

PARENT/GUARDIAN

**SURVIVAL  
GUIDE**

**LINWOOD  
STU  ENTS**

SEPT 2023





*"If anyone would follow Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me."*

- Luke 9:23

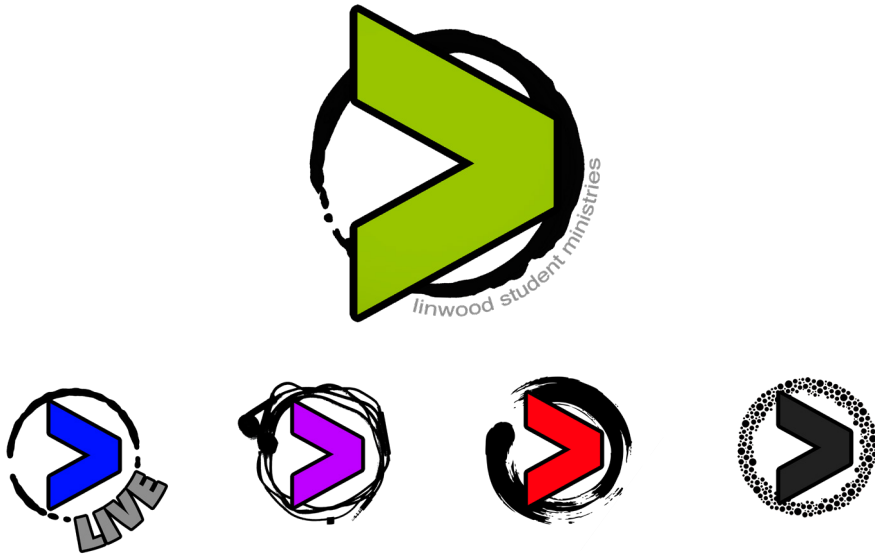




# LAYOUT OF LINWOOD STUDENT MINISTRIES

Who we are at our core

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## Who are we:

Plain and simple, we are Linwood Student Ministries (LSM)

Being focused under the vision and mission of Linwood Church, LSM is specifically charged to fulfill the greater picture of being and increasing become a healthy Family of Families (Linwood Church's Vision). Under the umbrella of LSM, comes the birth of four different sub groups: LSM Live (blue), Student Worship Team (purple), Student Leadership Team (red), and Mentor Me (black). These groups bring a unity to the vision and mission of LSM. Our goal is to connect our students into a fruitful relationship with Christ, to foster growth in their spiritual faith, to develop desire in continuing their relationship with Christ, and to inspire them to act on their faith.

At the center of our youth group comes our student leadership team and adult volunteers. Our goal is to say "what is the beating heart of our ministry? Our LEADERS!" We strive to have our students own the youth group, our adult leaders foster the small groups, and our students respond to their commission of Luke 9:23 every day.

As we explore LSM, here is our focus on the mission:

- Mission = what we're called to do
- Vision = why we're called to do it
- Strategy = how we'll accomplish it

# DISCIPLESHIP MODEL

How we move from servanthood to leadership

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# LINWOOD STUDENTS

## DISCIPLESHIP FLOW CHART

From serving the 5,000  
to guiding the 1



### MASS MARK 8:1-13

As Jesus example to us in feeding the 5,000, we start our discipleship process here with a posture of love. As a ministry, we must first start with demonstrating Christ love to all.



### CROWD ACTS 2

The disciples experienced something powerful with a crowd of 120 believers. Our calling here is to allow our students to EXPERIENCE something greater than themselves.



### DISCIPLESHIP LUKE 6:12-16

Jesus called on many people to go and serve, but he specifically tasked a group of 12 leaders to lead the charge. Serving and worshiping go hand in hand with us.



### LEADERSHIP MATTHEW 17:1-13

Of the 12, Jesus chose 3 of them to high level of DISCIPLESHIP. He called them to lead and serve the Body of Christ. Our task to give these individuals opportunities to lead.



### MENTOR ME MATTHEW 16:18-19

Of the 3, Jesus gave the Keys of Heaven to one. He called Peter to LEAD the Church. Our posture is the same. We must continuously inspire the Next Generation to lead the Church.



# LINWOOD STUDENT MINISTRIES

His Love has ALWAYS been greater. You were made for GREATER things

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LSM is the big brand name. Everything student ministries related operates and functions with this name. Primarily, LSM's goal is to compliment the mission and vision of Linwood as we spread The Gospel in Sioux Falls.

## **The Mission of Linwood Church is:**

*Our mission is to reach people for Christ, give them a place to belong, and help them grow in their faith.*

It is our responsibility to present The Gospel in such a way that God works through their life so they continue their walk with Him once they graduate high school, enter into college, and leave Linwood Student Ministries. This is our goal and our mission: that our students do not leave their faith after graduation but continue their faith wherever they go. In His living Word, we learn how to follow Christ with a reckless abandonment. We are called to follow Him. Our anthem is to deny ourselves, to take up our cross daily, and follow Him.

## **The Vision of Linwood Student Ministries is:**

*Our is to be and increasingly become a healthy Family of Families.*

## **Our Ministry Goals at LSM Live**

- 1) Every Student is Known
- 2) Every Leader is Aware
- 3) Every Family is Loved

By using our "Discipleship Model" (see page 4), we funnel students from our Mass Events to a personal deep relationship with Christ. This is done through our programs and supported by the following Scriptures.

