



# **SW MN Synod Junior High Youth Gathering November 21-22, 2025**

## **REGISTRATION GUIDE**

Calling all Youth Ministers (and Pastors, Youth Directors, and Volunteers):

***God's peace to you! Here's info for the Junior High Youth Gathering!***

We are incredibly excited that you are looking at the materials for the 2025 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're offering ONE option for the JH Gathering:  
Friday, November 21 – Saturday, November 22, 2025**

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 "Strengthened by Faith," based on Isaiah 41:10.**

### **Gathering Features:**

- **Speaker/Musician:** Agape
- **YOUTH-LED Mass Gatherings**, which include worship, singing, faith talks by students, building relationships, growing in faith, 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 September 22 – October 17, 2025, and you will be able to choose your own hotel and room assignments by booking hotel rooms **ON YOUR OWN (no hotel code needed)** once you have registered.

Registration link: <https://swmnelca.org/event/jhyg2025>

***Thank YOU for supporting this youth led event!***

***We look forward to hosting your congregation this November!***

### **QUESTIONS?**

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

**JH Gathering Manager: Janelle Eisenbacher**  
(320) 295-0312 -or- [jeisenbacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jeisenbacher@hotmail.com)

**Registration Questions for Registrar: Amy Swanson**  
(320) 287-1867 -or- [lyogatheringregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:lyogatheringregistrar@gmail.com)

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**\*REGISTRATION  
OPENS September 22.**

**\*Early Bird Registration  
Sept. 22 – Oct. 10**

**\*Late Registration  
Oct. 11-17**

**\*Hotel Room Block  
ENDS OCTOBER 17.**

***After October 17, housing  
at these hotels may not be  
available, and you will  
need to secure housing  
elsewhere.***

# What YOU need to know about REGISTRATION!

## REGISTRATION OPENS on September 22.

### 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:

- Sept. 22-Oct 10 Early Bird Registration, \$90 early bird rate (Opens at **NOON** on 9/22)
- Oct. 11 - Oct. 17 Registration continues, \$95 registration rate (Closes at **5 PM** on 10/17)
- Oct. 17 @ 5 PM Registration Closed – Any late registrations after this date will cost \$100.  
*\*\*You'll need to contact the Gathering Registrar, and late registrations DO NOT include t-shirts or rooms in the hotel block, so you'll 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 is 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/jhyg2025](http://www.swmnelca.org/event/jhyg2025) 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.**

**AGAIN: NO CODE NEEDED TO MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

**Step 3:** Best Western Plus will send you an email confirmation starting November 3 confirming your hotel.

\*Note: A block of rooms at each hotel will be held until October 17, 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.\* **NO CODE NEEDED TO RESERVE HOTEL ROOMS!**

### **HOTEL INFORMATION**

#### **2025 BEST WESTERN PLUS Rates:**

All Rooms: \$138.59/night (includes taxes)

Connected to the Willmar Conference Center where all gathering programming is held.

Amenities: Pool, Hot Tub.

#### **2025 HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS Rates:**

Standard Room: \$138.59/night (includes taxes)

King and Queen Suites: \$199.57/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, you can contact:**

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

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