



# Youth Journey Map

## Ages 14 to 18+

**SET APART <sub>TO</sub> SERVE**  
LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT



# Journey Map Overview

- What is a journey map?
  - It is a guide to help demonstrate an individual's possible path in life.
- A journey map is not ...
  - A comprehensive list of every part of one's journey.
- Where did this journey map come from?
  - This journey map was developed based on research that focused on the experience of a wide range of LCMS individuals.
- How should I use this?
  - Use this guide to help you reflect on the key milestones of the young people in your life.

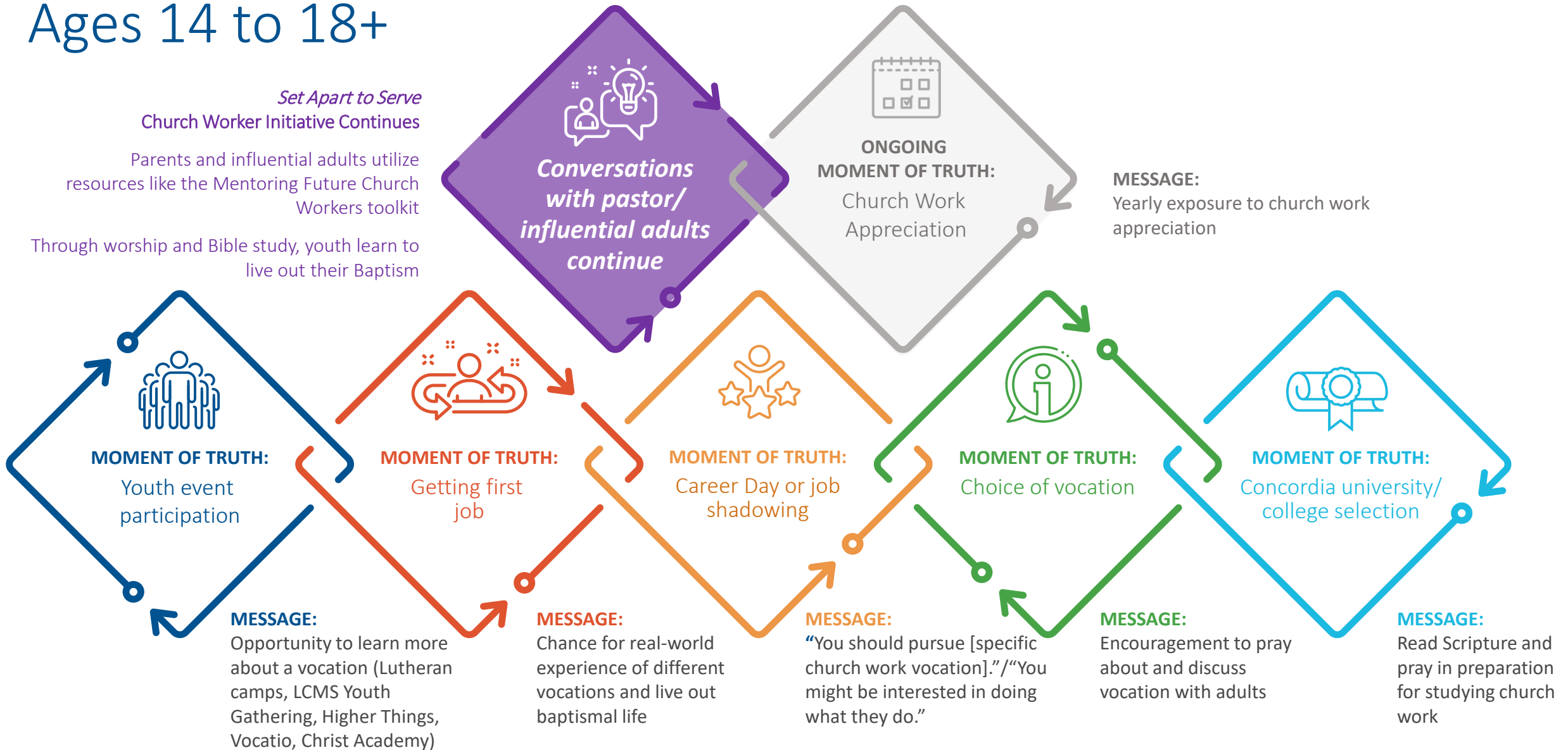


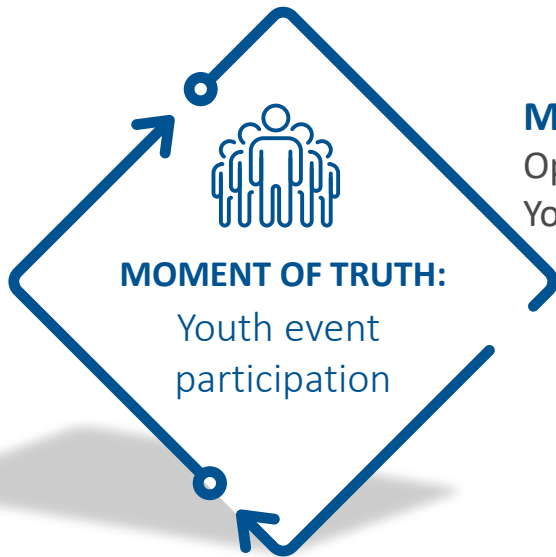
# Ages 14 to 18+

## *Set Apart to Serve* Church Worker Initiative Continues

Parents and influential adults utilize resources like the Mentoring Future Church Workers toolkit

Through worship and Bible study, youth learn to live out their Baptism





### MESSAGE:

Opportunity to learn more about a vocation (Lutheran camps, LCMS Youth Gathering, Higher Things, Vocatio, Christ Academy)

### Key Questions

What does a path towards church work look like?

What do I need to do to start preparing for that path? (See the FAQs About *Set Apart to Serve* in the Resources column.)

Mentor: How can I help encourage youth towards church work? (Find the Mentoring Future Church Workers toolkit at [lcms.org/sas-resources](https://lcms.org/sas-resources).)

If I'm interested in attending a Concordia university, what should I be doing or thinking about? (See the Professional church work vocations section at [lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve](https://lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve).)