- Mass- Mark 8:1-13
- Crowd- Acts 2
- Discipleship Team- Luke 6:12-16
- Leadership Team- Matthew 17:1-13
- Mentor Me- Matthew 16:18-19

## **Our Anthem:**

It stems from Luke 9:23 which says "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself, pick up their cross daily, and follow Me." We believe this anthem charges our students to engage in their faith and to pursue Christ everyday. We staple our brand with a statement "*His Love has ALWAYS been greater, you were made for GREATER things.*"





This is our main youth group gathering for LSM (for grades 6th - 12th). Some may also call this “youth group” or “mid-week services.” Nevertheless, we want students here. They don’t need to be attenders of Linwood to participate in our body. Every student is welcomed within our doors here at Linwood. We focus on real life topics while helping students construct the groundwork of a healthy relationship with Christ. This group takes place on Wednesday nights from 6:30pm – 8:00pm here at Linwood Church (at the Youth Center).

In regards to our discipleship flow chart, this is the second step we have for students. We have funneled the student into LSM Live where they can learn and hear the Gospel being preached. Being a part of this body of believers is essential to growth of the Kingdom. We follow the example in Acts 2 where the followers of Christ gathered in a room and sought after God’s own heart in worship and teaching. This birth the idea of “called to experience.” When students arrive, they can expect safe, fun, and engaging environment in worship.

### Ministry Goals at LSM Live

We hold three ministry goals close to our hearts for every student. In fact, these ministry goals reflect and define how we operate as a ministry of Linwood. Below is our three ministry goals:

# MINISTRY GOALS



**EVERY STUDENT IS KNOWN.**  
EVERY STUDENT IS CONNECTED AND LOVED IN A BREAKOUT GROUP



**EVERY LEADER IS AWARE.**  
EVERY LEADER KNOWS THEIR JOB & WHAT IS GOING ON



**EVERY FAMILY IS LOVED.**  
EVERY ASPECT OF OUR STUDENT MINISTRY EXEMPLIFIES CHRIST AND THE VISION OF LINWOOD



## What should students expect when they walk into LSM Live for the first time?

1. An inviting atmosphere where they are accepted and loved!
  - We seek after the lost, the broken, and the least. We want students who walk into LSM to be comforted by our leaders, their peers, and the NextGen Pastor.
2. Fun & interaction, and with a purpose.
  - We unapologetically proclaim the Gospel. We also believe in engaging our students in their world. We do this by being active on social media, developing interactive small groups, and playing interactive games.
3. Engaging worship.
  - Worship is an opportunity to connect with our Father as we give praises to Him. Students can expect inspiring messages that speak the truth of Jesus. These messages are tailor made for our students every week.
4. Small groups for deeper connection with our students.
  - These are opportunities for our students to digest our messages and speak with their small group leader about what they are thinking.



## Weekly Format

We follow a formula and adjust when necessary. Although each LSM Live may be unique, we try to hold to some familiarity with each Wednesday night. Our goal is simple: Love God, Love Students. Here is our format:

## LSM LIVE WEEKLY FORMAT

5:00pm

Open Gym / Video Games / Snack at Café area  
[Youth Center closed for worship practice]

6:55pm

Videos and Announcements  
[An opportunity to cool down and focus]

6:25pm

Countdown Begins  
[Main Youth Center Garage Door Opens]

7:05pm

Message Experience  
[Engaging & Interactive Preaching]

6:30pm

LSM Live Begins  
[Intro @ Youth Center]

7:25pm

Worship Experience  
[Praise and Worship w/ Student Worship Band]

6:35pm

All Play or My Play Game  
[Interactive Game for engagement]

7:40pm

Breakout Groups  
[Age and gender specific groups for accountability]

## Best Night of the Week

When a student comes to our mid-week experience, we hope they experience “the best night of the week” effect. In other words, they experience a culture of acceptance (every student is known), an atmosphere of safety (every leader is aware), and an opportunity of growth from The Word (every family is loved). Another way we accomplish that is by theming our nights. Each week is a unique experience. One week we might have a life-size version of the game SORRY. The next, we might have a full service slushy bar for students. Every time LSM Live gathers, it is the best night of the week.





## Breakout Groups

We have become increasingly aware that as we continue to grow, we can't continue ministering to all of the students here by one individual (the Pastor). Each student needs adult leaders who passionately care about them as an individual. Our strategy is to disciple the adult leaders so they can disciple the students. Breakout Groups are designed to build up relationships. Adult leaders hold responsibility and pride to their group. When their time comes, they decide what they could do during Breakout Groups. They can play a game, have simple talk about life, and/or dissect the message. Our heart, is to make disciples who make disciples.



## Why Breakout Groups?

To answer that question, we present to you our four values we see in Breakout Groups:

- **QUESTIONS:** Breakout groups are a great place for students to express their doubts and ask their questions about faith. (see Matthew 16:13-15)
- **IDENTITY:** Our church and our student ministries are too large for everyone to be known by everyone. So, breakout groups are an intentional space for our students know a few and be known by a few. (see Psalms 139:14)
- **BONDING:** There is nothing like a shared experience for bonding. When you share food, stories, activities, and life together, small groups thrive and students bond. (see Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
- **SPIRITUAL GROWTH:** The best place for us to consistently and specifically impact the life of a student in regards to their spiritual development is through breakout groups. The chances we have to consistently encourage and challenge a students to continue to grow in their faith are unparalleled in our ministry through this context. (see Philippians 3:12)



## How Groups are Divided

Each group is made up uniquely by their age, gender and grade. Typically we have four breakout groups. We have a high school guys/girls and a middle school guys/girls.



