



# LAKE COUNTRY LIFE TEEN

MINISTRY GUIDE 2020-2021





LEADING TEENS TO

MEET CHRIST | KNOW CHRIST | LOVE CHRIST | SERVE CHRIST

# MINISTRY GUIDE

## 2020-2021

[www.lakecountrylifeteen.com](http://www.lakecountrylifeteen.com)

# WELCOME

To The Lake Country Life Teen Family

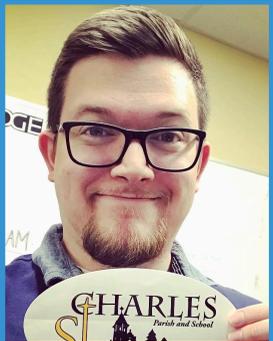
On behalf of Fr. Ken Omernick and the Saint Charles Community we would like to invite you to take a look at the vibrant and dynamic youth ministry that we call Lake Country Life Teen.

Lake Country Life Teen is a Catholic middle & high school ministry that walks with young people on their journey of faith and invites them into a deeper relationship with God through vibrant community, inspiring witness, and life-changing truth.

We are blessed to be able to offer a wide variety of activities and events such as large and small group gatherings, camps, mission trips, and retreats. Use this ministry guide to learn more about Lake Country Life Teen and all the opportunities coming your way this upcoming year. We hope to see you soon!

God bless,

The Student Ministry Team



Nick Scanlan  
Student Ministry  
Team Lead



Rachel Heffron  
Student Ministry  
Team Co-Lead



Laura Zgrabik  
Student Ministry  
Team Assistant

# WHAT IS LIFE TEEN?

In 1985 Life Teen was launched as a parish-based youth ministry in Mesa, AZ focused on the Mass and gathering teens together at a youth night they called “Life Nights”. They continue to be focused on bringing teens to Christ in the Eucharist and gathering them to be formed in the Roman Catholic faith. Now there are over 1800 parishes implementing Edge or Life Teen. Life Teen can be found all over the US and in 30 other countries.

Life Teen is not just programming for parish ministry. They are a movement, a family, a support system for Catholic teens. Life Teen hosts life changing Summer Camps and Youth Conferences. They offer training for Priests, Youth Ministers, and volunteers, and continued support and prayer for all their affiliated parishes.

## WHY LIFE TEEN?

We partner with Life Teen because their mission statement to “Lead teens closer to Christ” aligns perfectly with our Mission. At St. Charles our Mission is to bring everyone to Meet, Know, Love, and Serve Christ. Everything we do revolves around this.

Christ is not an idea. If He was we could take classes and learn everything there is to know about Him. **Jesus Christ is a PERSON.** That means every encounter with Him must be a personal encounter.

This is what we call **RELATIONAL MINISTRY**. It puts Jesus at the center of everything we do and takes an approach to ministry that **goes far beyond the classical idea of “CCD” and provides a necessary compliment to Catholic School education.**

