have observed a healthy shift in perspective. The shift has been from a mindset of viewing youth as “the future of the church” to viewing them as “both the future of the church and as an integral part of the church right now.” This shift in focus happened in my life after considering 1 Corinthians 12:11. It is written by the Apostle Paul in the context of a larger section “concerning spiritual gifts.” The verse states, “All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as He wills.” The part that is eye-opening to me is the Holy Spirit apportioning, or “distributing” to each

one as He wills. It is fun to think of the Holy Spirit coming to each individual in the congregation and saying, “I would like to give you this gift. Here you go.” And then He would move to the next person and do the same. I envision Him doing this for the whole congregation, youth included. There is no indication that youth are disqualified from this distribution of gifts by the Holy Spirit. Think of that! God the Holy Spirit has given spiritual gifts to each individual youth in your congregation, all according to His will or desire.

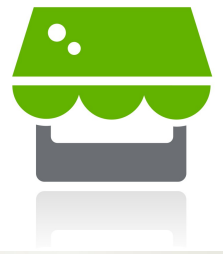
I was blessed this past Easter season to watch the youth in my congregation form a praise team. Their special music during the Good Friday and Easter services filled my heart with joy as I watched the Spirit bring to light the gifts He has given these precious students. It was one small way to see this truth lived out in congregational life. The “spiritual gifts job fair” at FLY Beyond was great, but it was limited in this way - it was not set in the context of a congregation. I envision leaders hosting something similar in their churches.

How can you as a leader help young people discover the gifts the Holy Spirit has already “distributed” to each one?

*Pastor Brett Boe Serves at
King of Glory Lutheran Church
Shakopee, MN*



Convenience Store



Housing @ FLY Convention

www.flyconvention.org/housing_requests



Parenting @ Fuller Youth Institute

fulleryouthinstitute.org/blog/growing-with-parenting-podcast-Hargrave



Tools @ Center for Parent/Youth Understanding

cpyu.org/resources



Youth Leaders @ Youth Ministry Consultants

tiger.excitedhippo.com/small-church-project

Features

click a pic to see the link



Apprenticeship
Program

Youth
Ministry
Apprentices



Video
Community



See You
At The Pole



FLY 2019 || ISAIAH 45:5-6

FLY Convention® 2019



AFLBS
Up-Close



Youth
Workers
Weekends



AFLC Youth
Ministries

AFLC Youth Ministries: A Treasury of Opportunities

May 31, 2019

Apprenticeship Program
Extended applications for
2019-2020

June 18 & 20, 2019

Video Community
Third Tues & Thurs
June, Aug, Oct, Dec

Wed, Sep. 25, 2019

See You At The Pole
National student day of
prayer

Jul. 1-6, 2019

FLY Convention®
National youth gathering

Oct. 17-18, 2019

AFLBS Up-Close
Event for High School
Juniors & Seniors

Jan. 17-19, 2019

YW Weekends
Annual event for those
who serve teens

AFLC Youth Ministries
Here to serve you!
www.aflc.org/youth



AFLC Youth Ministries



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FOR YOUTH WORKERS

The Contact is issued twice a year to encourage and engage youth workers of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC).

FOR CONGREGATIONS

The AFLC is a growing fellowship of 275 congregations whose members believe that the Bible is true and that everyone needs Jesus.

FOR TEENAGERS

AFLC Youth Ministries exists to win teens to Christ, to build them in God's Word and God's love, to equip them to live and share their faith, and to multiply maturing teen disciples of Jesus.