## Weekly Breakout Groups (During LSM Live)

At the end of each message we break off into Breakout Groups. In fact, we hold this time as our most valuable time for our students and leaders. To help assist in our ministry goals for LSM Live (Every Student is Known), we assign every student to a Breakout Group. This time is valuable to our team because they are unstructured and designed to give our leaders an opportunity to authentically lead (Every Leader is Aware) as they speak the Bread of Life into them (Every Family is Loved).



## Breakout Group Wednesday

On the last Wednesday of the month we replace "LSM Live" with "Breakout Group Wednesday." On these nights we put incredible effort in focusing on the Breakout Group individually. The entire time is focused on the group itself instead of the main formula of youth group. On the even months we do an outreach project: students will meet at an outreach center (St. Francis House, LifeScape, Mission Center, McCrossan's, etc). On the odd months we do a gathering: students will meet at a leader's house outside of the church. Their objective is to gather and connect on a relational level. Remember, Love God, Love Students.



## LSM Live on Closure for Weather

Safety will always be a top priority for Linwood Church. We will always err on the side of safety in regards to our students. We recognize that our high school students transport themselves to and from youth group. With that in mind, we keep the weather in consideration when making difficult decisions like canceling mid-week services. We typically follow suit with the Sioux Falls Public School District. Regardless of any decisions, we do our best to be prompt in a decision and communicate effectively via our social media pages and our Church Center App.

## LSM Live Online (as a response to COVID-19 and future)

We were all blindsided, along with the rest of the world, with the severity of COVID-19. March 18th, 2020 we decided as a student ministry to close our physical doors but open the digital door via YouTube. We had no idea that we would end up hosting nine LSM Live Experiences Online before concluding for the 2019-2020 school year. We also had no idea the digital impact that could be made by bring students together online. We praise God for the support of our Family and Families and praise God for all of our students/guests who engaged with us online.



With that said, we have no idea what the future holds. What we do know is that we must continue to press forward with an online presence. As we continue to develop and improve Linwood Student Ministries, we continue to consider how we can serve all students, and we are looking for ways to implement a digital presence alongside our physical presence at LSM Live.

Additionally, if we must consider transitioning back to strictly online due to public safety, we are fully prepared to do so. Regardless, we are thankful for our Family of Families and thankful for the support they have given us.



## LSM Check-In System

To keep accurate accounts of our student body, we ask that all of our students and guests check-in at our check-in station (or using the Church Center App via their phones). For our regular attending students, their information should already be in the system. All they have to do is type their name into the system and click “check-in.” For new guest, there is a painless process of entering their basic information and inputting that into the system. The next time they arrive, their information will be saved and ready to be used.



# STUDENT WORSHIP TEAM

Called to Worship

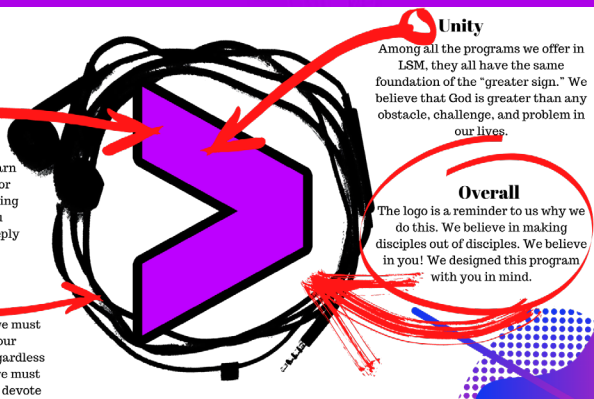
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## The Color

**Purple**  
Throughout the scriptures we learn that the color purple was used for royalty. Today, we worship the King of Kings. Be reminded that you worship the Lord of lords who deeply loves you.

## Headphones

The scriptures tell us that we must always be in sync with our relationship with Christ. Regardless how public our worship is, we must consistently be reminded to devote



## Unity

Among all the programs we offer in LSM, they all have the same foundation of the "greater sign." We believe that God is greater than any obstacle, challenge, and problem in our lives.

## Overall

The logo is a reminder to us why we do this. We believe in making disciples out of disciples. We believe in you! We designed this program with you in mind.



Worship is often defined as singing. However, at its truest form, it is defined beyond its musical talents. Worship is a response to God's love for us. Giving students the opportunity to experience and participate in the act of worship. From instrumental to a special talent they want to offer, we explore all possibilities. We are also excited to have an audio/visual team: a group of students who run our tech production for our ministry. If a student is interested in being active in our Worship Team, we encourage them to contact the NextGen Pastor or talk to a member of the Worship Team.

In Jesus' ministry, He was in contact with lots of people. From the broken to the humble, He ministered to a crowd of people on a daily basis. However, He chose 12 individuals to be a part of His core team (His disciples). These individuals were fishermen, shepherds, and tax collectors. However, He chose them and taught them. We model the system of giving our students opportunities to be leaders in our youth group.