### Aligning Activities/Experiences

Sunday school and VBS volunteering provides an opportunity to mentor younger students. Start to generate simple conversations about church work that can help younger students learn, but also provide additional perspective for the high school student.

Attend Higher Things, Youth Gatherings (national and district levels), Vocatio, LCMS Servant Events.

### Youth Action

Speak to a Concordia university or seminary about the specific paths toward a vocation in church work.

### Parent Action

Parents bring their children to weekly Divine Service and the study of God's Word.

Parents lead their youth in family devotions around God's Word.

### Church Worker/ Influential Adult Action

Pastors speak to youth about the importance of church work and ways they can explore these opportunities during the Youth Gathering, Higher Things, Vocatio, Christ Academy, or other events.

### Resources

#### FAQs About *Set Apart to Serve*

**Use:** Gives youth an understanding of what church work vocations are available and how to plan a path toward one as a vocation.

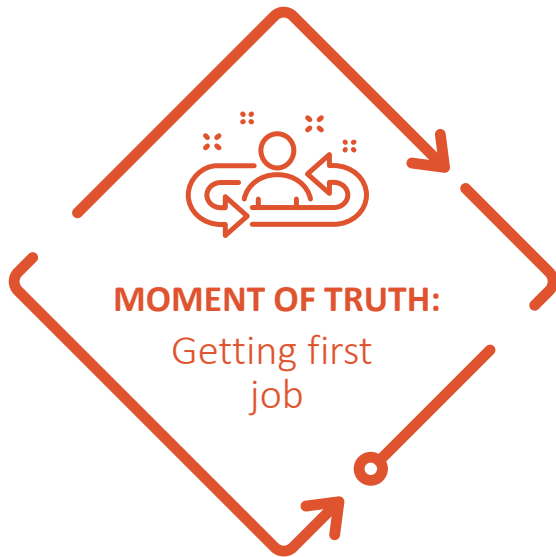
#### Student books (Concordia Publishing House SAS curriculum): Grades 9–12\*

**Use:** Reinforces the importance of church work and ways young people can be involved

#### LCMS Servant Event Opportunities

[lcms.org/how-we-serve/youth/servant-events](https://lcms.org/how-we-serve/youth/servant-events)

\*Resources available in 2024



### MESSAGE:

Chance to get real-world experience of different vocations and live out baptismal life

### Key Questions

What types of jobs can I consider that help me learn more about or begin to prepare me for full-time church work? (See FAQs About *Set Apart to Serve* in the Resources column.)

