



*SW MN Synod  
Junior High Youth Gathering  
November 22-23, 2024*

**REGISTRATION  
INFORMATION GUIDE**

CALLING ALL Youth Ministers  
(and Pastors, Youth Directors, and Volunteers):

*God's peace to you! Here's the info for the JH Gathering!*

We are incredibly excited that you are looking at the materials for the 2024 Junior High Youth Gathering. This is a **YOUTH LED** event that is planned by the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Board.

**This year, we are only offering ONE option for the JH Gathering:  
Friday, November 22 – Saturday, November 23, 2024**

We are eager to partner with the Willmar Conference Center & Best Western Plus/Holiday Inn Express once again to bring you this awesome event! We hope that this centralized location in the synod will allow you to join us for this excellent experience. We are only offering ONE this year due to the Conference Center booking a wedding over our event.

**Our theme this year is "Forever Unbroken," based on Romans 8:37-39.**

Gathering Features:

- Speaker: Rachel Kurtz
- Musicians: SWMN Synod Youth Band
- YOUTH LED Mass Gatherings including worship, singing, growing in faith, student faith talks, building relationships and hanging out with other youth from our very own synod.
- Nightlife featuring swimming, games, food, dancing, service project and SO MUCH MORE!

We hope that this guide provides you with plenty of information to pump up the youth in your congregation! Registration will take place online October 1<sup>st</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and you will be able to choose your own hotel and room assignments by booking hotel rooms once you have registered.

Registration link: <https://swmnelca.org/event/jhyg2024/>

*Thank YOU for supporting this youth led event!  
We look forward to hosting your congregation this November!*

**QUESTIONS?**

JH Gathering Manager: Janelle Eisenbacher #(320) 295-0312  
jeisenbacher@hotmail.com

SW MN Synod Minister: Pastor Seyward Ask:  
#678-427-7612 -or- [seyward.ask@swmnelca.org](mailto:seyward.ask@swmnelca.org)

Registration Questions for Registrar:  
[lyogatheringregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:lyogatheringregistrar@gmail.com)

LYO Coordinator for Synod Minister: Pastor Christa Forsythe (PC)  
#320-535-0641 & email: [christaforsythe@gmail.com](mailto:christaforsythe@gmail.com)

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**REGISTRATION  
OPENS ON October 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Early Bird Registration**

**Oct 1 – 15**

**Late Registration**

**Oct 15-21**

**AND**

**Registration that  
includes Hotel  
CLOSES ON OCT 20<sup>th</sup>!**

**After Oct 21<sup>st</sup> – You will  
need to find own housing**

## **What YOU need to know about REGISTRATION!**



**REGISTRATION OPENS on October 1<sup>st</sup>**

**For registration you will need to know the following:**

- **Number of youth participants**
- **Number of adult participants**
- **T-shirt sizes for ALL participants**
- **A form of payment ready to submit online (credit card or check information).**

### **DEADLINES:**

Oct. 1-Oct 15 Early Bird Registration, \$90 early bird rate (Opens at **NOON** on the 1<sup>st</sup>)

Oct. 15 - Oct. 21 Registration continues, \$95 registration rate (Closes at **5 PM** on the 21<sup>st</sup>)

Oct. 21 @ 5 PM Registration Closed – Any late registrations after this date will cost \$100, you will need to contact the Gathering Registrar, and these late registrations DO NOT include t-shirts or rooms in the hotel block, so you will need to secure housing.

**GATHERING LOCATION:** Willmar Conference Center – 2100 Hwy 12 E. Willmar, MN

**REGISTRATION COST:** \$90 per person/early bird, \$95 per person/regular registration (youth & adults)  
All Gathering Participants will receive an evening snack, brunch buffet, t-shirt and excellent programming!  
*All registration fees are non-refundable for any reason.*

**AGE:** The Junior High Youth Gathering open to all 6th-9th graders! (We encourage you to decide what makes sense for Middle School or Junior High youth in your congregation.)

**HOW TO REGISTER:** Please fill out the registration form online at [www.swmnelca.org/event/jhyg2024](http://www.swmnelca.org/event/jhyg2024) and either pay online with a credit card or e-check.

*NOTE the CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEARS:* You will need to pay in full for your registrations at the time of registering. If you pay online with a check, NO credit card fees are charged to the synod.