## Description of Worship Team Requirements:

- Attend all scheduled practices
- Active role in all aspects of "Worship"
- Continue to live an active lifestyle and example for Christ
- Committed to learning and improving on talents
- Attend all require Worship Team Meetings
- Understanding that it is not a hobby, but a ministry
- Dress and act appropriately as representatives of Christ
- Has attended LSM for a semester

## Application Process for Band

- Step 1- Apply- <https://tinyurl.com/LSMworshipApp>
- Step 2- Auditions (Date of audition selected ahead of time)
- Step 3- Week 1 Practice (feel comfortable with the format of Worship Team)
- Step 4- Week 2 Full Ready (Launch and GO)



# STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)

Called to Disciple

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“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’ – Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

## Leadership/Discipleship Team:

At the heart of LSM is our Student Leadership Team. We believe in students owning the youth group. Student Leadership Team has been designed and created to help build our students to be effective disciples for Christ. They are the first respondents for the student ministries. This is your opportunity to further your relationship with Christ. Football has team captains, military personnel have ranks, and the church needs leaders for the flock. Pray about this opportunity. You have the opportunity to challenge your faith, grow in Jesus Christ, and help build Linwood Student Ministries to fulfill the great commission: to go and make disciples of all nations.



## Pre-Requirements

- Active and fruitful relationship with Jesus Christ (I.e. professes his or her faith, reads Scripture, and actively prays)
- Can articulate why they have a relationship with Jesus Christ
- Currently attends a Sunday morning service
- Candidate has shown committed effort towards attending respective weekly youth group session (LSM Live)
- Candidate has completed one semester of participation in LSM
- Has a desire to challenge their faith physically, mentally, and spiritually

## Expectations

- Continue growing in the above “pre-requirements”
- Attend Student Leadership Team meetings (scheduled in advance with all members)
- Being active in LSM
- Completing assigned tasks by youth pastor
- Take a lead with one LSM event by partnering with the youth pastor
- Attend all LSM events (can miss up to three in a year)
- Actively encourage peers and friends to attend LSM (specifically those who are unchurched or do not currently have a relationship with Christ).





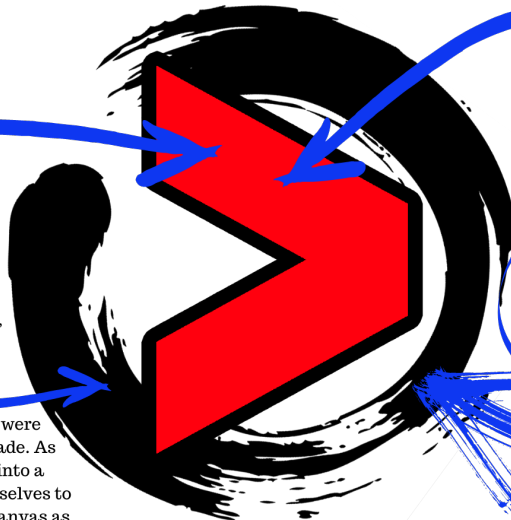


### **The Color Red**

Jesus paid the ultimate sacrifice for us. We are washed of our sin and made new in His image. The red is a reminder of this great sacrifice and the power the Holy Spirit gives to us as we grow, serve, and follow.

### **Artistic Brush**

Psalm 139 tells us that you were wonderfully and uniquely made. As God continues to form you into a masterpiece, we challenge ourselves to paint new strokes on our life canvas as we exemplify God's truth and love.



### **Unity**

Among all the programs we offer in LSM, they all have the same foundation of the "greater sign." We believe that God is greater than any obstacle, challenge, and problem in our lives.

### **Overall**

The logo is a reminder to us why we do this. We believe in making disciples who make disciples. We believe in you! We designed this program with you in mind.



## **Responsibilities**

As mentioned on the first page, our leaders are the beating heart of this ministry. Because of that responsibility, we hold Student leaders in high regard to implement and execute all activities within Linwood Student Ministries. This includes LSM Live, Lock-In, and Breakout Group Wednesday.



## **Monthly Meetings**

We host monthly meetings to help develop each other and fulfill the responsibilities given before us. Monthly meetings are scheduled in advance every semester. Additionally, we give the student the opportunity to further grow through individualized discipleship accountability. In working with interactive discipleship models, like "SmallCircle," we connect with each student leader and focus on their physical, mental, and spiritual growth with Christ.

## **Challenges**

We believe healthy leaders are first hungry learners. With that principle in mind, we specifically focus on leadership principles and spiritual formation practices. We believe by injecting leadership principles into the heartbeat of our students, that will carry out beyond the four walls of the church. Regardless of what their future holds career wise, it is time for the church to celebrate young leadership and empower them to make a difference in their future mission field. Alongside leadership challenges, we give our students an opportunity to see God through various forms of spiritual disciplines (such as fasting, solitude, service, etc.). Our hope is that SLT members will find a new way to experience God as they journey in their relationship with Him.



## **SLT Takeover Night**

Traditionally, once a year during the spring semester, we hand over the responsibilities of LSM Live (our weekly mid-week gathering) to our Student Leadership Team. They prepare many months for this event, and we hype this up to our student body. It is a night to celebrate the excellence of these young leaders and a night of powerful engagement as our leaders speak to their peers.



