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## mission statement

**Our mission is to help students walk in the character and mission of Jesus Christ by being a learning, caring, praying, worshiping, and outreaching community**

We filter all of our programming goals and strategies through this mission statement.

## weekly programming <[www.storiesof.us/highschool](http://www.storiesof.us/highschool)>

### **Sunday School**

Sunday School is our youth group community's focused time to study the Bible. We gather together during the all-church Sunday School hour on Sundays (9:45 to 10:45 AM) for in-depth Scripture discovery and Biblical formation.

Sunday School begins with a brief fun activity or game to get the students' energy flowing. The teacher then leads a thirty minute active learning lesson. The teaching method is to present information from the Bible and then use small groups to facilitate student discussion. We want our students to have many opportunities to articulate their ideas and thoughts about their faith. We intentionally study books of the Bible rather than topics to develop our knowledge and application of Biblical content.

### **Youth Group**

Sunday night youth group is the glue that holds our youth ministry together every Sunday night from 6:30 to 8:15 PM.

A typical youth group includes some of the following elements: We play interactive games. The student band leads us in singing worship songs. We gather in the coffeehouse to discover a Biblical truth that can be applied to our lives which often includes storytelling and sensory experiences. We often break into small groups with adult leaders to discuss the Bible story or topic. We pray together: for each other, for our missionaries, and for any prayer requests that are shared by our peers.

Youth group is designed to help students feel comfortable with bringing their friends. We often include purposeful hang-out times on Sunday nights to build community. Youth group is a place for students to connect with our adult youth leaders. As the students interact with them and build friendships the adult youth leaders encourage spiritual formation.

### **Solid Grounds Coffeehouse**

Our youth ministry is grateful to have a coffeehouse on our church property. Every Friday night, Solid Grounds Coffeehouse is open from 7:30-11:30 PM (open at 8:30 PM in the summer). Students enjoy coming because there is no set schedule planned out for them. Coffeehouse is a safe entry place for students to bring their friends to church.

On a typical Friday night, the teenagers will play various games and hang out in the coffeehouse. We also have an open gym time. This attracts many local teenagers who like to play basketball, dodge ball, and volleyball. Adult members of our church have volunteered to host the coffeehouse.

## mentorship

### **Adult Youth Leaders**

We want our students to be around caring adults who exemplify Christ through their life. We hope they will see what being a mature follower of Jesus Christ looks like through our adult youth leaders. The mission of the Adult Youth Leader team is to come alongside high school students and help them develop as committed followers of Jesus Christ.

### **Parent Connection** <[www.storiesof.us/parentconnection](http://www.storiesof.us/parentconnection)>

We believe that parents are the primary spiritual caregiver to their children. Our youth ministry must come alongside parents and help equip them to train their teenager to walk in the ways of the Lord. We are a team. Together, we seek to guide students in their relationship with Jesus Christ. The goal is that spiritual care comes from both the parents and the local church.

## faith formation

### **Student Ministry Team**

Our students have significant influence in leading the activities of the youth group. The purpose of the Student Ministry Team is to train student leaders to glorify the Lord through using their spiritual gifts and serving their peers as a team. Each SMT student is responsible for leading a ministry area within the high school youth group, planning the activities of the youth group, and encouraging others in their faith. The Student Ministry Team empowers students to have ownership of their youth group. Sophomore and Junior students can apply to be on SMT in the fall.

### **Serving Experiences**

Students often learn best by using their hands and feet to serve others. Almost every month, our teenagers take part in a different service project. Previous projects have included Rake-and-Runs, nursing home visits, work projects, community clean-up, and playing games with special needs children. These monthly service projects are a practical learning opportunity for students.

### **30 Hour Famine**

In the fall, we raise funds for missions and disaster relief at the Thirty-Hour Famine by not eating for thirty hours and experiencing the hunger that many people of the world feel every day. During this time we serve together and learn about missionaries and pray for them.

### **Winter Camp**

We go to winter camp in Wisconsin every January. It is a high energy weekend with a band and winter activities. We are challenged spiritually through the speaker and breakout sessions.

### **Disciple Now** <[storiesof.us/experience/disciplenow](http://storiesof.us/experience/disciplenow)>

In the spring, we take part in an in-house spiritual retreat. The goal of Disciple Now is to encourage students to make contact with our awesome God and equip them with spiritual disciplines that will guide their relationship with God and their life.

### **Summer Trip** <[storiesof.us/highschool/missiontrip](http://storiesof.us/highschool/missiontrip)>

Every summer we plan a week-long missions trip or attend LIFE camp. We want to give our students an opportunity to serve in a different environment as well as to impact the community we serve. All the students that embark on these trips go through a thorough training program.

### **Summer Discipleship Groups** <[storiesof.us/highschool/dgroups](http://storiesof.us/highschool/dgroups)>

During the summer, we meet once a week for discipleship groups. The purpose of D-Groups is to connect students with a Christian mentor-coach via a weekly gathering: to study the Bible, be accountable to one another, pray, and "do life together"

*Please Note: Any programming event in which students leave the Bloomingdale Church campus requires a permission form to be signed. You can print a form off from our website: [www.storiesof.us/highschool/offsite](http://www.storiesof.us/highschool/offsite)  
Please return permission slips and any trip fees to the mailbox outside of Daniel Riemenschneider's gym office only.*