REGISTRATION INFORMATION GUIDE

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

**God’s peace to you! Are YOU ready to WALK Humbly with your YOUTH?!**

We are ecstatic that you are taking a look at the materials for the 2019 Junior High Youth Gathering. This is a **YOUTH LED** event that is planned by the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Board and will be held November 22-23 and 23-24, 2019. We are excited to be partnering with the Willmar Conference Center & Best Western Plus/Holiday Inn Express in order 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. Gathering registration opens at 4:00 pm and ends with closing worship at 11:00 am the following morning.

**Our theme this year is “WALK HUMBLY” (Micah 6:8)**

“Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.”

Gathering Features:

- Amanda Grace ([https://musicbyamandagrace.com/](https://musicbyamandagrace.com/)) and the SWMN Synod Youth Band
- **YOUTH LED Mass Gatherings** including worship, singing, growing in faith, building relationships and hanging out with other youth from our very own synod.
- Night Life featuring swimming, games, food, dancing, and **SO MUCH MORE!**

We hope that this guide provides you with plenty of information to pump up the youth in your congregation! **We have even included a church bulletin insert for you to use to encourage youth to participate!** Registration will take place online in October, and you will be able to choose your own hotel and room assignments shortly after that time. Please review the registration information for details on how to book your hotel room after you’ve registered for your designated Gathering session.

Registration link: [https://swmnelca.org/event/jhyg19/](https://swmnelca.org/event/jhyg19/)

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

**Let’s get ready to WALK Humbly!**

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**QUESTIONS?**

General Gathering for Manager: Kaitlin Opdahl
(320) 293-2969 -or- swmnelcajaranhighgathering@gmail.com

Registration for Registrar: Shaun Luker
(507) 317-8968 -or- gatheringregistrar@yahoo.com
Southwestern Minnesota Synod  
Junior High Youth Gathering  
November 22-23, 23-24, 2019

What YOU need to know about REGISTRATION!

REGISTRATION OPENS on October 14th: For registration you will need to know the number of male youth, female youth, the number of male and female adults, t-shirt sizes, which date you’d prefer to attend the Junior High Youth Gathering and a form of payment ready to submit online (credit card or check information).

DEADLINES:
Oct. 14 - Oct. 25  Early Bird Registration, $45 early bird rate! (Opens at NOON on the 14th)
Oct. 26 - Nov. 11  Registration continues, $50 registration rate (Closes at NOON on the 11th)
Nov. 11 @ NOON  Registration Closed - no late registrations on or after this date

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

REGISTRATION COST: $45 per person/early bird, $50 per person/regular registration (both youth and adults)
All Gathering Participants will receive an evening snack, breakfast, and t-shirt!
All registration fees are non-refundable for any reason, including inclement weather or sporting events.

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 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. 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. Your hotel code will be sent in a separate email.

Beginning October 16th, 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 hotel registration code, you may mail your hotel reservation form to the Best Western Plus.
What you need to know about HOTEL RESERVATIONS!

Hotel Reservations will be made by following three easy steps:

Step 1: After the gathering registrar receives your registration and payment, you will receive an email confirmation, which will include a code that you will add to the hotel reservation form (see next page). This code indicates your group is registered for the gathering and allows the Best Western Plus to determine which night you will be attending. Do not send your hotel reservation form without your registration code.

Step 2: Once you have received your confirmation code, mail 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.

Step 3: The Best Western Plus will send you an email confirmation no later than November 20th, confirming your hotel accommodations.

**Note: A block of rooms at each hotel will be held until Nov. 13th, 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

2019 BEST WESTERN PLUS Rates:
All Rooms: $120.30/night (including tax!)
Connected to the Willmar Conference Center where all gathering programming is held.
Amenities: Pool, Hot Tub.

2019 HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS Rates:
Standard Room: $120.30/night (including tax!)
King and Queen Suites: $171.07/night (including tax!) 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 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 Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator, Sarah Hausken 320-579-0838 or sarah.hausken@swmnelca.org
Dear SWMN Synod Attendee:

Thank you for choosing to stay with us for the Junior High Youth Gathering on November 22-23, 23-24, 2019!

All reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card and cancellations must be received no later than November 13th, 2019. Cancellations received after November 13th, 2019 will result in one night’s room fee and tax for each room cancelled being billed to your card. No refunds will be given after November 13th, for any reason, including poor weather. 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.

Your hotel reservation confirmation number(s) will be emailed to you no later than November, 20th, 2019.