# RESIDENCY: MENTOR ME

Called to Lead

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## Two Year Residency:

Internships are too often designed to have you watch, observe, and complete the tasks no one else wants to do. Our residency is designed to equip the individual while in the trenches of ministry. We chose to equip, invest, and develop ministry leaders through our pastoral residency. This leadership development program is designed for emerging leaders who feel called to vocational church ministry and desire ministry experience in a vibrant church.

Residents can expect to be coached as you serve amongst the staff of Linwood during your two years here. Residents are placed in specialized areas to help focus on their pastoral goals through our unique teams. We offer residency in Lead Pastor and Student Ministries (grades 6th - 12th).

The best part: our residents get the best of both worlds. Through our unique partnership with The Ransom Church, our residents will experience a residency training ground unlike any other program; being fully immersed in different cultures/styles of programming from both churches, developing moldable tools to fit future success in ministry, and intermixing of other Awaken residents through our tested leadership training w/ the collaboration of The Ransom Church and Linwood Leadership Team.

## Residency Overview:

Linwood is based on the foundational idea of being a “Family of Families.” Our mission is to reach people for Christ, give them a place to belong, and help them grow in their faith. We do this living out our core values of Centering Our Lives on the Word, Caring for Each Other, and Leaving a Legacy of Faith. Every person has a place and every follower of Christ is uniquely gifted by God to serve. In providing opportunities to our rising leaders, we care deeply about facilitating a residency program that is more than your typical busy work internship. Our Residency Program is designed to allow individuals to grow in their calling, serve in hands-on ministry, and follow after what God has equipped them to do.

## Developmental Elements (How):

The Pastoral Residency is a leadership development program for emerging leaders who feel called to vocational church ministry and desire ministry experience in a vibrant church. It is uniquely designed to provide personal mentoring, leadership training, and hands-on experience working with one of the staff teams of the church to equip emerging church leaders for a lifetime of ministry significance.

Residency start dates vary with availability. Inquire for additional details. Approximately 29 hours per week are set for program involvement. Residents are given a stipend with optional housing for single residents. Residents gain experience by serving as part of a staff team in one of the ministry teams of the church. The team in which a Resident serves is chosen with the Resident based on experience, team chemistry and desired ministry future. Some of the teams at Linwood in which a Resident might serve:



- Lead/Campus Leadership
- Linwood Students – Middle School/High School

## Overview of Expectations:

Point blank, we want to dive in headfirst. Jesus wants it all. We honor that by expecting our interns to live by these six main foundations:

 <p><b>MINISTRY EXPERIENCE</b> HANDS ON MINISTRY THAT QUALIFIES AS SUPERVISED MINISTRY TOWARDS ORDINATION</p> <p>Get the best of both worlds. Wherever you land, small or large church, our unique program gives you hands on experience in both environments. We equip and empower our residents to lead well.</p>	<p><b>LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT</b> WEEKLY TEACHINGS CENTERED AROUND PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TOPICS</p> <p>Through our partnership with The Ransom Church, all residents receive high quality, weekly teachings from tested and tried leaders. This partnership also allows you to connect with other residents and grow together.</p> 
<p><b>MINISTRY COACH</b> PERSONAL COACH FOR MINISTRY QUESTIONS</p> <p>You are never alone. We believe in equipping our future leaders for success. Feel the confidence of leading well and the freedom to make mistakes as we learn together how to spread the Gospel.</p> 	<p><b>DNA + CULTURE</b> EXPERIENCE A UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT WITH A DYNAMIC STAFF</p> <p>Our culture and history says it all. Linwood is a sending church. We may look "small," but this Family of Families church believes in empowering the next generation of leaders and planting new churches.</p> 
 <p><b>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COACH</b> EQUIPPING YOU TO BE SUCCESSFUL, BOTH PERSONALLY AND IN MINISTRY</p> <p>Ministry can be tough, and in most cases, you are far from home. With our unique ability to lead with our vision of being a "Family of Families," we give special attention and care to all leaders by equipping you with a personal coach.</p>	<p><b>EVALUATION</b> FEEDBACK TO HELP YOU GROW AS A PASTOR</p> <p>If we are called to empower leaders, then we must properly equip our leaders through ongoing feedback. Leaders are learners, and we want our leaders to have the best foothold to reach their greatest potential!</p> 

## How Residents Accomplish These Expectations:

- Reaching People For Christ
  - » A continuous, vibrant and growing relationship with Jesus
  - » A desire to better themselves and the Kingdom of God
  - » Maximizing all opportunities
  - » Attending all meetings, devotions, mentor sessions
  - » Completing all required tasks
- Give Them a Place to Belong
  - » Invest in the bigger picture of Linwood Church (attending Sunday Morning service, volunteering outside of ministry responsibilities, connecting with people)
  - » Maintain a consistent witness seeking a life above approach
  - » Discover moments to exceed expectations and pushing yourself throughout the program
- Help Them Grow in Their Faith
  - » Supporting the vision and mission of Linwood Church
  - » Upholding to the teachings and doctrine values of the Wesleyan denomination. You will be expected to uphold the values of Wesleyan Church Leadership Covenant (which includes abstaining from alcohol during the duration of the Residency. Further details can be found in the Wesleyan Discipline, paragraphs 260-268)
  - » Staying in tune with God



## Interested Applicants:

For more info or interested in applying for this two year program, go to <http://www.linwoodchurch.org/residency.html>



# ADULT LEADERS

We serve with two goals: Love God, Love Students

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We cannot stress this idea enough: At the center of our youth group comes our student leadership team and adult leaders. Our goal is to say “what is the beating heart of our ministry? Our LEADERS!” We strive to have our students own the youth group, our adult leaders foster the small groups, and our students respond to their commission of Luke 9:23 everyday.