*\*\*Registrations will not be confirmed until payment is made.\*\**

### **MAILING ADDRESS:**

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

**REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION:** Upon completing your online registration, you will immediately receive an email confirming you are registered for the gathering. This email will include a link to the Gathering Participant Guide (schedule, group covenant, packing list, a pre-gathering checklist, and the medical release/information/media release form). These forms will also be available on the Synod website. Once you have received confirmation that you are registered for the Gathering, you may email your hotel reservation form to the Best Western Plus.

## **What you need to know about HOTEL RESERVATIONS! Three easy steps:**

**Step 1:** After the gathering registrar receives your registration and payment, you will receive an email confirmation, which will indicate that your church is registered for the Gathering.

**Step 2:** Once you have received your confirmation email, please ***EMAIL*** 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.

*Do not send your hotel reservation form without your registration confirmation email (no code needed).*

**Step 3:** Best Western Plus will send you an email confirmation by November 1<sup>st</sup> confirming your hotel.

\*Note: A block of rooms at each hotel will be held until October 21<sup>st</sup>, 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**

#### **2024 BEST WESTERN PLUS Rates:**

All Rooms: \$149.67/night (includes taxes)  
Connected to the Willmar Conference Center where all gathering programming is held.  
Amenities: Pool, Hot Tub.

#### **2024 HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS Rates:**

Standard Room: \$149.67/night (includes taxes)  
King and Queen Suites: \$205.11/night (includes taxes)  
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 1-2 double air mattresses.  
Located only feet away from the Willmar Conference Center. Amenities: Pool, Hot Tub.



**ROOMING ARRANGEMENTS:** We require a ratio of 1 adult leader (21 years or older) to 5 youth. Each congregation may decide how to assign rooms. 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. You may choose to have your youth stay in rooms with adults, or you may have your adults in rooms separate from youth.

*A word about housing: We do our best to create a safe haven for all people. We do not allow adults to sleep in the same bed as youth. Please make a plan that includes bringing sleeping bags and possibly air mattresses.*

*It is also a wise practice to use the rule of 3. Never have one adult and one youth in the sleeping room alone. When an adult is in the sleeping room, make sure there are two youth present, as well. These things are done for the protection of youth, adults and your congregation.*

**If you have any questions, please contact:**

**JH Gathering Manager, Janelle Eisenbacher**

#(320) 295-0312 – or - [jeisenbacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jeisenbacher@hotmail.com)

- OR -

**Synod Minister, Pastor Seyward Ask**

#678-427-7612 -or- [seyward.ask@swmnelca.org](mailto:seyward.ask@swmnelca.org)

**Southwestern Minnesota Synod  
Junior High Youth Gathering 2024  
HOTEL RESERVATION REQUEST FORM**



Dear SWMN Synod Attendee:

*Thank you for choosing to stay with us for the Junior High Youth Gathering on November 22-23, 2024!*

All reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card and must be received no later than October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. If you need to cancel, you may do so without penalty by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Cancellations received after November 1<sup>st</sup> will result in full payment for your room(s). 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**.

Our rates for the 2024 gathering will be as follows:

--Best Western Plus.....\$149.67 total per room/per night.

--Holiday Inn Express & Suites

--Standard Room\*.....\$149.67\* total per room/per night.

--Suite\*.....\$205.11\* total per room/per night.

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

**REGISTRATION DATE:**

Please, write the date of your email registration confirmation here. Email confirmation will be sent from the synod office upon completion of registration and receiving registration payment.

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

*EMAIL to: Caryl Paulsen, [caryl.paulsen@tpihospitality.com](mailto:caryl.paulsen@tpihospitality.com)*

**EMAIL SUBJECT: SYNOD HOTEL REQUEST (CHURCH NAME)**

*REGISTRATIONS: CREDIT CARD or CHECK (Method of Payment Must Be Provided to Make Reservations)*

Your hotel reservation confirmation will be emailed to you no later than November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (required for confirmation): \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: (Required): \_\_\_\_\_

Gathering Date: November 22-23, 2024

# of Rooms: \_\_\_\_\_

Preference (Circle One - cannot guarantee):

One Bed

Two Beds

Hotel Preference (please mark 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice): Best Western Plus  Holiday Inn Express & Suites

*Best Western Plus • 2100 E Hwy 12 • Willmar, MN 56201. Holiday Inn Express & Suites • 240 23<sup>rd</sup> St. SE • Willmar, MN 56201*

Questions about Hotel Reservations? Contact **Caryl Paulsen at: [caryl.paulsen@tpihospitality.com](mailto:caryl.paulsen@tpihospitality.com) or 320-444-9480**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Confirmation Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Room Type:

One Bed

Two Beds



# SW MN Synod Junior High Youth Gathering November 22-23, 2024

Please reproduce this form – one form for every youth and adult.

