

Membership Overview

The conditions for membership and participation in Lumen Christi include the following:

Statement of Faith

Lumen Christi is first and foremost a Catholic organization. Participants are required to sign and teach in accordance with the Lumen Christi: Statement of Faith.

General Requirements

- At least one parent from each member family must be a practicing Roman Catholic in good standing.
 - Members must be currently homeschooling at least one of their children.
 - Members must have one school-aged (K+) child to participate in the program.
 - Students may not exceed the age of 21. (*Students between the ages of 19 and 21 will be accepted on a case-by-case basis.*)
 - Full Members must participate in all 3 periods of the co-op day. ("Special Event" or "Website only" membership does not have this requirement.) Full Members are expected to help with building clean-up on class days.
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Background Check

Parents must give their consent to St. Joseph Church or the Lumen Christi board of directors to conduct a background check, and agree to abide by any policies outlined by the church.

VIRTUS TRAINING - Protecting God's Children Certification

Any parent participating in the cooperative on campus must provide a record of their successful completion of the free VIRTUS training, "Protecting God's Children." If you have not already completed this training, this can easily be achieved online at <https://www.virtusonline.org>.

Certificates of completion can easily be obtained by contacting your diocese:

Rockford Diocese: 815.399.4300

Chicago Archdiocese: 312.534.8200

Membership Fees and Class Fees

Each semester, a registration fee is assessed to each participating family. This covers costs such as insurance, legal filing fees, website fees, registration fee scholarships, administrative and general classroom supplies and special event materials. This fee is due by the last day of the registration period.

Current Registration Fees:

- **\$65.00 - Full Membership; per semester - per family (includes Class Days, Special Events and Website)**
- **\$10.00 - Website Only Membership; per year - per family**

***Lumen Christi's detailed yearly budget is available, upon request.*

Class Fees, if any, cover the cost of materials, books, and supplies and are assessed per child for each individual class. Classes may vary in price depending on the nature of the course. In some cases a teacher may simply provide a list of needed supplies that each student will be responsible to bring. Class fees are determined according to the discretion of the instructor. For more information about our fees, please see our Member Handbook.

Parental Presence

By nature of being a cooperative (not a drop-off program or school), our insurance requires that parents or legal guardians be on campus while their children are in class. We cannot allow families to bring along children that are not their own to participate in co-op. A parent or legal guardian of each participating child must be present and volunteering in the building during all class days.

Volunteering

Lumen Christi is a cooperative; a team of families joining together for a common goal. As such, it is necessary for each family (parent) to contribute to the cooperative by volunteering. Volunteer expectations are as follows:

- **3 CLASS PERIODS:** Each parent is expected to serve 3 hours on campus each week, participating in all 3 class periods. Volunteer positions include: teacher, classroom assistant, nursery caregiver, hall monitor or substitute teacher/assistant. These positions are described in detail further on in the handbook. When possible, teachers will be offered a free period, but will be asked to help in a classroom, if/when there is a need.
- **ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER TASKS:** In addition to volunteering in the classroom, parents will be assigned school building clean-up tasks after class days. These tasks should be easy to accomplish in a short time.

Teacher

A **teacher** is a person that conducts an academic or enrichment class. In an effort to ensure a positive experience for our students and to accommodate the varying needs and circumstances of our families, it is **NOT** a requirement that every parent teach. We view the art of teaching as a gift, and encourage parents to prayerfully consider devoting their time and talent to teaching. However, the cooperative depends on generous teachers in order to function.

Teachers consist primarily of Lumen Christi member parents, but may also include Catholic clergy or religious, parish youth ministers or, occasionally, student teachers. Teacher responsibilities include generating course ideas, formulating, preparing for, and leading lessons, implementing the discipline policy when necessary, and ensuring a positive Catholic classroom environment.

Lumen Christi teachers are solely volunteers. They are not employees and do not receive any form of compensation. They may set a budget and a small class fee for their classes.

Classroom Assistant

A **Classroom Assistant** is a person that is designated to a class in order to assist the teacher in the classroom. Assistants are responsible for helping the teacher implement lessons, maintain order, and tend to the needs of students.

Teachers may request a specific aid to serve in their class (for example, a foreign language teacher may prefer an aid that is also fluent in the language they are teaching). Otherwise, assistants will be able to sign up to help in the class of their preference.

Nursery Caregiver

A **Nursery Caregiver** supervises, attends to, and plays with the young children of fellow Lumen Christi members while they serve in the classroom. Nursery caregivers ensure the safety of children but are also responsible for actively engaging and playing with the children to create a positive and loving environment. Nursery caregivers must be willing to feed and diaper children, if necessary.