Linwood Church is always looking for eager leaders to serve on our team. We believe that effective ministry is built on relationships, which are instrumental in students understanding God’s love in practical ways. This is when real spiritual growth takes place in a student’s life.



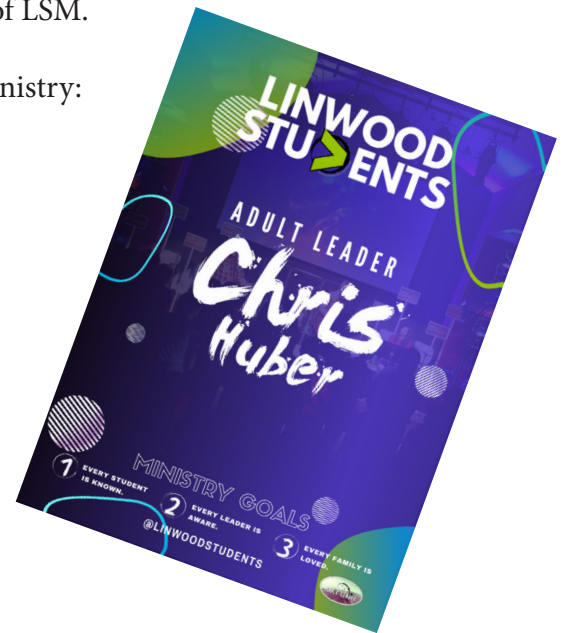
LSM cannot grow, be successful, or thrive without the partnership of adults engaging with our students. We all want the same results: to spread the gospel across our community. In fact, as we build relationships with the students, our vision is to have adult leaders/volunteers walk along side of them and guide them in their faith journey. Our partnership with adults are vital to the foundation of LSM.



There are several ways an adult leaders/volunteers can serve in our ministry:

- LSM Live (Mid-Week Service)
  - » Snack Bar Assistant
  - » Audio/Video Lead
  - » Small Group Leader
  - » Worship Team
  - » Student Mentorship
- Monthly Snack Rotation
  - » Provide snacks or baked goods to the youth
  - » Help assist in creating a welcoming café environment
- Special Events
  - » Driver
  - » Volunteer

The primary way you can engage with our students is by becoming an LSM Adult Leader. We take safety seriously and every LSM Adult Leader completes a background check. You will notice every LSM Adult Leader wearing an official LSM name tag every week to verify to parents they have passed our process. If you are interested in joining our team, please see an LSM Adult Leader or Pastor Zach for an interest packet. All leaders are submitted through an interview process and a federal background check.



# COMMUNICATION

How we help families win

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## Church Center App:

This app is central to our communication. It is a free app for you and your student. The following is a quick breakdown of the app or you could watch this quick video:

<https://tinyurl.com/ChurchCenterPromo>

- Give: Tithe directly from your mobile phone securely.
- Groups: Lost where Breakout Group Wed will be, find it in specific group pages
- Check-In: Avoid the iPad and check-in with your phone as you arrive
- Events: Register for all Linwood events right on your phone
- Profile: Edit your contact info



## Email:

Email is the easiest way of getting information that you need about the youth group. As of lately, I try to send a weekly email to parents. Got a question, concern, or a suggestion? Send it my way:  
zach@linwoodchurch.org

## Website:

Get up-to-date info by visiting us at [www.linwoodchurch.org/students](http://www.linwoodchurch.org/students)

## Appointments:

I ALWAYS prefer meeting face to face. Most of Jesus' ministry took place over a meal or food. So lets grab coffee and talk! Email or text me in advance. Schedule a meeting at (605) 332-9080

## Social Media:

It is becoming a major part of our society. Linwood Church and Pastor Zach have taken strides to stay "up-to-date" with social media. We frequently update our personal pages and our church pages across the board. Note about social media: I respect the boundaries parents may or may not have on themselves or students. As a personal conviction, I do not actively add students/parents to any social media. I encourage both parents and students to add me. By doing so, I will accept and add you back. Check out the following pages.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LinwoodStudents>

Twitter: @LinwoodStudents

Instagram: @LinwoodStudents

Snapchat: @LinwoodStudents

Youtube: Linwood Students





# ROLE OF A...

Keeping healthy boundaries for our Family of Families

LINWOOD  
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## ...of a Student

We all get it, being a student sometimes is difficult. A lot of growing and a lot of challenges to come. As a student, their role is crucial in this time of development. Their identity must be grounded in Christ. So, their role, is to allow themselves to be moldable. In fact, because we address a lot of real world topics, we ask them to be transparent with their leaders and peers. And finally, we ask our students to be present. When present, growth happens.



