

Madalyn Graves and Alex Kressin from Zion Lutheran Church in Cincinnati, Ohio and members of the LCMS Ohio District Youth Ministry Team, attended the Lutheran Youth Fellowship team leadership training in St. Louis, MO in March of 2017. Karen Dutton, Director of Youth and Family Ministry, LCMS Ohio District accompanied these students. Here is a summary of the students' experience:

"Going to St. Louis for the Lutheran Youth Fellowship training was very beneficial. We attended multiple sessions that taught us how to share the material with others and help them in their faith while growing in ours.

We learned how to make a Bible study that was actually practical for those participating. In that session, we learned how to show the Law and the Gospel using words and examples to keep people engaged and yet still learning.

In the first session of the training, we learned about the **Storms of Change**. These storms are what changes in our lives. This session taught us how we can stand firm in Christ whenever everything changes. It also helped show the impact we can have when everything changes. That may be because one thing in your life changed, and then you impacted someone who is now impacting others.

The second session was **Rooted Identity**. We are children of God and nothing we do can change that fact. The third session, **Sharing the Rock** reminded us that we are not in this alone. There are other Christians out there who are in the journey with us and while we might not like them, they are God's child too, and we should share that gift with each other.

And finally, session four helped put all of these things together. We learned how all of these things are connected and what we can do when change comes.

In all, the training was great. We learned a lot while we were there and are anxious to share this training with others. We met other teens and adults from other Districts in the LCMS and enjoyed our time together, too!"