

Westwood U
is a way to nurture a whole culture
- an ecosystem-
of faith formation at Westwood.

Join us as we learn and grow together as people of God!



JOURNEY INWARD *to*
JOURNEY OUTWARD



WHAT IS WESTWOOD U?

Welcome to Westwood U!

Westwood U offers people of all ages the opportunity to gather for education, faith development, and mutual growth-

kids, parents, grandparents, friends...

Everyone is invited!

The purpose is to move beyond education to *formation and transformation*.

Westwood U is a way to nurture a whole culture — an ecosystem — of faith formation at Westwood.

We believe that *heart* and *hands* must accompany *head* in one's faith journey, so in addition to the classroom, Westwood U will create opportunities for faith mentoring, faith socializing, and even faith surfing by tapping into *life experience of multiple generations*. We operate under the conviction that the content of faith has no traction outside of faith-based relationships. Our faith flourishes in relationship.

What courses are offered?

There are 3 categories for the courses offered at Westwood U. Several courses from each category are offered throughout the year.

They are:

Know- hands on learning

Live- service to our neighbor and congregation

Grow- fellowship and faith nurturing experiences

How many of each should I take if I'm looking to get credit for confirmation?

While completing the required number of 15 total Westwood U courses, confirmation students are required to take a minimum number of 3 courses in each of the 3 categories listed above.

The remaining 6 credits are the students choice!

Example:

Year 1: 5 courses, Parent/Student Learning and Bible Milestone

Year 2: 5 courses and Parent/Student Learning

Year 3: 5 courses, mentoring Parent/Student Learning and a faith statement.



DECEMBER ELECTIVES



Advent Festival Team (Live) Sunday, November 26, 9-11:30 am in Good Shepherd Hall. Advent is the church season between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. It's a time of waiting, and preparing for Jesus' birth. Join us in creating an experience for Westwood families to create an Advent calendar to mark the journey of those 4 weeks, and bring hospitality to this fun all ages event.

Reverse Advent Calendar (Live) Each day in the month of December, add an item to a box or bag and donate the contents to STEP or your community's food bank on Christmas Eve. The Advent Calendar will be sent to you in late November. To complete this elective, send a photo of you/your family with your donations being dropped off and a paragraph about how this was a meaningful Advent practice!



The Message (Know) Sundays December 2, 9, 16 at the 11a service
Do you love kids? Do you have a desire to help the youngest members of Westwood grow in their faith? Then assisting with the Message is just for you! You'll join the kids up front for Gospel storytelling in worship, then go with them downstairs for their age appropriate kids message. Crafts, games, stories, laughter and fun!

Community Meal (Live) Wednesdays December 6, 13, 20 from 4:45–6:15 in Good Shepherd Hall.

Westwood provides a community meal each Wednesday night that is a staple of our faith community as well as the community of St. Louis Park. The community meal provides fellowship and nourishment to all who gather! As you can imagine it takes a great team to pull off a meal for 250+ people each week, come learn about this ministry and be a part of the team!

L.I.F.T. (Living in faith together) (Grow) Wednesdays from 5:30-8p in the Youth Room.

Join us for fellowship, learning and fun in the youth room on Wednesdays, there'll be a learning or project each week, games, snacks and more. There will be opportunities for leadership and ways for you to help shape the time for our younger members!

Youtherans (Grow) Open to 8-12th graders and meets weekly from 8-9pm in the Youth Room.



HOW DOES IT WORK?



An email will be sent to you during the open registration period and you will also find the registration link in the e-news and on the Westwood U webpage.

Registration opens September 21 for confirmation students and will open to the congregation after the 27th

Visit the registration page , when you are there you will:

- Fill in your FULL name
- Give us an email address where the “professor” can reach you to let you know about any details, supplies, announcements and/or costs that may accompany your elective. Please make sure it is an email you will check regularly! (Parent email, probably the best for confirmation student registrations!)
- Clarify your grade for recording purposes, or choose N/A if you are not looking for confirmation “credit”.
- Choose an elective for each month, and if you are opting out of a particular month, please choose “none” so that we know you have bypassed an elective for that period.
- If you see “sold out, please choose another” that means that it has filled, and we will work to repeat the elective in a future course catalog.
- Please choose an alternate option.
- When you are finished choosing an elective for each month, click submit and your registration will be cataloged with us.
- Be sure to check all the dates listed for your elective, some go outside the “month” they are listed under. To receive confirmation credit you must be present for 3/4 of the class's time commitment.

OCTOBER ELECTIVES

Flatbread Bake (Live) Saturday, September 23rd from 8:30-12noon Join us in the Westwood kitchen on a to make flatbread which the cracker type bread used for communion. While we bake, we'll enjoy fellowship and have wonderful conversation. Come be a part of this important ministry of our church and have a taste of the flatbread you baked, knowing you make a great contribution to our worship life!

