

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wentzville Youth Ministry Fundraising Policy

Fundraisers

Fundraisers will be conducted annually to provide financial assistance for youth ministry events. Examples of these events are Mission Trips, Retreats, National Youth Gatherings, etc. Fundraising events will be coordinated with Immanuel Church and School calendars as to not overwhelm potential donors.

Fundraising participation is not mandatory but is offered as a way for potential participants of upcoming youth ministry events to develop relationships with other youth and adults and to reduce the financial expense for participating in said events.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 states “For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: ‘If a man will not work, he shall not eat.’” Applying this Biblical command to fundraising at Immanuel means this – if you want to benefit from fundraisers sponsored by Immanuel Lutheran, participate! It would be sinful to expect to receive financial assistance without participating in fundraising opportunities.

For group-based fundraising opportunities (ex. Easter breakfast, pancake breakfast, etc.), **participation** by a student/family will be recorded to off-set the cost for youth ministry events.

Parents are encouraged and welcome to assist with fundraising opportunities. But, for a specific group-based fundraiser, participation for the family unit will only be recorded when **youth** help with the fundraising opportunity (fundraisers are not only about raising money but about the shared experience youth will have that will provide a foundation for relationships between one another). Adult participation is about developing relationships with the youth, facilitating relationships amongst the youth, and letting the youth serve others.

Distribution of Funds:

For individual-based fundraisers (ex. *Butter Braids*), the profit from what a student sells will be credited to his/her personal family account and be available for youth events as the family chooses.

For group-based fundraisers (ex. *Easter Breakfast, Pancake Breakfast, Lenten Dinner, Leaf Raking etc.*):

The first 10% of excess donations will be set aside to help award financial aid to families in need.

The remaining 90% will be awarded to families who donated time and talents to complete the fundraiser.

Should a family leave the youth program or transfer from the congregation all unused “family account funds” remain a part of Immanuel Lutheran Church’s Youth Fund as the donations were made to the Youth Fund by the donor(s). Those funds can be used to help off-set the cost of chaperons attending events or expenses for future events.

Financial Aid in case of Hardship

In the event there is a financial hardship that would make it difficult for a specific person to attend the event, a request can be made to consider awarding a specific dollar amount of aid.

STATEMENT OF BELIEF

ILCW is part of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) which is a mission-oriented and Bible-based denomination that confesses the historic, orthodox Christian faith in the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a faith built on “the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone” (Eph. 2:20). With the universal Christian Church, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod teaches and responds to the love of the Triune God, who created all that exists; became man to suffer, die, and rise again for the world’s redemption; and brings people to faith and new life through His Word and Sacraments. The three persons of the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – are coequal and coeternal, one God.

Therefore, we believe without reservation that the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament are the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of practice. In addition, this congregation accepts without reservation the writings contained in the Book of Concord: (The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church) and agrees to conform all our teaching and practice to the Scriptures and the Confessions.

In order to conform to the Scriptures and the Confessions, we issue the following statements of belief.

Statement of Belief on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

We believe God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Rejection of one’s biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe the term marriage has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

However, we also believe God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

We believe every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of ILCW.

Statement of Belief on the Sanctity of Human Life

We also believe all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically and/or intellectually disabled, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Ps. 139).