## ...of a Parent/Guardian

Ultimately, you are the parent/guardian. Boundaries must be set and should not be crossed. As a parent, you are the strongest and most important support beam in a student's life. As the pastor, I do not want to cross those lines. So I ask that you continue to ask the hard questions about their faith, challenge them, and continue to support them (as you already do) in everything. I challenge you to ask them what they have been learning in youth group or at church and continue building dialogue with your students. I also ask parents/guardians to help support, promote, and encourage your student (and their friends) to attend events. Lastly, and most importantly, PRAY for your students. Prayer is so important, and we want our students covered in prayer. Pray for guidance, strength and wisdom as they walk in their faith with Jesus. Thanks for your continued support and love.



## ...of a Breakout Leader

Every adult leader is driven by this code: Love God, Love Students. To live this code, they hold a significant role in the ministry of Linwood Students. In fact, we believe that every leader holds an opportunity to intercede for a student spiritually. We communicate to our leaders that THEY are the true disciple-makers of their group... not the pastor. Our prayer is that our leaders continue to be driven to see students make wins for the Kingdom.



## ...of a Pastor

As a pastor, my role is to foster growth for the students in their relationship with Christ. I want to challenge them, call them to a higher standard, and support them in all activities. I am called to foster a professional relationship with these students outside of the four walls of church to further growth in their spiritual, physical and mental health. I am charged with praying for students on a constant basis, encouraging them, and presenting the Gospel at an attainable level.



## ...of the Church

The role of the church is to join fellow believers into a constant growing relationship with Christ as we go out and make new disciples. Our mission field is the Sioux Falls area. We must go out and plant the seeds of Christ's love. Church is extremely important for the growth of a student's spiritual life. From worship to hearing the Word of God breathed, church brings our daily bread needed for our spiritual life. We can't understand our faith without worshiping with fellow believers and experiencing life together, with Jesus at the forefront of our life. The church is the greatest place to be here on earth.



# POLICY/EXPECTATIONS

This is how we keep our students safe

## Video Game Policy

As a student ministry pastor, I have the responsibility of fostering healthy growth among the students. Conflicts begin to arise between how one student was raised and how another student was raised. To respect these lines, as I respect the authority of parents to set a boundary for students. LSM does not allow Rated M Games, as supported by the ESRB. Any events that involve our students, we will not permit these games to be played. Regardless, all games must be approved by Pastor Zach before being played in the LSM Student Center. Thank you in advance for your understanding in this concern.



## Transportation

As a rule at any LSM sanctioned event, we do not allow student drivers to drive themselves or their friends to an event off campus.

## Parent/Guardian Event Policy

Events can be monumental for the development of a student. In order to run a successful (and safe) event, we inquire the help of our adults. This includes taking on leadership roles to transporting them to an event. However, our first priority for waiting list will be given to our LSM Adult Leaders. We do this for multiple reasons. First, our LSM Adult Leaders have already passed the necessary steps to be background check approved. Secondly, we believe the events we take our students will allow them to be vulnerable. We would like our trained LSM Adult Leaders to walk alongside with them in this journey. And finally, our LSM Adult Leaders are already deep in the trenches of student ministry. They know their names and know their stories. HOWEVER, this does not mean adults outside of the LSM Adult Leaders program can't participate. If there is a need and/or room for additional support, we may reach out for help. As always, our policy can warrant further discussion with the NextGen Pastor. If that is you, feel free to contact Pastor Zach.

## Golden Ticket

Hate filling out the lengthy consent & medical release forms anytime your student wants to participate in an event with the youth group? Fear no more, reduce that headache to a once a year form. Fill out the Golden Ticket and all the information we will need to assist us in these upcoming events. Attached to the Golden Ticket is our contact form. This is the easiest way we can stay connected with you throughout the school year! Communication is key for the successful growth of a ministry, and I want to make sure that you are fully aware of what is happening in the church. Questions please read the Golden Ticket and/or ask Pastor Zach.

## Expectations

Our main goal is to bring your student into a developed man/woman of Christ. My partnership with you is extremely important. If you have any questions or concerns, my hope is that you would contact me. I appreciate open dialogue with everyone. Thank you parents/guardians, for being a servant to the kingdom!

# SAFETY GUIDELINES

Engaging inside and outside of LSM activities

## Securing the Youth Center

Keeping our students safe is a top priority for Linwood. As mentioned in our Adult Leader section, we require all Adult leaders to subject themselves to a background check, an in-person interview, and ongoing training to best serve our students. Because of the ever growing importance of keeping our students safe, we have established that 6:30pm - 8pm on Wednesday night to only be reserved to current middle school and high school students with approved LSM Adult Leaders (or others with express approval from the NextGen Pastor). Any adult, parent/guardian, or relative not with the proper credentials of an LSM Adult Leader will be asked to leave the Youth Center. However, all spectators may observe from the south hallway.



## Breakout Group Wednesday

In order to accomplish our Ministry Goals (see LSM Live), we put a lot of focus on our Breakout Groups. On the last Wednesday of the month we either do a service project or a gathering for specific Breakout Groups. When Breakout Groups gather at a different location, we recommend that all students are dropped off and picked up by their parent/guardian at that location. When Breakout Groups meet at Linwood to serve for a service project, they will be driven by an approved adult or an LSM Adult Leader. No student may drive themselves during these “in-between” locations.

