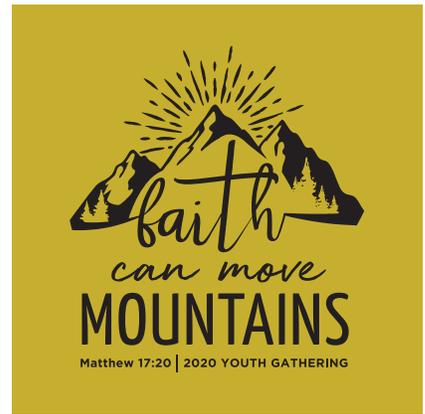




Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

**Southwestern Minnesota Synod Senior High Youth
 Gathering**
March 27-28, 2020
Courtyard by Marriott, Mankato, MN

January 2020



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 March 27-28 at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, Mankato, MN.

Our theme this year is "**Faith Can Move Mountains**" Based on Matthew 17:20

"Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

We have an outstanding gathering planned for you:

- **Band: Tay Wilson**
- **Speaker: rev. abby mohaupt**
- **Featuring: The SW MN Synod Youth Band**
- **Nightlife will include an exceptional variety of options including games, crafts, music, 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)

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)

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 Hunter Stevens
hunterstevens1120@gmail.com or (320) 522-3308

Questions regarding Gathering registration?

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

Senior High (Grades 9-12) Youth Gathering

Registration Information

COST: \$105 per person (payment due with your registration)

- Includes room, programming
- Gathering t-shirt
- Saturday breakfast & lunch

REGISTRATION: Opens Feb. 20 @ 12:00 pm and closes March 12th @ 4:30 pm

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

ROOMS: We will be housed in hotel rooms and you will be able to make room arrangement requests. Persons from different congregations may be housed together in order to reduce gathering costs. Please bring a sleeping bag or additional blankets if you would like.

DETAILS: Once all your registrations are gathered, please fill out the registration form online:

<https://swmnelca.org/event/shyg2020>

For registration you will need the following information:

- Participants name, grade, t-shirt size and room arrangement requests

You may 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.

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



QUESTIONS about registration? Contact Registrar, Shaun Luker at (507) 317-8968 or 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 Congregational Devotion Time
1:00 am In rooms

Saturday

8:00- 8:45 am Breakfast
9:00-11:30 am Assembly II & LYO elections
11:30-12:30 pm Lunch
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 Saturday meetings 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 20th** 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 20th will be printed.**

If you have any questions please contact Sister 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 . . .

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 2019-2020 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 13-15, 2020; September 12, 2020; November 19,-22 2020; January 16, 2021; March/April, ?, 2021

****You may fill out and mail or email this form or submit it online (preferred) at <http://www.swmnelca.org/event/shyg2020/>****

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 20 2020**.

All candidates must fill out an application before voting takes place on March 28, 2020

Please submit online to:

LYO Secretary, Jayne Russell jaynerussell26@gmail.com titled "SWMN Synod LYO Board Application"

Jayne 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 March 27, during registration/check in time at The Courtyard by Marriot. 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, Jack Nemitz 507-828-4193 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/shyg2020/> Youth Events Page) or email to:

LYO board member, Jack Nemitz, jack.nemitz@canbylancers.org Titled: "**SWMN Synod Small Group Leader**"

Jack will contact you via email to let you know he has received your application. If you do not hear from him 2 days after submission, please contact him to make sure he 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 2020**

*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 Courtyard by Marriott, Mankato, MN March 27-28, 2020. **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 Courtyard by Marriott, Mankato, MN March 27-28, 2020.. **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: \_\_\_\_\_