Our rates for the 2019 gathering will be as follows:
--Best Western Plus.....$120.30* (including tax) per room/per night.
--Holiday Inn Express & Suites
   --Standard Room*..................$120.30* (including tax) per room/per night.
   --King or Queen Suite*.............$171.07* (including tax) per room/per night.

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

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

Mail to: Caryl Paulsen, Best Western Plus, 2100 E Hwy 12, Willmar, MN 56201 (no taxes please)
REGISTRATIONS: CREDIT CARD or CHECK (Method of Payment Must Be Provided to Make Reservations)

Church Name: ____________________________

Contact Name: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________ City, State, Zip: ____________________________

Phone #: ____________________________

Email Address (required for confirmation): ____________________________

Credit Card Number (if applicable): ____________________________

Signature: (Required): ____________________________

Expiration Date: ____________________________

Circle Date Requested: November 22 23

# of Rooms: ____________________________

Preference (Circle One - cannot guarantee): One Bed Two Beds

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Confirmation Number(s): ____________________________

Location: ____________________________

Room Type: One Bed Two Beds

Best Western Plus • 2100 E Hwy 12 • Willmar, MN 56201. Holiday Inn Express & Suites • 240 23rd St, SE • Willmar, MN 56201
Questions about Hotel Reservations? Contact Caryl Paulsen at: caryl.paulsen@tpihospitality.com or 320-235-3312 x304
GATHERING COPY
Medical Release/Information/Media Release Form
Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Junior High Youth Gathering 2019

Please reproduce this form: One form is needed for every youth and adult participant.

Participant Name: __________________________

Date of Birth: __________________________

Parent/Guardian Names (youth only):
________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Phone Numbers (youth only):
________________________________________

Medical Conditions/Allergies:
(attach further explanation, if necessary)
__________________________________________________________________________________

Emergency Contact (for youth participants, who can we call if parent/guardian is unavailable, for adult participants, who can we contact in case of an emergency):
__________________________________________________________________________________

Emergency Contact Phone #________________

Insurance Company name and policy #:
__________________________________________________________________________________

Photo/Media Release Permission (It is OK for gathering planners to use photos and videos that include the above participant for future Youth Gathering communication.):

____ YES  ____ NO

Parent/Guardian Permission (youth only): I hereby grant my permission for my child to attend the SW MN Synod Junior High Youth Gathering, to be held at the Willmar Conference Center in Willmar, MN from Nov. 22-23 & 23-24, 2019. I also give 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: ___________________ Date: ________

CONGREGATION COPY
Medical Release/Information/Media Release Form
Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Junior High Youth Gathering 2019

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Signed: ___________________ Date: ________
Packing List

What to bring:
- sleeping bag and pillow (may want to bring 3 for every 5 people)
- clothes (Remember: this is a church event! 😊)
- toiletries
- swimsuit
- towel for the pool
- Bible
- Offering and Spending Money
- Service Project Materials (TBD—will be announced in Gathering Participant Guide upon completing your congregation’s registration)

2019 Tentative Schedule: Subject to change

Evening
Before 6:00 Supper (on your own)
4:00 pm Registration at your designated hotel
6:00 pm Amanda Grace begins playing
6:30 pm Mass Gathering I
8:15 pm Room Transition
8:30 — 9:05 pm Female Adult Leader Meeting
9:15 — 9:45 pm Male Adult Leader Meeting
8:30 — 11:00 pm Nightlife! (Activities subject to change, TBA in Gathering Participant Guide)
  - Spirit Garage (interactive chapel), Dance with Snacksl, Swimming at BOTH the Best Western Plus and Holiday Inn Express, Photo Booth, Henna, Camp Fair, Gaga Ball, Cotton Candy and much more!
11:00 pm Room Transition
11:15 pm Mass Gathering II
12:15 am Congregational Devotion Time
1:00 am In your own rooms
2:00 am Lights Out—THANK YOU for a great evening!

Morning
8:30 — 9:45 am Breakfast Buffet at Conference Center
10:00 am Mass Gathering III
11:30 am Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!
SOUTHWESTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD’S
2019 JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING
NOVEMBER 22-23 OR 23-24
WILLMAR CONFERENCE CENTER - WILLMAR, MN

FEATURING:
MUSICIAN - AMANDA GRACE
(MUSICBYAMANDAGrace.COM)
THE SWMN SYNOD YOUTH BAND
WORSHIP / SINGING / GROWING IN FAITH
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS / SWIMMING / GAMES /
FOOD / DANCING AND SO MUCH MORE!

LET’S GET READY TO WALK HUMBLY!

THE JUNIOR HIGH GATHERING IS
OPEN TO ALL 6TH-9TH GRADERS!
REGISTRATION OPENS ON OCTOBER 14TH!