

**Southwestern Minnesota Synod  
Junior High Youth Gathering  
November 17-18, 18-19, 2017**



August 2017

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

*God's peace to 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) Board and will be held November 17-18 and 18-19, 2017. We will once again be partnering with the Willmar Conference Center & Best Western Plus/Holiday Inn Express 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 "Rooted in Faith." focusing on Colossians 2:7,  
"Rooted and built up in Christ, strengthened in the faith as you were taught and overflowing with thankfulness."**

Planned activities for this year include:

- Gathering speaker, Jonathan Swenson (<http://paraphrasetheatre.com>)
- Band, Bridge 33 (<http://www.bridge33.net>)
- Nightlife featuring dancing, games, service projects, swimming and much more!!
- Fun during mass gatherings, worship, singing, spiritual growth, relationship building and hanging out!

As in the past, we will be completing gathering registration online. You will also have the freedom to choose your own hotel and room assignments. Please see the following 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 a separate order sheet after you've registered!)

Thank you for promoting this event 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, at [swmnelcajrhighgathering@gmail.com](mailto:swmnelcajrhighgathering@gmail.com), or 320-293-2969. If you have questions concerning registration, please contact the Gathering Registrar, Shaun Luker at 507-317-8968 or at [gatheringregistrar@yahoo.com](mailto:gatheringregistrar@yahoo.com).

See you in November!

Peace to you,  
*The Southwestern Minnesota Synod Lutheran Youth Organization*

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**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

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

**REGISTRATION COST:** \$45 per person (including adults)

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 6th-9th graders (whatever age group makes sense for Middle School or Jr. High youth in your community)

**DEADLINES:** Oct. 2 - Oct. 20 Regular registration (Opens at 8:00 am on the 2<sup>nd</sup>)  
Oct. 21 - Nov. 2 Late registration - add \$5 non-refundable late fee per person  
Nov. 3 Registration Closed - no late registrations on or after this date

**REGISTRATION FOR THE GATHERING:** Please fill out the registration form online at <http://swmnelca.org/event/jr-high-youth-gathering> 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.\*\****

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

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

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

**REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION:** Beginning October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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.

Upon completing your online registration, you will also receive a gathering information packet via email that will include the 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.

*(\*\*The Medical Release/Information/Media Release Form has been re-worked from years past to better accommodate ALL participants--both youth and adults--this form is included in this packet, as it is something that each gathering participant will be required to fill out before your congregation's arrival.)*