



Dear Lutheran CORE Supporters,

Warm greetings in Christ from all of us at The NEXUS Institute at Grand View University in Des Moines, IA! We wrapped up another successful high school youth theology institute this summer and are planning for the future. Thank you for all the ways in which you have supported our ministry.



As you know, the Church faces a historic shortage of pastors and church leaders. As a Church, we haven't developed the pathways for young people to get to seminary and beyond. The NEXUS Institute is changing this. According to Barbara's Wheeler's extensive research, relationships with like-minded peers and theological mentors are two essential components in guiding young people into vocational ministry. Our NEXUS program accomplishes this. Check out some NEXUS testimonies!



Stephanie, participant: "I was considering working in ministry when I applied. After a week of NEXUS, I know I'm called to be a pastor."

Joel, past mentor: "Being a NEXUS mentor turned my world upside down. I discerned the call to become a pastor and switched my major that fall. I'm now an ordained pastor and in the call process."

Jackson, past participant: "After NEXUS, I felt empowered to go and speak to my church about my experiences and give a short sermon. I hope to become a NEXUS mentor someday before going on to seminary for my MDIV – it looks like a blast and I know I'll learn a lot more about scripture and practical ministry skills."

Katie, past participant and mentor: "NEXUS has been my primary faith family. Being surrounded by other believers helped ground my faith. I have been encouraged and am currently serving as a missionary overseas."



Luke, past participant and mentor: "I was able to practice and learn skills that will someday help me when I'm doing full-time ministry because I served as a mentor at NEXUS – skills like leading a small group, writing and giving a devotion, talking about the Bible others."



In our six summers of programming, NEXUS has impacted 107 participants and 33 college-age mentors from 66 churches across 20 states. We highly value your partnership and feel blessed to have a front-row seat to see what the Holy Spirit is doing through NEXUS.

We Christians know that running the race of faith is much more doable when you have faithful friends and mentors running alongside you to cheer you on and challenge you. For this reason, we are looking to expand our offerings to include a **NEXUS retreat** for past participants and mentors to foster these continued connections through worship, Bible study, prayer, and time together.

We could not do what we do without you. We ask that you would prayerfully consider supporting The NEXUS Institute as we continue the good work of guiding young people in vocational ministry. We appreciate your generosity and pray God's blessings over you and yours!

In Christ,

*Kate Faas*

Kate Faas,  
Director of the NEXUS Institute

*Russell Lackey*

Rev. Dr. Russell Lackey  
Sr. Campus Pastor at Grand View

