

Northern Great Lakes Synod Youth Ministry Spotlight

Learning to Lead – a story about Abigail

Sometimes the church prepares us in ways we don't always expect. Abigail Howard, a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Calumet, has been active in the church since birth. Her involvement and participation in a multitude of church sponsored activities have exposed her to a variety of people and experiences that haven't gone unnoticed.

Abigail was recently nominated to attend a leadership conference in Boston, Massachusetts, and she accepted! The nomination came from a teacher at school who noticed some of the gifts Abigail joyfully shares with her community, such as her effortless ability to communicate with people of all ages. Despite being the youngest participant, one of Abigail's favorite summer activities is attending "Caffeinated Conversations" on Monday mornings at the local coffee shop with other members of Faith Lutheran because she enjoys the intergenerational connections she finds there.

Congregational life has provided Abigail with a wealth of other experiences, too. You can find her at the Calumet Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings chatting with marketgoers and serving fresh squeezed lemonade with a smile in celebration of the congregation's 150th anniversary. Abigail has gained self-confidence and the ability to be in front of large groups of people by participating in her church's youth choir, and now as a special music leader. Her participation in Sunday School activities as a child prepared her to be a valuable Sunday School and Day Camp helper.

Perhaps most impressive is Abigail's commitment to community-building. Abigail regularly attends camp programs at Fortune Lake and has developed a core group of friends from the Copper Country during her time as a camper. The group of five met as cabin mates in 2023. While they all live in a similar region in the U.P., they don't attend the same school. To stay connected throughout the year, Abigail and her friends make it a priority to schedule time where they can get together in person. One of their highly anticipated summer activities is preparing a skit for that year's talent show at Fortune Lake.



Abigail uses the skills she's gained through her involvement in the church by serving as a figure skating coach for younger kids. She aspires to become a counselor at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, where she'll continue to grow in her faith and connect with people of all ages.

The church provides a safe space for youth to explore their gifts and develop skills that will help them throughout life. The curiosity and desire to be an active participant in the church have given Abigail the confidence and ability to make connections and serve her community - skills that will stick with her for a lifetime!