



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



**Southwestern Minnesota Synod Senior High Youth Gathering
March 9-10, 2018
Lake Geneva Christian Center, Alexandria, MN**

January 2018

Dear Youth Leaders (Pastors, Youth Ministers and Adult Advisors),

Blessings to you, your family and congregation! We are really thrilled to be sharing the registration materials for the Synod's annual Senior High Youth Gathering! This event is for students in grades 9-12 and is coordinated and planned by the SW MN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO). It will be held March 9-10, 2018 at Lake Geneva Christian Center, Alexandria, MN.

Our theme this year is "**Undeniably Known**" Based on 1 Corinthians 13:12

"For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."

We have an outstanding gathering planned for you:

- **Our band: SWMN Synod Youth Band!** This band will be leading worship at the ELCA Youth Gathering Synod Day, 2018. We are excited to have them also join us for the gathering.
- **Our speaker: Pastor Rena Peterson!** She's currently residing in Grafton, North Dakota where she's the associate pastor at Grafton Lutheran Church. She moved to ND to be closer to her children, grandchild, and children and grandchildren of the heart. She states, "There is nothing special about me, but when I write my book the title will be 'The Best Revenge is a Life Well-lived'." To learn more about Rena, make sure to say hi at the gathering!
- Nightlife will include an exceptional variety of options
- The Spirit Garage- a relaxing place for peace and prayer
- Small group sessions led by trained youth to help dig deeper into the theme
- The gathering will include mass gatherings, lively worship, dancing, singing, fun, faith and relationship building

Please follow our Social Media! This is where we will be posting pictures and updates about our gatherings, events, LYO Board, or our ELCA youth.

FACEBOOK: SWMN Youth, ELCA

INSTAGRAM/SNAPCHAT/TWITTER: @swmnlyo

Please use the hashtag: [#swmnlyo](https://www.instagram.com/swmnlyo)

Gathering registration opens on January 23rd, 2018 at 10:00 am and continues through 4:30 pm on February 16th. (See next page for more deadlines)

After your registration is received, you will receive an email confirming your registration. You will also receive, via email, the Registration Confirmation Packet. **Thank you** for promoting the gathering in your congregation and with your youth. We are looking forward to an exceptional Gathering!

See you in March!

In Christ, *The Southwestern Minnesota Lutheran Youth Organization*

Questions regarding the Gathering?

Contact: Gathering Manager Janelle Curry
jnecurry04@gmail.com or (507) 276-8340

Questions regarding Gathering registration?

Contact: Registrar Shaun Luker
gatheringregistrar@yahoo.com or (507) 317-8968

Senior High (Grades 9-12) Youth Gathering

Registration Information



COST: \$95 per person (payment due with your registration)

- Includes room, programming, and a Gathering t-shirt
- Also includes Saturday breakfast and Saturday lunch

DEADLINES: Regular registration January 23rd @ 10:00 am- February 16th @ 4:30 pm
Late registration February 16th -March 2nd (add \$10 non-refundable late fee per person)
Registration Closed March 3rd (no late registrations on or after this date)
Cancellations If cancelled by **February 4th** you will receive a \$25 refund for those registrations

GROUPS: Groups must register with one adult (**21 yrs. or older – for liability reasons**) for every 7 youth.

ROOMS: We have multiple options for housing this year at Lake Geneva. Some rooms are hotel style, and some rooms will be camp style with bunk beds. We will be housing youth with youth by gender and adults with adults by gender. However, if you would like youth and adults to stay in the same room, we have some rooms to accommodate that while maintaining some privacy for adults. You will have an opportunity to request this on the registration form. Persons from different churches may be housed together in order to reduce gathering costs. Each person will be provided with a sheet set (top & bottom sheet), pillow with a pillowcase, one blanket, one bath towel, one hand towel, and one washcloth. Please bring a sleeping bag or additional blankets if you feel necessary. We will do our best to honor your room requests.

DETAILS: Once all your deposits are gathered fill out the registration form online at <https://swmnelca.org/event/shyg/> and either **pay online** (with check or credit card) or make ONE CHECK out to the "SW MN Synod" then send it to the **synod office**.

SW MN Synod Senior High Gathering
SOUTHWESTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD
PO BOX 499
REDWOOD FALLS MN 56283

Registrations will not be confirmed until payment is made.