How can I experience different types of church work vocations? (See Job Shadowing for Future Church Workers toolkit in the Resources column.)

How do I connect with someone at a Concordia university or seminary to learn more about attending and what to expect? (Concordia Ambassador Programs)

### Aligning Activities/Experiences

Serve in the congregation in ways beyond singing in the choir or ushering (e.g., committee, youth representative on church council)

### Youth Action

Seek a job that is related to church work. Or, be immersed in a specific vocation through job shadowing. All godly jobs can serve to further you on your church work vocation journey.

### Parent Action

Help guide their child to understand vocation and their Christian faith as they begin to work outside the home.

Guide their child to not allow a job to interfere or take precedence over Divine Service and immersion in the Word.

### Church Worker/ Influential Adult Action

Encourage youth to seek opportunities to build skills relevant to church work.

### Resources

#### FAQs About *Set Apart to Serve*

**Use:** Gives youth an understanding about what full-time church work vocations are available and how to plan a path toward one as a vocation.

#### Student leader Bible studies

**Use:** Can help facilitate conversations among youth about full-time church work.

#### Job Shadowing for Future Church Workers toolkit

**Use:** Covers a broad list of church work job shadowing opportunities and includes a template for planning and tracking the experience to ensure the student gets the most out of it.



**MOMENT OF TRUTH:**

Career Day or job shadowing

**MESSAGE:**

You should pursue [specific church work vocation]/You might be interested in doing what they do

**Key Questions**

How can I find the right opportunities for job shadowing?  
What questions should I ask? (Job Shadowing for Future Church Workers toolkit)

How do I connect with someone at a Concordia university or seminary to learn more about attending, what to expect, etc.? (Concordia Ambassador)

**Aligning Activities/Experiences**

Attend Higher Things or the Youth Gathering.

Attend panels with church workers talking about their decision to become a church worker.

Visit the Concordia universities. (See the professional church work vocation section of [lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve](https://lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve).)

Discuss vocation in youth group/Bible study.

**Youth Action**

Attend a career day to understand what church work vocations are available.

Pursue a job shadowing opportunity (day-long, week-long, etc.).

- Connect with a church worker to learn more about their specific job.
- For example, if you love youth group, see what else the youth leader does.

**Parent Action**

Talk to their child about how God works through vocations to bless His church and care for people.

Encourage the idea that “You can learn about vocation by talking with those serving in those vocations.”

- For example, a parent encourages their child to talk to their pastor. He will give good insights into this vocation and will encourage the child to consider a church work vocation.

**Church Worker/  
Influential Adult Action**

Connect with a church worker to learn more about what they specifically do in their vocation.

- This connection could also be part of a mentorship program.

**Resources****Job Shadowing for Future Church Workers toolkit**

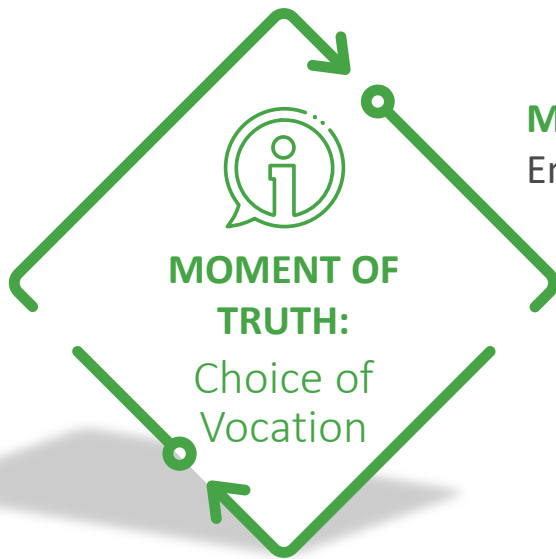
**Use:** Gives youth tools to establish job shadowing opportunities. Includes questions to ask, things to consider, etc.