Creative Encounters: Howard Thurman and the Journey Outward Sundays in October 1, 8, 15 from 10-11a in the Westwood Rm. Facilitator: Ridgeway Addison

As a minister, pastoral theologian, and spiritual father of the American Civil Rights Movement, Howard Thurman (1899-1981) made significant contributions to the religious and ethical life of twentieth-century America. Thurman also was one of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s primary spiritual mentors. The purpose of this course is to introduce you to primary elements of Thurman's theology and lived experience related to what he called "the outwardness of religion." Come gather vital resources for your own Journey Outward with Howard Thurman and others at Westwood!

Community Meal (Live) Wednesdays October 4, 11, 25 from 4:45- 6:15 in Good Shepherd Hall. Westwood provides a community meal each Wednesday night that is a staple of our faith community as well as the community of St. Louis Park. The community meal provides fellowship and nourishment to all who gather! As you can imagine it takes a great team to pull off a meal for 250+ people each week, come learn about this ministry and be a part of the team!

The Message- (Know) Sundays October 7, 14, 21 at the 11a service
Do you love kids? Do you have a desire to help the youngest members of Westwood grow in their faith? Then assisting with the Message is just for you! You'll join the kids up front for Gospel storytelling in worship, then go with them downstairs for their age appropriate kids message. Crafts, games, stories, laughter and fun!

Food Packing 100,000 Meals (Live) Friday, October 13 and/or Saturday, October 14 (multiple shifts available on registration page) With the help of many volunteers, we manage to package more than 100,000 meals and have fun doing so. Your 2-hour commitment will get you a bird's eye view of the packing operation and opportunity to help participants at each table fill the bags and pack the boxes of food that will eventually be delivered to our partner church in Dodoma, Tanzania, Arusha Road Lutheran Church.

L.I.F.T. (Living in faith together) (Grow) Wednesdays from 6-8p in the Youth Room
Join us for fellowship, learning and fun in the youth room on Wednesdays, there'll be a learning or project each week, games, snacks and more. There will be opportunities for leadership and ways for you to help shape the time for our younger members!

Youterans (Grow) Open to 8-12th graders and meets weekly from 8-9pm in the youth room.

Trunk or Treat Host (Live) Saturday, October 29 from 9:30-12noon in the Westwood parking lot. The parking lot will be lined with cars and decorated trunks that younger members of the congregation can "trick-or-treat" at. It makes Halloween fun, safe, and accessible especially for young family members who can't take as many steps. Please register! You can use any theme to decorate and the more decorations, the better! Nut-free candy only.

NOVEMBER ELECTIVES

Community Meal (Live) Wednesdays Nov. 6, 13, 20 from 4:45- 6:15 in Good Shepherd Hall. Westwood provides a community meal each Wednesday night that is a staple of our faith community as well as the community of St. Louis Park. The community meal provides fellowship and nourishment to all who gather! As you can imagine it takes a great team to pull off a meal for 250+ people each week, come learn about this ministry and be a part of the team!

The Message (Know) Sundays Nov. 4. 11. 18 at the 11a service
Do you love kids? Do you have a desire to help the youngest members of Westwood grow in their faith? Then assisting with the Message is just for you! You'll join the kids up front for Gospel storytelling in worship, then go with them downstairs for their age appropriate kids message. Crafts, games, stories, laughter and fun!

Youterans (Grow) Open to 8-12th graders and meets weekly from 8-9pm in the Youth Room.

L.I.F.T. (Living in faith together) (Grow) Wednesdays from 6-8p in the Youth Room
Join us as we create fellowship, learning and fun in the youth room on Wednesdays, for 2nd-5th graders. There'll be a learning or project each week, games, snacks and more. There will be opportunities for leadership and ways for you to help shape the time for our younger members!

The Beast in the Balcony – Westwood's Organ (Know) November 9 6-7:30p in the sanctuary. Taught by Gavin Berg. Have you ever wondered how Westwood's organ works? Are you curious as to how it makes so many different sounds? Would you like the chance to play it? If your answer is yes to any of these questions, this class is for you! In this session we will explore the balcony and organ, discover how the instrument works, and learn what makes Westwood's instrument one of the premier organs in the Twin Cities. Gavin will give a demonstration/mini-recital highlighting the organ's different sounds, and you will get the chance to play the organ!

Holiday Fair (Live) Saturday, November 11 from 9:30-1:30
Annually the Westwood Holiday Fair raises +\$20,000 to give back to the community! It takes lots of help from both youth and adults to make this amazing outreach and fundraising event happen. See how we recycle and reuse to obtain funds to give away. Clearing dishes, packing and taking items out to customer's cars, and helping in the Children's Shoppe are just a few of the ways you can serve to make this event a success. (You might also shop!)

Flatbread Bake (Live) Saturday, November 18 from 8:30-12noon Join us in the Westwood Kitchen on a Saturday in November to make flatbread which the cracker type bread used for communion. While we bake, we'll enjoy fellowship and have wonderful conversation. Come be a part of this important ministry of our church and have a taste of the flatbread you baked, knowing you make a great contribution to our worship life!

Parent's Night Out (Live) November 18 4-8p in the Youth Room and Good Shepherd Hall
Parents need an opportunity to have a night out kid free! Will you help them by hanging with their kids at Westwood for an evening of fun and games? Littles love to hang out with tall kids like you, join us as we provide childcare for Westwood Littles!