# MEET GEN Z



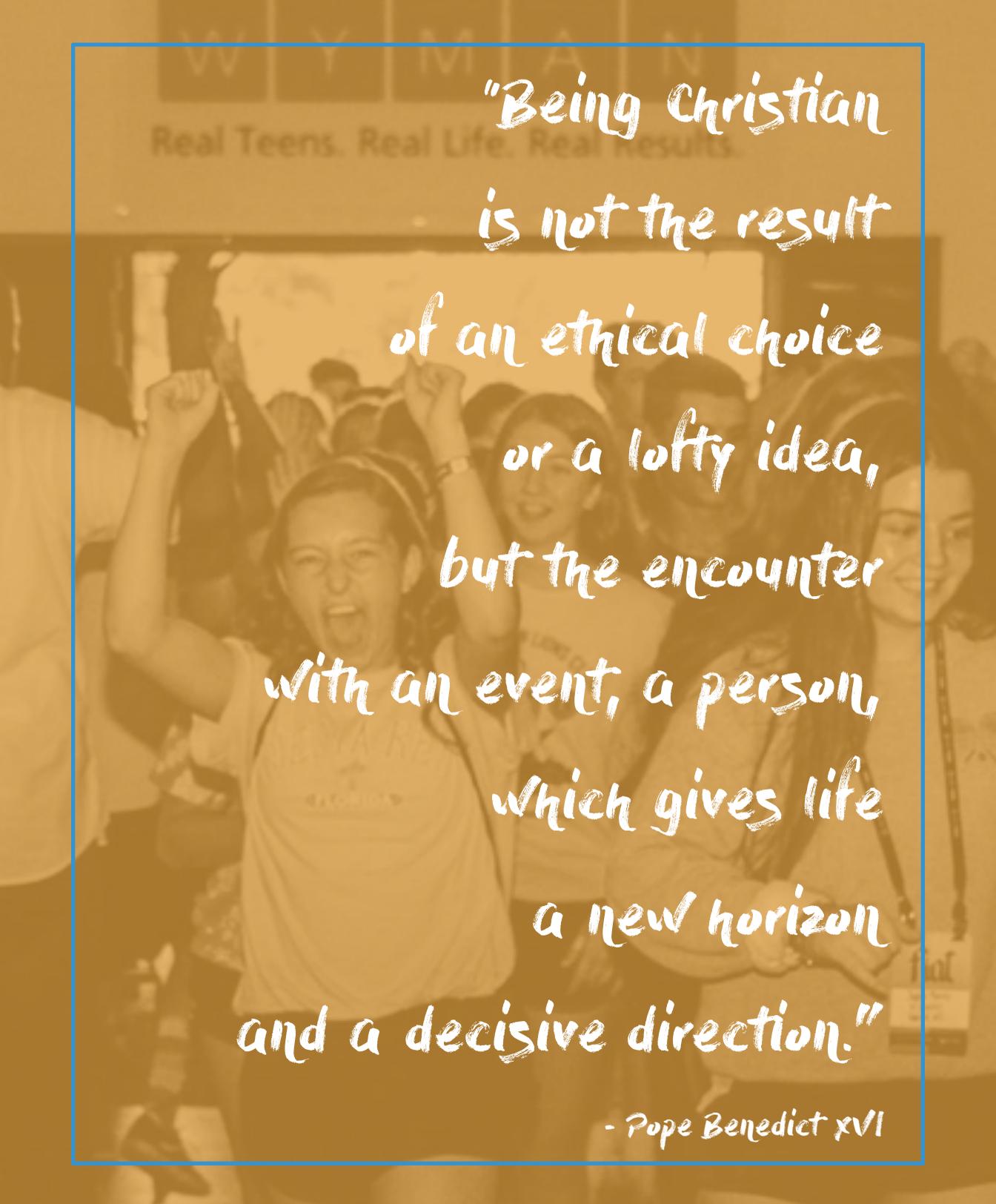
Teens today are considered to be a part of Generation Z (iGen). It is the most diverse and “connected” generation ever. Teens in this generation are known as “**digital natives**” because they have grown up with the internet and don’t know a world without it. They spend on average 6-10 hours a day online. Their attention spans are shorter but they have developed an ability to sort through massive amounts of information and decide quickly what is worth their time.

Fewer teens are partying, experimenting with drugs, and getting into bad relationship situations but more teens are experiencing **loneliness, depression, and anxiety**. They are finding happiness fleeting and relationship difficult to maintain even though they highly value these things. Church is being marketed by the world as outdated and out of touch. So how do we minister to Gen Z teens?

## RELATIONAL MINISTRY

Research has shown that teens who have a deep faith-life maintain it by having **healthy relationships**. We seek to meet the needs of our teens by engaging them on multiple relational fronts. Here are **5 “needs”** that we seek to meet at Lake Country Life Teen.

- ✓ The need to be **UNDERSTOOD**
- ✓ The need to **BELONG**
- ✓ The need to be **TRANSPARENT**
- ✓ The need to **ENGAGE** in critical thinking about faith and life
- ✓ The need for **GUIDANCE**



"Being Christian  
is not the result  
of an ethical choice  
or a lofty idea,  
but the encounter  
with an event, a person,  
which gives life  
a new horizon  
and a decisive direction."

- Pope Benedict XVI

LIFE TEEN  
connect

## MEET CHRIST

Invite teens to ENCOUNTER  
Christ & HIS Church

ENCOUNTER  
high school retreats



## KNOW CHRIST

Invite teens to EXPLORE  
the Catholic Faith & what  
it means to be a disciple

LIFE NIGHT

LAKE COUNTRY  
LIFE TEEN

ACTS 29  
student leaders

## SERVE CHRIST

Invite teens to SERVE  
Jesus by leading others  
to Him through  
mission and witness

EMMAUS  
small group



## LOVE CHRIST

Invite teens to FOLLOW  
Jesus with the heart  
& habits of discipleship

CONFIRMATION

### CAMP COVECREST & HIDDEN LAKE

Teens who join us for Life Teen Summer Camps in Georgia experience life-changing encounters with Jesus in the context of a fun-filled week of games, rock-climbing, and white water rafting.

