



Center for Youth Ministries Wartburg Theological Seminary

Youth and family ministry requires new and innovative approaches. The mission of the Center for Youth Ministries (CYM) is to motivate, prepare, network, and provide support to professional lay ministers, lay volunteers, clergy, parents, youth, and seminary students in forming Christ's ministry with youth and families.

CYM is unique in that it serves both the academic goals of Wartburg Theological Seminary (WTS) and the needs of congregations, specialized ministry settings, mid-level judicatories, and national church bodies. CYM grounds its work with congregations; training, equipping, and supporting ministry to and with youth and families with cutting edge research. WTS faculty serve as teaching partners for the various training opportunities we offer.

In partnership with congregations across the country, CYM is able to bring to WTS a current and fresh set of eyes as to what is happening with youth and family ministry in various ministry settings today. The Center's Director serves on the WTS faculty and teaches in the Youth, Culture and Mission Concentration for Master of Divinity and Master of Arts students.

Meet The CYM Staff



Kris Stache is the Director of the Center for Youth Ministries and Assistant Professor of Youth & Young Adult Ministries at Wartburg Theological Seminary. She loves to discover ways God is at work in, with, and through communities of faith and how God has called each of us to participate in that work. When not at work, she hangs out with her family playing cards, shooting baskets, and watching movies.



Ellen Gukeisen is the Program and Event Coordinator for the Center for Youth Ministries. She is energized by the people who come through CYM for Cert School and WYLS, and loves the bonding that transpires between herself and the participants. When away from Wartburg, Ellen enjoys spending time with her children and five grandchildren (who fortunately live in the same town), playing Super Scrabble, and reading novels.

WARTBURG THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



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Youth & Family Ministry Certification School
Wartburg Youth Leadership School
Youth and Family Ministry Conference
Pulpit Rock Adventure Course
Masters of Divinity and Master of Arts with a
Concentration in Youth and Family Ministry



Youth & Family Ministry Certification School (Cert School):

A 15-day certification school provides Biblical and theological foundations for youth workers as well as hundreds of practical ideas for connecting with children, youth, parents, and other caring adults. This training opportunity serves to undergird and prepare lay and ordained professionals and volunteers for doing youth and family ministry in congregations.



Youth & Family Ministry Conference:

A continuing education conference features guest speakers and interactive learning. This annual three day event serves as a way for those working with youth and families in congregations and other organizations to network. It's also a great time for Cert School and WYLS alums to reconnect with old friends and make new ones!



Pulpit Rock Adventure Course:

The Center for Youth Ministries manages a low and high elements challenge/team course on the seminary campus. It is used for a wide variety of purposes including adventure education, certification schools, youth group retreats, adult and cross-generational retreats, and team building activities for organizations in the region.



Wartburg Youth Leadership School (WYLS):

A ten day school in which high school youth gather for an ultimate faith journey as they share adventure, service, study, and worship. Through the setting of intentional Christian community, on the WTS campus, and through an offsite urban immersion experience, the youths are challenged to live out the gospel and ask themselves, "How am I being called to lead?" WTS students and faculty serve as guides on this journey.

Additional Training Events in Youth and Family Ministry:

Throughout the year, the Center is able to partner with other institutions and organizations to provide resources and training events locally, regionally, and nationally for equipping, training, and developing leaders in youth and family ministry in congregations.