



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

**Southwestern Minnesota Synod Senior High Youth Gathering**  
**April 5-6, 2019**  
**Lake Geneva Christian Center, Alexandria, MN**



January 2019

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

Blessings to you, your family and congregation! We are overjoyed 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 April 5-6, 2019 at Lake Geneva Christian Center, Alexandria, MN.

Our theme this year is "**Walk Humbly**" Based on Micah 6:8

*"Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God."*

We have an outstanding gathering planned for you:

- **Band and Speaker: AGAPE with special guest, Joe Davis**
- **Featuring: The SW MN Synod Youth Band**
- **Nightlife will include an exceptional variety of options including open gym, bonfire, music, games, etc.**
- **The Spirit Garage- a relaxing place for peace and prayer**
- **Small group sessions led by trained youth to help dig deeper into the theme**
- **Service learning opportunities**
- **LYO board elections**
- **The gathering will include 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:** @swmnylo

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

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 April!

In Christ, *The Southwestern Minnesota Lutheran Youth Organization*

**Questions regarding the Gathering?**

Contact: Gathering Manager Janelle Curry  
[jncurry04@gmail.com](mailto:jncurry04@gmail.com) or (507) 276-8340

**Questions regarding Gathering registration?**

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

# Senior High (Grades 9-12) Youth Gathering

## Registration Information



**COST:**                **\$100 per person** (payment due with your registration)

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

**REGISTRATION:** Opens March 4<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00 pm and closes March 25<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 pm

**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  
<http://www.swmnelca.org/event/shyg2019/>

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, room arrangement requests.**

**QUESTIONS about registration?** Contact Registrar, Shaun Luker at (507) 317-8968 or [gatheringregistrar@yahoo.com](mailto:gatheringregistrar@yahoo.com)

### Tentative Schedule:

#### Friday

5:00 - 6:30 pm    Registration  
6:30 - 7:00 pm    Pre-Assembly Music  
7:00 - 8:30 pm    Assembly I  
8:30 - 9:00 pm    Small Groups, Chaperone orientation  
9:15 - 11:00 pm   Nightlife, LYO Board info meeting  
11:00 pm         Large Group Activity  
12:00 am         Church Family Time  
1:00 am           In rooms

#### Saturday

8:00- 8:45 am    Breakfast Buffet (*Dining Hall*)  
9:00-11:30 am    Assembly II & LYO elections  
11:30-12:30 pm   Lunch (*Dining Hall*)  
12:30-2:30 pm    Dig Deeper into the theme  
3:00- 5:00 pm    Small Groups and Closing worship  
5:00 pm            Go in peace, Serve the Lord!



## 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 29<sup>th</sup>** 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 29<sup>th</sup> will be printed.**

If you have any questions please contact Sarah Hausken, 320-579-0838 or [sarah.hausken@swmnelca.org](mailto: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 . . .*

Within the first five minutes of my first ever junior high youth gathering, I knew that I wanted to be on LYO. In particular, I saw God through the members giving their faith talks. I remember one key phrase from almost all of the faith talks I heard, and that's when I heard God through them. After giving my own, I realized that many participants felt the same way. One other way that I have seen God through LYO is how close the group is. We all support each other through anything. I love how we open our arms to the gathering participants that we don't and automatically feel so close to them.

- Emma Thompson, Olivia, 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

I have seen God working through each one of the LYO members and the work that we do. Whether that work is individually, in a group, during the gatherings or outside of the gatherings, God is constantly working in and through us to make us the best that we can be. We're not just a board, but a big happy family and I wouldn't trade in my time on the LYO board for anything.

- Olivia Hanson, Olivia 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 8-10, 2019; September 7, 2019; November 21,-24 2019; January 17-18, 2020; March/April, ?, 2020**

*\*\*\*You may fill out and mail or email this form or submit it online (preferred) at <http://www.swmnelca.org/event/shyg2019/>\*\*\**

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 29, 2019**.  
All candidates must fill out an application before voting takes place on April 6, 2019.

**Please submit online to:**

LYO Secretary, Olivia Hanson (Email: [ojhanson0220@gmail.com](mailto:ojhanson0220@gmail.com)) titled **“SWMN Synod LYO Board Application”**  
Olivia 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 unforgettable 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 April 5th, 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://www.swmnelca.org/event/shyg2019/> Youth Events Page) or email to:**

LYO board member, Lauren Terhaar, (Email: [launterhaar@rcw.k12.mn.us](mailto: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?



**Medical Release/Medical Information/Photo Release Form  
SW MN Synod Senior High Youth Gathering 2019**

*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 April 5-6, 2019. **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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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 April 5-6, 2019. **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: \_\_\_\_\_