### ENCOUNTER RETREATS

One day or overnight retreats that focus on building community among our students and introducing them to a relationship with Christ.

### CONNECT

A community building Life Night that occurs between teaching series. Teens are also encouraged to invite friends to these nights.

### EDGE NIGHT

Our middle school night for 6th-8th grade students. These nights include talks on Catholic teaching, games, small group discussion, and prayer experiences.

### LIFE NIGHT

Our high school night for 9th-12th grade students. These nights include talks on Catholic teaching, games, small group discussion, and prayer experiences.

### EMMAUS

A weekly Bible study small group. During the Summer months we move off campus to a coffee shop and call it "Jesus & Java".

### RESTORE CAMP

Restore is a Life Teen sponsored Mission Trip that partners with organizations across the country to serve those in need. You can't give what you don't have. That's why we encourage our teens to wait till they have progressed in their relationship with Jesus before they join us for a Mission Trip.

### CONFIRMATION

We Confirm teens during their Junior year of high school. It is our hope that students who are applying to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation have already Met Christ and desire to grow in their relationship with Him.

This process is done in small groups and is separate from our Life Nights which teens would still be invited to attend.

### ACTS29

Throughout the process we identify teens who desire to grow in their faith by serving others. We invite these teens to a deeper devotional life and teach them what it means to be a leader by forming them and giving them opportunities to witness to the Gospel.

# LIFE SUPPORT

We could not offer all the amazing things we do without some serious support. **Relational ministry is impossible without adults** who care about teens enough to walk with them in this crucial time of their life. That's why we have dedicated areas of our ministry for **adults to get involved with Life Teen** and show teens what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

