



ten25

a place where students can belong, believe, and become

Vision of *ten25*

ten25 is Christ Church's youth ministry program and seeks to be a safe place where students can belong, believe, and become disciples of Jesus. We seek to build relationships with students on their journey of growing into the person God has already created them to be (*tov*). These are the two foundations that anchor *ten25*: *Belong Believe* and *tov*.

Belong Believe Become

ten25 seeks to be a place where anyone can belong. Regardless of one's past experiences, future goals, depth of faith, friend group, or family life, any student can belong to *ten25*. It is a place where students feel safe, accepted, valued, cherished, and loved; a place where students need not wear masks or fear rejection; a place where students can build relationships with other students and adult volunteers. At *ten25*, anyone can belong.

In a place of belonging, people grow in their faith in Jesus Christ. *ten25* desires to be a place where such faith can be fostered. In a loving community, students will be able to develop their faith, ask questions and even doubt God, learn about the Bible and how it connects to students today, engage the culture, and put their faith into action.

Finally, *ten25* hopes that after students belong to a loving community and believe in God that they will become the people God has already created them to be. This process of becoming allows students the time to develop as disciples of Jesus Christ, grow in their faith, become agents of reconciliation, love, mercy, forgiveness, change, and participate in God's will in this current culture.

An Example of Belong, Believe Become

This model of Belonging, Believing, and Becoming can be seen throughout much of the Bible (John 13:1-17, Luke 7:36-50, Mark 14, and Matthew 23:25-28 are a few examples). It can also be seen through the life of the Apostle Thomas. Considered the one who doubted Jesus, Thomas belonged to the innermost community of Jesus' disciples for three years. It was there that he belonged and was intimately known, accepted, and loved by Jesus and the rest of the disciples.

In John 20, Thomas is known to doubt the claim that Jesus had been resurrected from the dead. Although he belonged for three years, he did not believe that Christ had been raised from the dead. In John 20, the disciples tell Thomas about Jesus' resurrection but he responds with, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hand and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

It was not until a *week* after Jesus' resurrection that Thomas saw Jesus face to face. Jesus asked Thomas to put his hands in his wounds. Once Thomas encountered the risen Christ his response was one of awe and worship, "My Lord and my God" (John 20: 29). Thomas believed.

After Thomas had an encounter with Christ, once he belonged and believed, he became a passionate follower of Jesus who proclaimed the Gospel as far as India and eventually became a martyr for his faith.

Thomas belonged, believed, and became. And through him, God's kingdom was advanced on earth. This is the Good News of the Gospel: that anyone can belong, believe, and become.

***tov*: Good, Beautiful, Working the Way it is Suppose to.**

In the creation account in Genesis 1, God made the heavens and the earth, everything seen and unseen, ocean, nature, animals, reptiles, bugs, and all of creation. After God created each of these things, the text in Genesis reads, "God saw that it was good." The word *good* in this phrase is rich in meaning and it appears seven times in the creation account. *Good* in Hebrew is the word *tov*, which can mean, "good," "beautiful," or "working the way it was created to."

As God reviewed everything that had been created, God called each work of creation "good," "beautiful," and "working the way it was created to" (Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25). Then after humanity, when the ultimate creation is finished, God looks back over everything that was made and calls all of creation "very *tov*" (v. 31).

In the beginning, everything was *tov*. Creation was *tov*. People were *tov*. Humanity's relationship with God was completely *tov*. Everything in creation was working the way God intended. It was good and beautiful.

Yet, as we know, something happened (Genesis 3). The *tov* people stopped believing God was *tov*. They thought they could become like God themselves. Eventually, they stopped living a *tov* life. They no longer treated all of creation as if it was *tov*. They no longer treated other people as if they were *tov*. Quickly, creation started to unravel. Everything *tov* became *un-tov*.