**** If you are registering online, you will need the following information: Participant's name, grade, t-shirt size**

QUESTIONS about registration? Contact Registrar Shaun Luker at (507) 317-8968 or gatheringregistrar@yahoo.com

Tentative Schedule:

Friday	Saturday
5:00 - 6:30 pm Registration	8:00- 8:45 am Breakfast Buffet (<i>Dining Hall</i>)
6:30 - 7:00 pm Pre-Assembly Music	9:00-11:30 am Assembly II & LYO elections
7:00 - 8:30 pm Assembly I	11:30-12:30 pm Lunch (<i>Dining Hall</i>)
8:30 - 9:00 pm Small Groups, Chaperone orientation	12:30-2:30 pm Dig Deeper into the theme
9:15 - 11:00 pm Nightlife, LYO Board info meeting	3:00- 5:00 pm Small Groups and Closing worship
11:00 p.m. Large Group Activity	5:00 pm Go in peace, Serve the Lord!
12:00 a.m. Church Family Time	
1:00 a.m. Curfew	



LYO Board Elections

Your new SW MN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Board will be elected at the Senior High Youth Gathering. This is an amazing opportunity for youth to serve their church, synod and community while growing in faith and leadership skills. Please encourage youth from your congregation to run for this board. It is a rewarding learning and faith building experience.

The LYO Board is responsible for planning and leading the Jr. and Sr. High Youth Gatherings and representing the voice of youth on a synod level. The LYO board is a leadership team that requires leadership skills, maturity, a significant investment of time, and a desire to grow in and share one's faith. Board members receive training to grow in their skills and accomplish their assigned tasks.

Youth from your congregations in grades 9-11 are eligible to run for thirteen one-year LYO board terms. The 13 elected youth will choose their own officers during LYO training. After the gathering, the LYO board will choose 2 additional board-appointed members to increase diversity on the board.

Serving on the LYO board involves a time commitment of attending LYO training in the summer, 2 weekend meeting/retreats, and leading the Jr. and Sr. High Gathering. Dates for these commitments are printed on the LYO application form.

On the back of this sheet you will find an LYO application form. Forms received by **March 2nd** will be printed and distributed to gathering participants to aid in the election process. All youth who run for the LYO board will need to fill out a form, but **only those received by March 2nd will be printed.**

If you have any questions please contact Sarah Hausken, 320-579-0838 or sarah.hausken@swmnelca.org.

How have you seen God at work through your service on the SW MN Synod LYO board?

Thoughts from past LYO members . . .

God has worked with me through the other members of the board. The amazing friendships and relationships he has provided for me are incredible. To think that I didn't know them a year ago is impossible to me. We have created a family, and I thank God for each of them every day!

- Riley Anderson, Litchfield, MN

I see God in every aspect of LYO! I know it sounds cliché but I see the light of God shine through everyone so brightly. One of my favorite parts is seeing the way God works through us. It's so reassuring knowing that we are all there for the same reason. We are one team, one body, one big family. It's the best relationship I have ever had. God is working through each and every one of us and I am incredibly blessed that I am a part of this amazing organization.

- Tori Rath, Willmar, MN

I see God work every gathering we do, I love seeing the smiles on the youths face when they arrive at the gathering and during, it is awesome to see how appreciative they are, and because I know that the people on the LYO are there to support me through whatever, and whenever!

- Harper Groves, Buffalo Lake, MN



LYO Application Form
Candidates for Southwestern Minnesota Lutheran Youth Organization

The LYO Board is responsible for planning and leading the Jr. and Sr. High Youth Gatherings and representing the voice of youth on a synod level. The LYO is a leadership team that requires leadership skills, a significant investment of time, and a desire to grow in and share one's faith. Board members receive training to grow in their skills and serve in this ministry.

Following are the meeting dates the 2018-2019 LYO board is committed to attending and serving. If you know you will be unable to attend more than one meeting or will not make your participation in the LYO board a priority, please consider letting someone who is able to make the commitment and be present for more meetings have the chance to serve on the LYO Board. Your commitment to LYO starts with a training to build foundational skills in leadership and create relationships of trust within the LYO community. Participation in training is essential and expected.

