

Koinonia NYC

Koinonia NYC is a ministry of Koinonia, a Lutheran outdoor ministry.

The mission of Koinonia NYC is the restoration, strengthening and building of grace-filled transformative communities of God's love and healing. The events of Sept. 11 and its aftermath have created an opportunity for the church to witness to the power of Christ-centered community in the face of human-caused disaster. LDRNY collaborated with and has provided funding to Koinonia so this opportunity would be fully funded.

Koinonia NYC brings together small groups to encounter short-term intentional community.

These transformational communities foster the growth for each member and provide the resources and inspiration for their life at home. A balance of education, prayer/worship, discussion and service in a joyous and fun environment changes lives and heals hearts.

The ministry programs of Koinonia NYC include New Ground Day Camps, Servant Events with groups visiting New York City, Welcome Ministry for visitors to New York City including Faith Walks, guided experiences in lower Manhattan exploring the events of Sept. 11 from a faith perspective, and Koinonia Community Servant Staff, post-college intentional Christian community living and working together as they serve in agencies, schools and congregations.



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LDRNY MISSION STATEMENT

To respond directly and encourage and facilitate response from others to the needs of persons and their families affected both directly and indirectly by tragedy or disaster.



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Jim shares his story



The events of Sept. 11 affected many people in a variety of ways, including people from outside the immediate New York City area. Through the Welcome Ministry of Koinonia NYC, visitors to New York have a chance to share their stories. As Jim stood staring through the fence at Ground Zero, slowly he told his story about a childhood friend injured on Sept. 11. Jim was the adult chaperone of a junior high youth group participating in a Koinonia NYC Servant Event.

They had traveled from Pennsylvania to visit New York City and participate in God's healing work. The group had assisted in the emergency food programs at two Lutheran congregations cleaned a sanctuary at a congregation that couldn't afford a custodian, and assisted in painting and cleaning a youth ministry building in the Bronx. Even though Jim was miles away from lower Manhattan on Sept. 11, he still needed to share his story, honor his friend, and provide direct service to congregations affected by the ongoing economic struggle. Worship, prayer, Bible study, sharing of stories and service bring a community together and transforms them with the powerful healing of God's love.

Before Jim's group departed, he thanked Pastor Ann Tiemeyer – Koinonia NYC Director, saying: " I'm going home with a broader understanding of who we are as a church and what we do together as a church – the Lutheran church. Thank you for listening to my story. I will continue to share the stories I heard and saw here in New York City."

Mission Statement of Koinonia

*Empowered by the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
Koinonia prepares people to create
faith-filled community in their daily lives.*