Please, bring ORIGINAL to the Gathering, and keep a 2<sup>nd</sup> copy for your church leaders for the weekend of the Gathering.

Name of gathering participant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size (Adult sizes, circle one): S M L XL XXL

Parent/Guardian Name(s) #1: \_\_\_\_\_ #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Cell #(s) #1: \_\_\_\_\_ #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any medical conditions or allergies that we should know about? (attach further explanation, if necessary)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact** (for youth if parents unavailable & for adults in case of an emergency), please contact:

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

**Photo/Media Release Permission:** I give permission for the Gathering planners and our \_\_\_\_\_  
(Church Name Above)

Church leaders to use photos and videos that include the above participant for Youth Gathering communication and promotion of the event – including printed and social media platforms. \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

**Parent/Guardian Permission:** I hereby grant my permission for my child to attend the SW MN Synod Junior High Youth Gathering, to be held at the Willmar Convention Center and hotels in Willmar, MN November 22-23, 2024 with the \_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church Youth Group and its adult leaders. I also grant my permission,

(Church Name Above)

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. I understand that all efforts will be made to notify me immediately of any such happenings.

Signed: (parent/guardian) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **SW MN Synod 2024 Junior High Gathering Covenant**

I, the undersigned, agree to covenant the following behaviors for the duration of the SW MN Synod Junior High Youth Gathering, November 22-23, 2024. We do this in order to receive maximum benefits from our time together and for care of others. 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 – LYO board, speakers, musicians, security, camp/hotel staff, other guests and all other participants - will be respected. This includes listening, participating, our language and gestures, honoring our diversity and differences, and observing Quiet Hours (11 PM – 7:30 AM).
3. Treat facilities with care and respect. Seek to leave spaces better than I find them, pick up, etc.
4. Not leave the designated locations without the permission of our adult leader. Stay out of hotel rooms during Mass Gatherings and Night Life so that I participate in the ministry programming.
5. Refrain from using electronic devices (other than camera use) in Worship (Mass Gatherings) & Night Life
6. (In light of additional risks and spread of influenza and covid-19 variants) care for our neighbors, who may have health issues of their own or in their immediate family by either not attending if I am sick, commit to test if sick before arrival, or mask in public if showing symptoms.
7. Commit to actively participate in all gathering events, including being fully present.

Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **2024 JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING Tentative SCHEDULE: (Subject to Change)**

**November 22<sup>nd</sup> FRIDAY PM-SATURDAY AM November 23<sup>rd</sup>**

### Evening

4:00-4:30 pm Start Checking In To Hotels

Before 7:00 Supper (on your own)

4:30-6:30 pm Registration At Your Hotel

6:30 pm Pre-Gathering Music

7:00-8:30 pm Mass Gathering

8:45-11:15 PM Nightlife!

8:45-9:15 pm. Female Adult Leader Meeting

9:25-9:55 pm Male Adult Leader Meeting

(10 PM: Pizza Orders Due (& Paid) to the Green Mill Catering Office across hall from Dance)

11:30-12:15 am Mass Gathering

12:15 am Congregational Devotion Time

1:00 am In your own rooms

2:00 am Lights Out

### Morning

9:15-10:15 am Breakfast Buffet

10:30 am Mass Gathering  
& Closing Worship

12:00 pm Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!



## **Packing List**

- ❑ Sleeping bag and pillow (may want to bring 3 for every 5 people)
- ❑ Clothes (Remember: this is a church event, so be mindful of sayings, slogans, etc. )
- ❑ Toiletries
- ❑ Prescription medication in original prescription container (if needed)
- ❑ Swimsuit & Towel for the Pool
- ❑ Weather appropriate attire for the drive and traveling
- ❑ Bible
- ❑ Money for our Worship Offering
- ❑ Money for Friday or Saturday evening supper (OR Sack supper)
- ❑ Service Project Materials (TBD upon completed registration)
- ❑ Optional: camping mat/blow-up mattress for students without a hotel bed
- ❑ Optional: spending money and money for Saturday lunch on the way home