Luckily, God had a good plan. Since the unraveling began, God's plan has always been to restore *tov*. God's purposes for creation would be restored to its original intent. Thanks to Jesus Christ's life, death, resurrection, and ascension, *un-tov* ways are now being restored to *tov*. One of the ways God is bringing about this restored creation is through the work of God's beloved people. As children of God, we all have a role in this process. Our call as people of God is to be a community where everything is good, beautiful, and working

the way it was created to. As we partner with the Holy Spirit, we are to be *tov* in a world that desperately needs to get a glimpse of *tov*, of heaven on earth.

At *ten25* we desire to grow in our identity as “God’s masterpieces created in Christ Jesus to do good (*tov*) works” (Ephesians 2: 10), to “walk in the newness of life” (Romans 6:4), and remember that “the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love” (Galatians 5:6). Therefore, we hope students will understand their *tov* identity (that God calls them good and beautiful) and seek to live into a *tov* life (a life that is working the way God created it to work).

ten25: *tov* people who do *tov* works.

What *ten25* Does

Wednesday Nights

Our Wednesday night *ten25* service is a time for students to hang out with friends, play games, experience God’s presence through song, hear the Story of God and what it means, and discuss it with their peers. Our Wednesday evening *ten25* service runs from 630-830pm for both Jr. and Sr. High students. Separate teachings and games are provided for Jr. and Sr. High groups.

Sunday Mornings

We encourage our students to participate in the Sunday morning service at Christ Church with their family and friends. Although there is a Jr. High Sunday School class, we encourage our High School students to volunteer in the Sunday service, worship with their families, and spend time with adult volunteers and the pastoral staff. Monthly, we have an opportunity for students to have breakfast with our Youth Pastor.

Bible Studies

For students that hope to dig deeper into the Bible and grow in their faith, *ten25* offers a weekly Bible study. Dates and times are still to be determined.

Retreats

Students have several opportunities to participate in different retreats. Winterfest, Pilgrim Pines and Camp Squanto, and the Evangelical Covenant Church’s triennial CHIC (Covenant High In Christ) are just a few of the various retreat possibilities students will have.

Service Projects

The Gospel of Jesus Christ compels all of us to put others before ourselves, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and the imprisoned, and fight injustices. *ten25* allows students various opportunities to participate in service projects that seek to do what the Gospel compels us to do.

Information for Parents

ten25 encourages parents to participate in their child's spiritual development. Those parents who wish to be added to our email announcements may contact Sharon at the church office (401.884.8632 or email: info@christchurchec.org) to have your name added.

For additional questions about any of our student ministries, please contact our Pastor of Student Ministries, Nathan Albert, at nathana@christchurchec.org.

Our Youth Pastor

Title: Pastor of Student Ministries

Email: nathana@christchurchec.org

Phone: 401.884.8632x113

Nathan is originally from Chicago IL. After graduating from North Park Seminary with a Master of Divinity, Nathan worked as the Collegelife Coordinator with University Ministries at North Park University in Chicago, IL. He also worked as the Director of Pastoral Care for The Marin Foundation, a non-profit that works to build bridges between the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) Community and the Church as well as being a chaplain for the pediatric department at Rush University Medical Center. Prior to his seminary education, Nathan earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre Performance from Rockford College and worked for years as a professional actor and singer performing for more than a quarter of a million people at numerous regional theatres across the U.S.

Nathan has a strong passion to proclaim God's word through the art of preaching and work for the re-humanization of the "other." He also has a desire for people who have often become disillusioned with the Church and Christianity to be welcomed back into the Christian community by teaching the difference between Religion and the Gospel of grace. In regards to youth, Nathan hopes that the youth group at Christ Church can be a place where anyone can "belong, believe, and become." Nathan loves to engage the culture around him. He enjoys walking with one foot in Scripture and one foot in culture. He believes, as Christians, we live to engage culture in order to help bring about the Kingdom of God and he looks forward to teaching our youth practical ways to do that.