Youth are integrated into every aspect of ECMN faith communities. In many congregations they serve as lectors, chalice bearers, acolytes, crucifers, and ushers. In other communities they serve on the vestry, are trained Peer Ministers, or belong to the ECMN Youth Commission, which trains youth leaders to plan and implement youth events.

To foster community among youth across the state of Minnesota, ECMN encourages participation in camps, retreats, and mission trips. Locally youth are also involved in pilgrimages, community outreach projects, and social justice issues such as the march on the Capitol to advocate for gun control.

**Youth Camp and Retreat Ministries**

“...here I feel like I am truly, truly myself. So that is what TEC has taught me. To find God’s love in every person. If you search, you will be surprised by where you find it and who you see it in.”

_Fiona Ehling, Grade 12 from Calvary Episcopal Church, Rochester_

“At first, I wasn’t sure if I fit in here, but through the multiple activities and the friends I’ve made I experienced the unconditional love of God.”

_Bruce Perez, Grade 9 from Misión Santo Niño Jesús, St. Paul_

ECMN camps and retreats have grown tremendously over the past six years. In 2013 there was one camp with about 80 campers. By 2018, youth from 42 of our 97 faith communities had youth participate in an ECMN camp or retreat. By comparison, in 2013 ECMN offered a single week of camp with about 80 campers. Last year, we had 436 participants in our 3 week-long camps, 1 half-week camp, 3 community engagement trips, 2 middle school retreats, and 2 high school retreats. All of these opportunities can be found online here: [https://episcopalmn.org/retreats-camps](https://episcopalmn.org/retreats-camps).