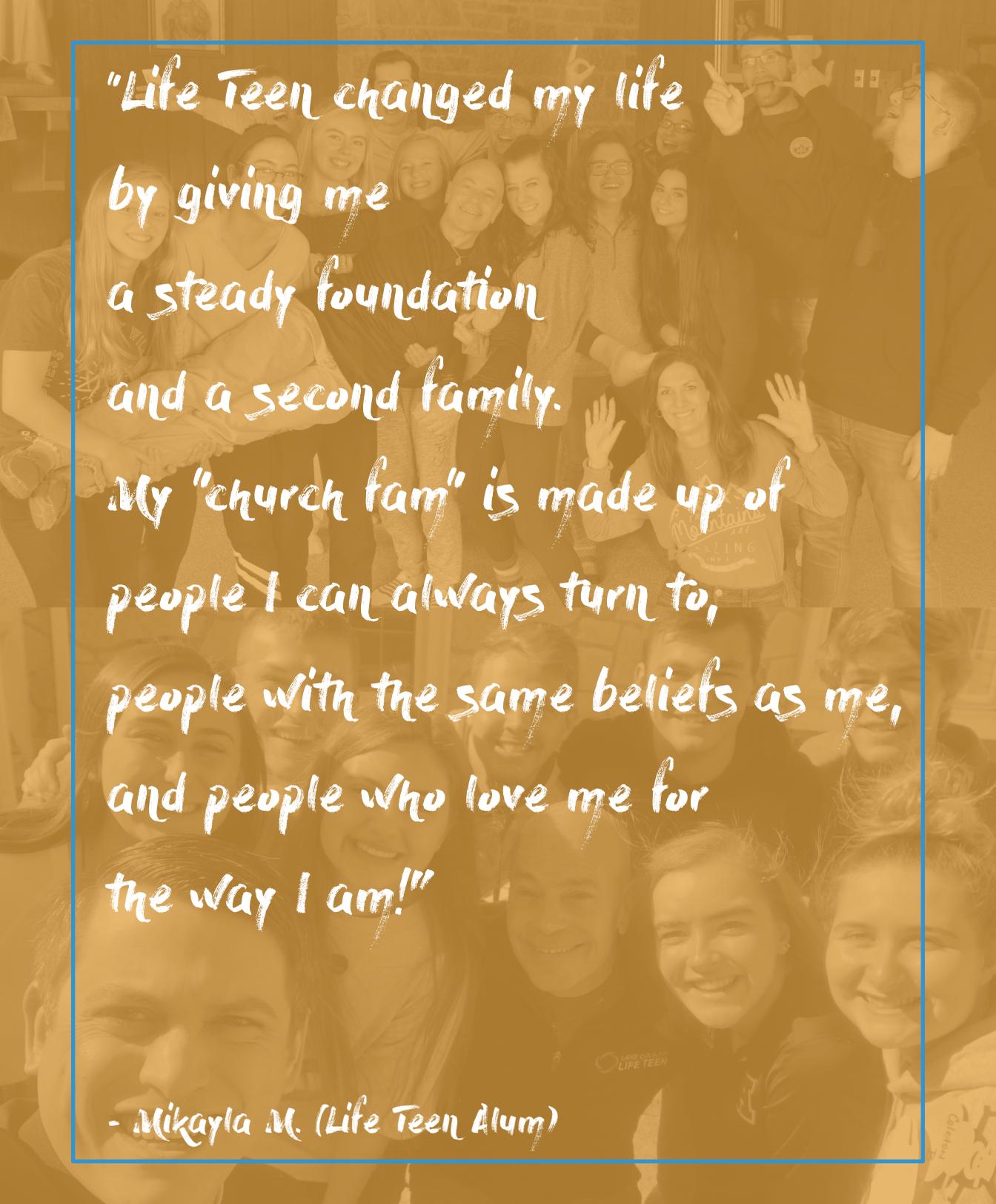
## CORE TEAM

Our Core Team is an amazing group of **adults who are passionate about leading teens to Meet, Know, Love, & Serve Christ**. They walk alongside teens in all of our ministries and in life. They lead activities, facilitate small group discussions, run Bible studies, give talks, chaperone trips and overnight retreats, and lend their many gifts and talents to our young people. You do not need to have studies Theology to be a Core member. The most important qualifications are **a deep love of Christ and his Church and a passion for working with teens**. We want you to witness by your life more than teach by a textbook. You offer your individual gifts, we provide the training to help you succeed in ministry.

## PARENT SUPPORT

We ask parents of teens involved in Life Teen to help us create a warm and welcoming environment for our middle and high school ministries. This can range from providing snacks and drinks for the teens for our normal gatherings to helping with the handful of receptions we host annually.

Some of our ministries take place in Host Homes. Host Families welcome a small group and their core team member into their home to provide an extra warm and welcoming environment to these groups.



"Life Teen changed my life  
by giving me  
a steady foundation  
and a second family.  
My "church fam" is made up of  
people I can always turn to,  
people with the same beliefs as me,  
and people who love me for  
the way I am!"

- Mikayla M. (Life Teen Alum)

# FAQ

## **How do I register my child for EDGE, Life Teen, or Confirmation?**

Registration for the 2020-2021 season starts June 15th, 2020.\*

At that time please visit [lakecountrylifeteen.com/register](https://lakecountrylifeteen.com/register) and follow the instructions on the website. You will be directed to an online form, payment method, and emergency forms.

\*Due to Covid-19 registration was postponed to early August.

## **When does everything start?**

Lake Country Life Teen operates year-round. Our ministries go through seasons that coincide with the school year and summer break. All dates can be found and are most consistently updated at [lakecountrylifeteen.com/events](https://lakecountrylifeteen.com/events).

During the school year we run our *weekly EDGE Nights and Life Nights*. These kickoff in September after St. Charles Fall Fest and run through till the beginning of May, taking brakes for the different long weekends and holidays when families tend to travel.

*Confirmation* season begins with registration in June. Each student (accompanied by a parent or guardian) will be required to either attend a one-on-one orientation meeting during the summer months or a large group orientation session in early August. Those attending the one-on-one meetings will be given early access to small group and retreat signups.

*Summer Trips* signups being in the Fall. Fundraising runs through the year. Students are commissioned with a special blessing in June and the trips take place in June and July.

## **My child attends/attended Catholic School. This is for Public School teens, right?**

Lake Country Life Teen is so much more than your typical Religious Ed program or CCD. It is also the perfect accompaniment to Catholic School education. Catholic education is a great thing but it flourishes when it is put into action. We find that Catholic School and Public School teens benefit from attending Lake Country Life Teen events.

Our Student Ministry provides a community for teens in a unique setting where they are challenged to critically think about what they believe outside of an academic environment. These experiences often lead to lasting friendships and deeper integration into parish life.

## **Can my teen bring a friend?**

New faces are always welcome at Lake Country Life Teen. We do not require registration for visitors and will use the emergency contact info of the attendee if a situation arises.

If your visiting guest is not Catholic they are still very welcome. It may be good to explain some basic Catholic practices ahead of time (like being reverent in Church, etc.).

