

WCC Student Ministry: Values

Experiencing and sharing the radically inclusive love of God. Wayzata Community Church's vision is to "Inspire the world with the inclusive Love of Jesus." As ministries designed to encourage faith formation, our goal is to ensure students *experience* the inclusive Love of Christ so that they can learn to *inspire the world* with that same Love as they develop in their faith. We believe we will be best able to support WCC families as they walk together in faith by aligning student ministry values with WCC's overarching vision. As such, we reflect WCC's beliefs and commitments to diversity, acceptance, and unity. We acknowledge, respect, and embrace our differences. We believe we best reflect God's Love when we recognize that nothing could possibly separate any one of us from it. *"And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you."* - 1 Thessalonians 3:12

Creating space to discover and be who God created you to be. We strive to provide a safe and welcoming environment to allow students to truly be their authentic selves. As image-bearers of God, we are all a part of the body of Christ and each unique and unrepeatable miracles. We all have a specific part to play, so the student ministries at WCC make space to discover who you are and how you are called. This process takes time and the wisdom of trusted peers and leaders. We believe that every student who enters our space is worthy of this opportunity. *"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."* - 1 Corinthians 12:12

Equipping students with the tools for a lifetime of faith exploration. Faith formation does not come to an end on Confirmation Sunday, and there is no commencement ceremony from faith formation as high school graduation rolls around. That being said, Middle School and High School Ministry don't last forever. Our goal is to equip students with the mindset that faith exploration is a lifelong endeavor. True faith is living, breathing, and constantly moving. One of the greatest gifts we can give our students is a toolbox full of skills and resources for exploring faith throughout and far beyond their school years. Student ministries will provide caring adult leaders/mentors, teach meaningful and practical lessons, improve biblical literacy, share spiritual practices, and encourage students to seek out community in all phases of life. All of these skills will help students cultivate an authentic faith in God and love for their neighbors.

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." - Philippians 1:6

Developing an understanding of love and justice that inspires service. We believe that we are charged by God and motivated by love to care about our neighbors in tangible and practical ways. When Jesus is asked about the greatest commandment, He includes that we must love our neighbor as ourselves. We also understand God's justice to be restorative and not punitive. But it is not enough to speak of the importance of justice or merely show kindness to our friends, we strive to live out this call for justice with action through coordinating service projects and inspiring every student to find ways to live a life of service. Put simply: we want our actions to align with our words.

"For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead." - James 2:26