## Outside of Youth Group

Relationships are bonded and grown within the walls of LSM. However, we also believe these relationships blossom by intersecting with the students outside of the usual Wednesday and Sunday morning gatherings. However we also understand the risk and concern of meeting one on one with a student. With every leader involved with LSM, we continue to train our leaders to avoid one-on-one meetings unless the leader goes through a specific line of order to ensure safety, accountability, and parental/guardian permission. For more thoughts on this, please see note on the next page.

## Sporting/Extra Curricular Activities

Most of our students are active in extra curricular activities. From soccer to theater, students are always busy with these types of events. This is another avenue where we seek out your student outside of the youth group. By showing up to these events, we build trust and openness with your student (in relation to the youth pastor or Breakout Group Leaders). We want to support your student however we can. If you would like an LSM Adult Leader or the NextGen Pastor to come to extra curricular activity, please email us their schedule. This is the “I give permission for you to come to extra curricular activity” by doing so. For extra accountability, always attach the NextGen Pastor (zach@linwoodchurch.org) to ensure safety. Our promise, any representatives of an LSM will ALWAYS communicate with the parents when we plan to visit your student for their extra curricular activity.





*A Note to Parents/Guardians,*

*Let's just be honest. Times have definitely changed. Many years ago, eyebrows would not have been raised if an Ordained Minister were seeking after students for the goal of fostering growth in their spiritual lives. They could go to a fast-food restaurant with an individual and develop fellowship as they explored Scriptures together. After a youth event, a pastor could take a male or female student from the church and drop them off at the student's home.*

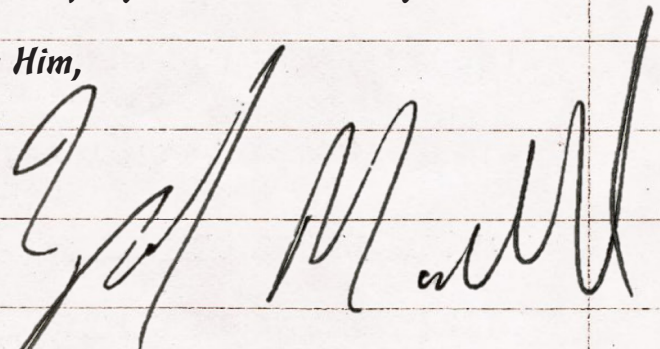
*However, sadly, times have changed. And not for the better.*

*We see it on the news, on our Internet home page, and the newspaper. Evil has corrupted our world and now there are red flags with not just hanging out with opposite sex, but now with the same genders. Ministry is getting hard to do with all these restrictions. Nevertheless, all hope is not lost.*

*For parents/guardians, I will ALWAYS inform you what I am doing while I am with your student. As a personal policy, in protection of the family and for the church, when I meet with students outside of the church, I will ask for permission of the parent BEFORE meeting the student and will always meet in a public area. A third party will also be informed of both my whereabouts and intentions. Also, in some cases, the conversation will be recorded for pastoral records. Please keep that in mind as we move forward together in this partnership.*

*Also, as the NextGen Pastor, I use social media and texting as a way of communicating. As mentioned in the resource section page, I encourage students to add me as their friend. For personal and professional reasons, I will not add students on Facebook, Instagram, or any other forms of social media unless they add me first. This respects the privacy of the students by going through this course of action. Also, primarily I will text students for fellowship opportunities, event updates, or just simple communication. If you, the parent, do not wish for me to text or communicate with the student, please DO NOT check the communication box in the Golden Ticket or write a quick formal letter for immediate resolution. Thank you in advance for your understanding.*

*In Him,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zach McConnell', written in a cursive style.

*Pastor Zach McConnell*



# WHO IS PASTOR ZACH!?

Ever need to bribe him... well here is your cheat sheet

## General Info:

Name: Zach McConnell

DOB: December 20th, 1989

College: Indiana Wesleyan University

Degree: Youth Ministries, Biblical Literature

## Favorite Things:

TV shows = Survivor, The Amazing Race, Friday Night Lights, Burn Notice, 24, and The Office

Sport = CrossFit, Soccer

NFL = Indianapolis Colts

NCAA = Purdue (Boiler Up!)

## How to get on his "good side:"

Candy: Reese's

Soda: Orange Soda



## BIO:

I have not been a Christian all my life, believe it or not. I didn't accept Christ into my life until I was a sophomore in high school. I was invited by the youth group to be a part of a mission trip to Milwaukee. On that trip, I discovered what I was missing in my life and I surrendered my life to Christ. During Setpart 07 (A Wesleyan Youth Conference) I was called to serve in the ministry.

I enrolled in Indiana Wesleyan University with the mindset of learning more about the Kingdom, equipping myself to serve Him, and preparing my heart for ministry. I served in youth ministry programs for five years with an additional service as a Resident Assistant for two years and a director for the Fusion Conference (a youth conference that takes place at Indiana Wesleyan).

Long story short, while enrolled at Indiana Wesleyan University I met my wife, Amanda. We got married on October 20th, 2012. Exciting times! She has been an incredible inspiration to me; she is a great prayer warrior, and a strong woman of God. I am incredibly blessed to not only to be married to the most drop-dead gorgeous woman in the world, but a woman who is seeking after God's own heart. We have two beautiful girls: Chloe and Elena. One of them is cuter. I can't publicly say who though.

I have been serving in student ministries for over a decade and am privileged in being the NextGen Pastor here at Linwood since August of 2016.