We encourage teens to invite their friends to our Connect Nights during the school year. These nights have less Catechesis and are intended to be community building, fun events for teens who are interested in experiencing an inviting community.

## **Any other questions?**

Please send us an email at [lifeteen@stcharleshartland.org](mailto:lifeteen@stcharleshartland.org). We'd love to answer your questions and tell you more about what we do.

# STAY CONNECTED



**lakecountrylifeteen.com**



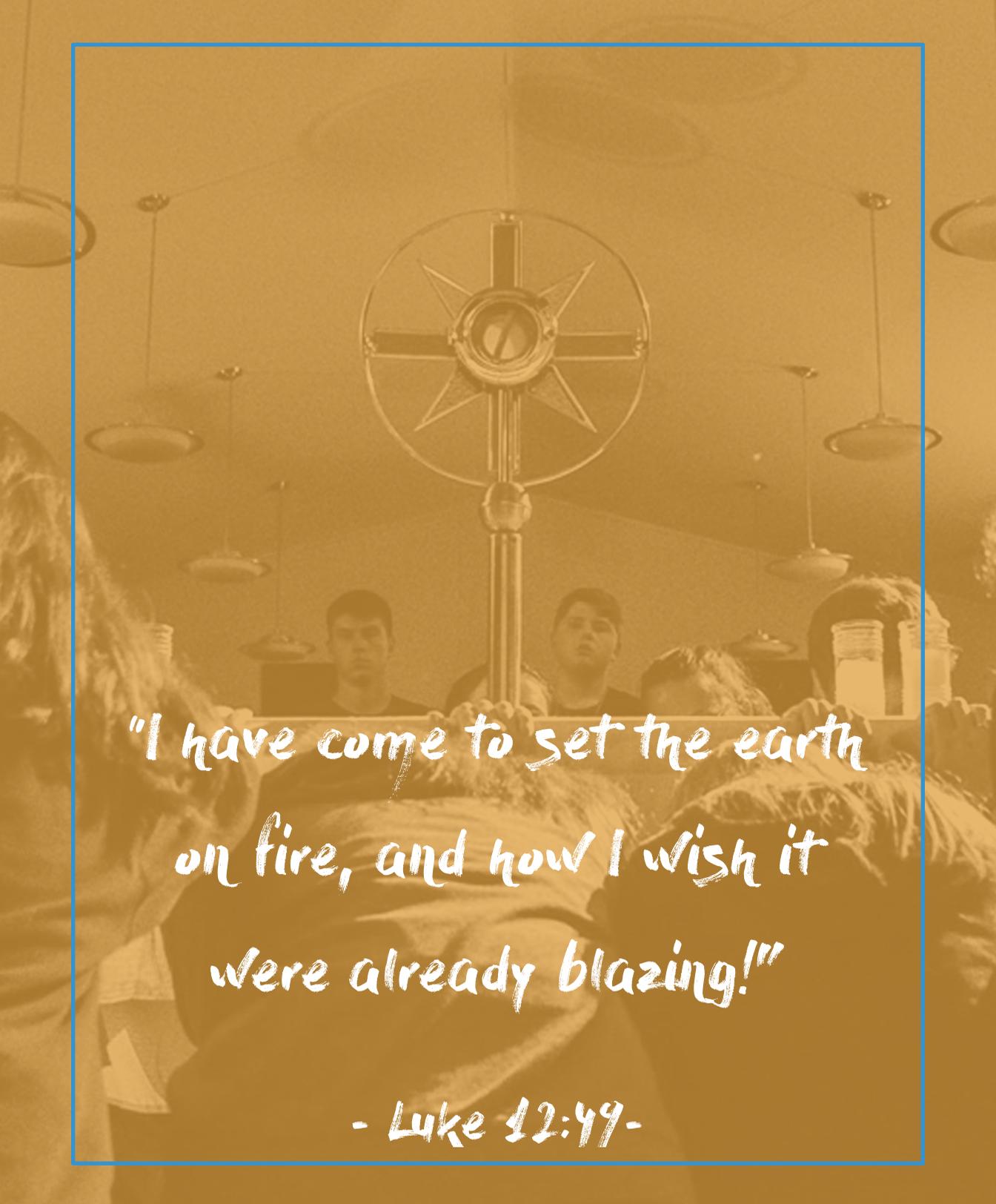
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**instagram.com/lakecountrylifeteen/**



**Text "@lclifeteen" to 81010**



*"I have come to set the earth  
on fire, and how I wish it  
were already blazing!"*

*- Luke 12:49 -*