LYO Training June 9-11, 2018; September 8, 2018; November 15,-18 2018; January 18-19, 2019; March, ?, 2019

****You may fill out and mail or email this form or submit it online (preferred) at <http://swmnelca.org/event/shyg> ****

Name _____ Gender _____ Birth date _____ Grade _____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____ Do you check it? _____ Home Phone Number _____

Cell Phone Number _____ Do you text? _____ Parent's Name(s) _____

Home Congregation and Town/Location _____

1. In 30 words or less, please state why you are interested in serving on the LYO Board. (What motivated you to apply? What do you hope to accomplish for youth in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod by serving on the LYO Board?)

2. In 30 words or less, please state some strengths, gifts, abilities or perspectives you would bring to the LYO Board.

3. In 30 words or less, please state any activities have you been involved with at school, church and in your community that may give you experience that would help you serve on the LYO Board.

Written applications to be printed for the Gathering will only be received until **March 2, 2018**.
 All candidates must fill out an application before voting takes place on March 10, 2017.

Please submit online to:

LYO Secretary Kylie Halvorson (Email: 19halvoky@willmar.org) titled "SWMN Synod LYO Board Application"
 Kylie will contact you via email to let you know she has received your application. If you do not hear from her 2 days after submission, please contact her to make sure she received it.

Small Group Leaders

Small groups are a super-mega-important part of the Senior High Youth Gathering, and are awesome for creating friendships between youth from all over the Synod. It makes the whole gathering much more epic for the youth.

We are asking you as an adult leader to seek out 10-12th grade youth that you believe would absolutely ROCK at leading a small group. We are looking for 30 youth who can own this kind of leadership role. Past experience in leading a small group is helpful but not required. We trust your judgment to ask youth who would be gifted in this way.

Small groups will be made up of approximately seven youth from different congregations (both male and female), in the same grade.

We ask that each small group leader come to a required training on Friday March 9th, during registration/check in time at Lake Geneva Christian Center. The exact time and location will be emailed closer to the gathering. If he/she cannot make the training during that time, please contact LYO board member, Lauren Terhaar to make other arrangements.

This is an awesome opportunity to give youth a chance to serve at the Senior High Youth Gathering and use the skills God has given them.

Please submit online (<http://swmnelca.org/event/shyg> Youth Events Page) or email to:

LYO board member, Lauren Terhaar, (Email: launterhaar@rcw.k12.mn.us) Titled: "**SWMN Synod Small Group Leader**"

Lauren will contact you via email to let you know she has received your application. If you do not hear from her 2 days after submission, please contact her to make sure she received it.

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### Small Group Leader Questionnaire

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Do you check it? \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation and Town \_\_\_\_\_

Leader Name \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Leader phone \_\_\_\_\_

What gifts would you bring to being a Small Group Leader?

What experiences have you had that would help you with this role?



## **SW MN Synod 2019 Senior High Gathering Covenant**

*Please have every youth and adult sign this form and bring it with you to the Gathering*

We, the undersigned, agree to covenant the following behaviors for the duration of the SW MN Synod Senior High Youth Gathering, March 9-10, 2018.

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 – LYO board, 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 and respect.
4. Not leave the designated locations without the permission of our adult leader.
5. Actively participate in all gathering event, including being fully present.

Signed:

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

**Medical Release/Medical Information/Photo Release Form**  
**SW MN Synod Senior High Youth Gathering 2018**

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

GATHERING COPY

Name of gathering registrant: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

If parent/guardian is unavailable, please contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company name \_\_\_\_\_ Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby grant my permission for my child to attend the SW MN Synod Senior High Youth Gathering, to be held at the Lake Geneva Christian Center, Alexandria, MN from March 9-10, 2018. **By attending the gathering, I agree to the use of photographs, video and electronic images including my child in Youth Gathering materials, the synod website and social media.** I 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. I understand that all efforts will be made to notify me immediately of any such happenings.

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

CONGREGATION COPY

Name of gathering registrant: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

If parent/guardian is unavailable, please contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company name \_\_\_\_\_ Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby grant my permission for my child to attend the SW MN Synod Senior High Youth Gathering, to be held at the Lake Geneva Christian Center, Alexandria, MN from March 9-10, 2018. **By attending the gathering, I agree to the use of photographs, video and electronic images including my child in Youth Gathering materials, the synod website and social media.** I 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. I understand that all efforts will be made to notify me immediately of any such happenings.

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