**Conversation Guide for Ages 14–18+**

**Use:** Helps guide conversations between youth and influential adults to explore how their Lutheran faith is an integral part of their career path, whether they select church work as a vocation or decide to explore another godly vocation.

**Mentoring Future Church Workers toolkit**

**Use:** Provides ways for mentors and mentees to develop a strong connection by meeting regularly and engaging in meaningful conversations about church work vocations.



### MESSAGE:

Encouragement to pray about and discuss vocation with adults

### Key Questions

How do I know if I have chosen the right vocation? (Mentoring Future Church Workers toolkit)

What education path can I take to become a church worker and what will it cost? (See the professional church work vocation section of [lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve](https://lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve).)

### Aligning Activities/Experiences

Attend Higher Things, Christ Academy, Vocatio.

Visit a Concordia university.

- Establish a mentor at a Concordia to help with vocational guidance.

Understand relevant program offerings for a specific vocation.

### Youth Action

Accompany church leaders on homebound or hospital visits.

### Parent Action

Help guide their child toward a high school job where they see how vocations could be used.

### Church Worker/ Influential Adult Action

Continued work with a mentee, guiding them toward a final decision about what vocation to pursue.

### Resources

#### Mentoring Future Church Workers toolkit

**Use:** Equips mentors with ways to engage with youth about church work and gives students tools to help reciprocate the mentorship.

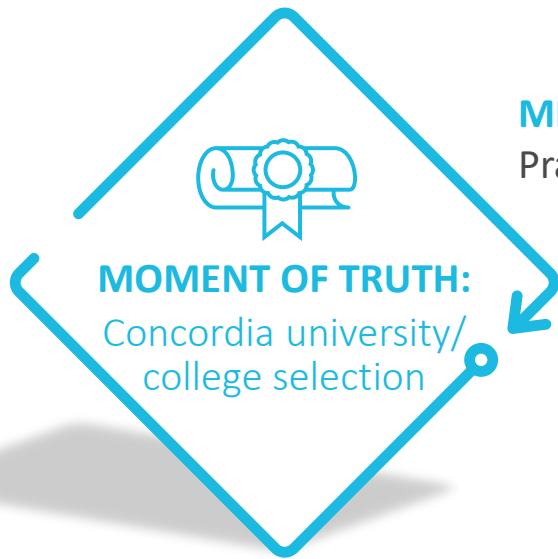
#### Student books (CPH SAS curriculum) Grades 9–12\*

**Use:** Provides students ways to prepare for committing to a church work vocation path

#### Student leader Bible studies

**Use:** Can help facilitate conversations among youth about church work.

\*Resources available in 2024



### MESSAGE:

Pray about vocation

### Key Questions

What do I need to do to finalize my choice of a Concordia university or another college? (Work with Concordia Ambassadors.)

### Aligning Activities/Experiences

Continued Concordia visits

High school graduation

### Youth Action

Finalize college selection.

Continue to work with a mentor.

### Parent Action

Conversations with Concordia university or seminary directors, professors, and mentors about vocation.

### Church Worker/ Influential Adult Action

Encourage youth to explore church work through job shadowing.

Stay in contact with the youth during college (e.g., send an email and/or Christmas/Easter card; visit them in college, if possible; greet them when they return home during college breaks; help them get connected to a local congregation).

### Resources

#### Conversation Guide for Ages 14–18+

**Use:** Helps guide conversations between youth and influential adults to explore how their Lutheran faith is an integral part of their vocation, whether they select church work as a vocation or decide to explore another godly vocation.

#### Mentoring Future Church Workers toolkit

**Use:** Continue the mentorship as the mentee prepares for college.