

ACCEPT ALL, EXCEPT NONE

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 15:7 (NIV)

Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Junior High Youth Gathering
November 21-22, 22-23, 2014

August 2014

Dear Youth Ministers (and Pastors, Youth Directors, and Volunteers),

God's peace be with you!

We are happy that you are looking over the registration materials for the Synod's annual Junior High Youth Gathering. This event is sponsored and planned by the Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) and will be held November 21-22 and 22-23, 2014. We will once again be partnering with the Willmar Holiday Inn and Conference Center in order to bring you this awesome event! The gatherings begin by receiving registrants at 4:00 pm and end with closing worship at 11:00 am the next day.

Our theme this year is "Accept All, Except None," focusing on Romans 15:7, "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

Planned activities for this year include:

- Gathering speaker is Tony Ducklow, of Youth Forum. <http://www.youthforummn.com/wordpress/>
- Our band is Lex Anderson, formerly of Bright Light Parade. <http://www.lexanderson.com>
- Nightlife featuring dancing, games, swimming and much more!!
- Fun during mass gatherings, worship, singing, spiritual growth, relationship building and hanging out!

As always, we are looking for ways to make your gathering experience easier. This year we'll be doing registration online! And once again you will have the freedom to choose your own hotel and room assignments. Our hotels have been completely renovated. The Holiday Inn is now the Best Western Plus and the Comfort Inn is now the Holiday inn Express. Please see the enclosed registration information for details on how to book your hotel room.

Like last year, you and your church can order boxed "lunches" which will be waiting for you upon arrival. This way you won't have to leave the hotel to find a place to eat. (Look for separate sheet within this packet)

Thank you for promoting the gathering in your congregations and with your youth. We are looking forward to another outstanding gathering! If you have questions regarding the gathering please contact the Junior High Youth Gathering Manager Kaitlin Opdahl, swmnelcajrhighgathering@gmail.com 320-293-2969. If you have questions concerning registration, please contact the Gathering Registrar, Shaun Luker at 507-276-8829 or at gatheringregistrar@yahoo.com .

See you in November!

Peace to you,

The Southwestern Minnesota Synod Lutheran Youth Organization

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Junior High Youth Gathering
November 21-22, 22-23, 2014

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

LOCATION: Willmar Conference Center – 2100 Hwy 12 E.

REGISTRATION COST: \$45 per person (Includes: programming, evening snack, breakfast, and t-shirt)
All registration fees are non-refundable for any reason, including inclement weather or sporting events.

AGE: This gathering is for 6-9 graders (whatever age group makes sense for Middle School or Jr. High in your community)

DEADLINES:	Oct. 1 – Oct. 20	Regular registration
	Oct. 21-31	Late registration - add \$5 non-refundable late fee per person
	Nov. 1	Registration Closed -no late registrations on or after this date

REGISTRATION FOR THE GATHERING: Please fill out the registration form online at http://www.swmnelca.org/youth_events and either pay online (with check or credit card) or make one check to the “SW MN Synod” and send it to the synod office.
Registrations will not be confirmed until payment is made.

Tip: If you pay online with a check, no credit card fees are charged to the synod.

MAILING ADDRESS:
SW MN Synod Junior High Gathering
SW MN Synod Office
PO BOX 499 Redwood Falls, MN 56283-0499

REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION: Beginning October 4th, you will receive an email notice letting you know which night you are registered for the gathering (these are sent out in the order they came in.) Once you have received confirmation of which night you are registered and receive your registration code, you may mail your hotel reservation form to the Best Western Plus (formerly the Holiday Inn). You will also be directed to the Synod website to download a gathering information packet that will include the schedule, group covenant, packing list, medical release form, and a pre-gathering checklist.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Reservations will be made by following three easy steps:

Step 1: After your gathering registration is received by the registrar, you will receive an email confirmation which will include a code that you will add to the hotel reservation form. This code indicates your group is registered for the gathering and allows the Best Western Plus to determine which night you will be attending. *Do not send your hotel reservation form without your registration code.*

Step 2: Once you have received your confirmation code, mail the room reservation form to the Best Western Plus in order to reserve rooms for your group. The Best Western Plus will be handling the housing arrangements for all hotels. They will book room requests in the order they receive them.

Step 3: The Best Western Plus will send you an email confirmation no later than November 9, confirming your hotel accommodations.

Note: A block of rooms at each hotel will be held until Nov. 4th but keep in mind rooms will fill up as registrations come in. Special rates for gathering participants have been arranged at these hotels. Having the freedom to choose your hotel will enable you to make housing arrangements that will fit your budget, group dynamics, and hotel preference.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Best Western Plus (formerly Holiday Inn):

All Rooms: \$98.89/night (including tax)

Connected to the Willmar Conference Center where all gathering programming is held. Amenities: Pool, Hot Tub.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS (formerly Comfort Inn):

Standard Room: \$98.89/night (including tax)

King and Queen Suites: \$120.86/night (including tax) King Suites have 1 king bed in one room, 1 sofa sleeper in the other room and space for at least 1 single and 1 double air mattress. Queen Suites have 2 queen beds in one room, 1 sofa sleeper in the other room and space for at least 2 double air mattresses.

Located only feet away from the Willmar Conference Center. Amenities: Pool, Hot Tub.

