Youth Ministry Certification School (YMCS) at LTSG
Course Titles and Reading List Overview

YMCS is a 14 day course that offers the congregational youth leader a fairly comprehensive look at youth ministry from a theoretical, theological and practical viewpoint, under the leadership of seminary faculty, staff, pastors and youth ministry practitioners. The course list that follows represents the recent course titles offered during the course, and the instructor. *(There is no guarantee that the titles or instructors will be identical from year to year, but are likely to be similar)*

We have offered a week-long outdoor ed segment at an outdoor ministry site to some classes, but have shortened that in recent years.

Students must complete and present to their peers and course leadership, a plan for implementing youth ministry in their congregational setting in order to be certified. Plan presentations comprise a bulk of the final weekend of the course. Coaches for the course assist students with this process throughout the course.

The course reading list has expanded and adapted over the years, but the most recent reading list is also listed below. In recent years we have also begun to do a "book review" discussion with students once during each weekend segment, asking them to respond to their reading of recommended course readings.

Recent Course Titles:

Practicing the Four Keys as Hospitality *(Charlie Roberts)*
A Theological & Biblical Foundation for Youth Ministry *(Barbara Harner)*
Group Builders and the D.R.A.G.B.i.G Theory *(Charlie & Barbara)*
Intro to Family Meetings and Four Keys Review *(Coaches)*
Youth Ministry Then & Now: Shifting Paradigms *(Charlie Roberts)*
An Integrated Approach to Congregational Youth Ministry *(Charlie Roberts)*
Contemplative Youth Ministry: A Liturgy of Discernment *(Charlie Roberts)*
Youth Ministry Beyond the Congregation: Networks & Names *(Charlie Roberts)*
Unveiling Postmodernism *(Chelle Huth)*
21st Century Volunteers *(Chelle Huth)*
Practicum Lab: Thinking Outside the Box *(All)*
Practicum Lab: Group Building and Problem Solving with Outdoor Ed *(Coaches)*
Practicum Lab: Contextualizing Luther for a New Generation *(Charlie Roberts)*
Practicum Lab: 40 Developmental Assets for Children & Youth *(Charlie Roberts)*
Valuing Small Groups: Peer Ministry & Christian Education in Context *(Charlie)*
New Testament: The Gospels *(Dr. Rick Carlson)*
The Epistles *(Dr. Rick Carlson)*
Revelation & Youth Ministry *(Dr. Rick Carlson)*
Where youth leadership has been, and is going in the Lutheran church *(Dr. Maria Erling)*

Our Lutheran Roots: Going Against the Grain *(Rev. Scott Moore)*
Lutheran Theology: Branching Out into Youth Ministry *(Rev. Scott Moore)*
Youth Ministry as an Agent for Congregational Change *(Rev. Scott Moore)*
Seminary Education & Lifelong Learning *(Rev. Vickie Brown)*
Theological Education with Youth (TEY) *(Chandler Carriker)*
Overview of the Child In Our Hands Conceptual Model for Youth Ministry & Introduction to the Congregational Youth Ministry Plan *(Charlie Roberts)*
A Youthworkers Journey from Volunteer to Staff *(Bob Hollinger)*
Asset Mapping: What we have, not what we don't *(Barbara Harner)*
Moving from Servant Trips to a Life of Service *(JJ Williams)*
Building a Dream Team *(Chelle Huth)*
Practicing The Faith Series: Identity-sharing *(Jessica Duckworth)*
Practicing The Faith Series: Tradition-bearing *(Jessica Duckworth)*
Practicing The Faith Series: Meaning-making *(Jessica Duckworth)*
Practicing The Faith Series: Telling the Stories *(Jessica Duckworth)*
Old Testament *(Dr. Brooks Schramm)*
Reducing the Risk: Sexual Misconduct & Other Legal Risks *(Charlie Roberts)*
A Conversation about Worship in 21st Century America *(All students)*
The Four Keys and Faith Formation *(Sue Orth)*
Faith Tankk: A Practical Approach to Christian Education *(Sue Orth)*
Outfitting Your Digital Toolbox: Using Multi-Media for Ministry *(Ed Hartman)*
Using Mobile Technology to Stay Connected to Youth *(Jacob Smith)*

Additional Course Titles:

Family Ministry: A Practical Model *(Amy Phillips)*
Adolescent Development and it's impact on Ministry *(Audrey Forbes)*
Staff Relationships *(Jeff Engroff)*
Helping Parents Become Triple "A" Adults *(Barb Harner)*
Christian Practices & Big Questions/Mentoring Youth *(Rev. Bill Bixby)*
Spiritual Nurture: Taking Care of You *(Rev. Bill Bixby)*
Practicum: PBS Frontline *(Charlie Roberts)*
Understanding Congregational Change and Conflict *(Charlie Roberts)*
Camps, Retreats, Servant Events & other Mountaintop Experiences *(Coaches)*
Body Image & Sexuality: A Conversation w/ Teens *(Charlie Roberts)*
Personal Boundaries & Health *(Charlie Roberts)*
Keeping the Fire Alive: Healthy Approaches to Ministry *(Charlie Roberts)*
Martinson's Exemplar Congregations and Youth Ministry *(Charlie Roberts)*
Contemporary Christian Music & Thinking Theologically through Contemporary Music *(Charlie Roberts)*
Financial Planning & Resources to Support Youth Ministry *(Daniel Bringman)*
Upper Elementary Foundational Ministry *(Tanya Rike)*
Hot Topics w/ Teens *(Rev. James Cobb)*
Faith Stepping Stones *(Pastor Rick Whitesel)*
Authoritative Democracy *(Dr. Paul Hill)*
Boy's Brains & Faith Implications *(Dr. Paul Hill)*
Liturgy & Worship in a Lutheran Context *(Dr. Mark Oldenberg)*

Repairers of the Breach: Living a Life of Discipleship *(Nancy Gable)*
Youth & Family Systems (Family Profiling) *(Norma Wood)*
Journey to Home: Appalachian Song & Spirit (*Dr. Gil Waldkeonig)*
Parables *(Dr. M. Vitalis-Hoffman)*

Suggested Reading List:

"Passing On The Faith"	by Dick Hardel
"Frogs Without Legs Can't Hear"	by Paul Hill & David Anderson
"Contemplative Youth Ministry"	by Mark Yaconelli
"Velvet Elvis"	by Rob Bell
"The Family-Friendly Church"	by Freudenberg & Lawrence
"The God-Bearing Life"	by Kenda Dean
"Practicing Passion"	by Kenda Dean
"Big Questions, Worthy Dreams"	by Sharon Parks
"The Lutheran Handbook"	Augsburg Fortress
"From the Great Omission to Vibrant Faith"	by David Anderson

Candidates for certification receive copies of all suggested readings as part of their tuition. Book conversations are a part of the regular course curriculum. This list varies and expands from year to year.