ROOMING ARRANGEMENTS: You must have 1 adult leader (21 years or older) with up to 4 youth in each standard hotel room. Everyone in the room must be of the same gender. Having one adult in each room is very important for the safety of our youth. In the event that you have extra space in any hotel rooms you may contact registrar Shaun Luker and he will act as the 'clearing house' to help you find another group with whom to share accommodations. Depending on your room configuration and how many people you put in a room, you may want to bring sleeping bags and pillows. There is a limit of 5 people in each standard room. Reserving a suite will give you more freedom to have a greater number of people in one room.

GATHERING COPY

Medical Release/Medical Information/Photo Release Form

SW MN Synod Junior High Youth Gathering
Please reproduce this form – one form for every youth and adult.

Name of gathering registrant:

Age: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s)

Parent/Guardian Phone Number(s)

Are there any medical conditions or allergies that we should know about?

If parent/guardian is unavailable, please contact:

Phone #: _____

Insurance Company name and policy #:

I hereby grant my permission for my child to attend the SW MN Synod Junior High Youth Gathering, to be held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center Willmar, MN from Nov 21-22 & 22-23, 2014. I also grant my permission, in case of an emergency, for medical attention to be sought by the chaperones for my child’s group and/or the persons in charge of the gathering. This permission includes gathering planners using photos and videos that may include my child in Youth Gathering communications. I understand that all efforts will be made to notify me immediately of any such happenings.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Signature of parent/guardian)

CONGREGATION COPY

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Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Signature of parent/guardian)

SW MN Synod 2014 Junior High Gathering Covenant

We, the undersigned, agree to covenant the following behaviors for the duration of the SW MN Synod Junior High Gathering. We do this in order to receive maximum benefits from our time together.

In keeping with our witness as a Christian Community, we will:

1. Refrain from using any substance that will alter our state of mind or being, including drugs, alcohol, or tobacco in any shape or form.
2. Follow Jesus' example by putting other people before ourselves, so that all people - speakers, musicians, security, hotel staff, other guests and all other participants - will be respected. This includes listening, participating, our language and gestures, and the observing of Quiet Hours.
3. Treat facilities with care.
4. Not leave the designated hotels without the permission of our adult advisor.
5. Actively participate in all gathering events.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

**Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Junior High Youth Gathering 2014
HOTEL RESERVATION REQUEST FORM**

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Dear SWMN Synod Attendee:

Thank you for your interest in staying with us for the SWMN Synod event on November 21-23, 2014!
All reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card and cancellations must be received no later than November 8, 2014. Cancellations received after November 8, 2014 will result in one night's room fee and tax for each room cancelled being billed to your card. No refunds will be given after November 8, for any reason, including poor weather.
Reservations are taken on a **first-come, first-serve** basis. We will try to honor your hotel preference and room type (one bed or two) based on what is available **when we receive your reservation.**

Your hotel reservation confirmation number(s) will be emailed to you no later than November 15, 2014.

REGISTRATION CODE:



Please write your registration code in this box. Your code will be provided to you when you register for the event.

Our rates for the SWMN Synod event will be as follows:

:: Best Western Plus (formerly Holiday Inn)\$98.89* (including tax) per room/per night.

:: Holiday Inn Express & Suites (formerly Comfort Inn)

:: Standard Room\$98.89* (including tax) per room/per night.

:: King or Queen Suite*.....\$120.86* (including tax) per room/per night.

**Please Note: Rate does not include hotel breakfast - breakfast is provided at your event.*

Reservation Information Needed

RESERVATIONS WILL NOT BE TAKEN OVER THE PHONE – Please submit this form.

Church Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email Address (required for confirmation): _____

Credit Card Number (if applicable): _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: (Required): _____

Circle Date Requested: **November 21 22**

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of Rooms: _____

Preference (Circle One - cannot guarantee): **One Bed** **Two Beds**

Hotel Preference (please mark 1st and 2nd choice):

Best Western Plus (formerly Holiday Inn) _____ **Holiday Inn Express & Suites** (formerly Comfort Inn) _____

Comments: _____

REGISTRATIONS CREDIT CARD or CHECK PAYMENT REGISTRATIONS

Mail to: Staci Tegels Nelson, Best Western Plus, 2100 E Hwy 12, Willmar, MN 56201 (no faxes please)

**** Method of Payment Must Be Provided to Make Reservations ****

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Confirmation Number(s): _____

Location: _____

Room Type: **One Bed** **Two Beds**

THANK YOU - WE LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING YOU STAY WITH US!

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Best Western Plus • 2100 E Hwy 12 • Willmar, MN 56201 :: Holiday Inn Express & Suites • 240 23rd St. SE • Willmar, MN 56201

Questions about Hotel Reservations? Please contact Staci Tegels Nelson sales@willmarhotels.com or 320-235-3312 x306



Box Lunch Form

(Choice of Turkey, Vegetarian or Gluten Free Sandwich with
Chips, Cookie)
Add Beverage for \$1.00

Church Name _____

Leader Name _____

Phone Number _____

Box Lunches @ \$6.50

~Turkey _____

~Vegetarian _____

~Gluten Free _____

Number of Sodas @ \$1.00 _____

Total Cost _____

~Payment must be included with form – Cash or Check Only

**Please send form to:
Best Western Plus
Attn: Jaime Larson
2100 HWY 12 East
Willmar, MN 56201**

**For questions please contact Jaime Larson:
320.235.3312 x305
catering@willmarhotels.com**