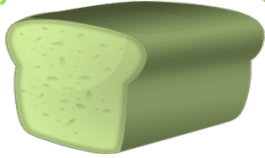


ARE  
YOU  
HUNGRY?

SWMN Synod Sr. High Youth Gathering 10



## **SOUTHWESTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING MARCH 12-13, 2010 COUNTRY INN & SUITES, MANKATO MN**

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

New Year's Blessings to you!

We are very happy to be sharing the registration materials for the synod's annual Senior High Youth Gathering. This event is sponsored and planned by the SW MN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) and will be held March 12-13, 2010 at the County Inn and Suites in Mankato MN. **Please note that this year, the gathering is just Friday evening and Saturday.** We are hoping that this lesser time commitment for youth will allow more to attend and participate in the worship and fellowship of the gathering. However, if you are interested in a longer retreat for your youth, you will have the opportunity to independently make arrangements for a second night with the hotel at our gathering rate of \$87+tax and plan your own activities in the Mankato area such as Kids Against Hunger, the WOW Zone, and MSU Campus Ministry. More information will be available on the synod website.

Our theme this year is "Are you Hungry?", focusing on Matthew 25:40. "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

We have an excellent program planned:

- ❖ Rachel Kurtz will be our speaker and musician. Rachel is a singer, songwriter and speaker who grew up in rural Minnesota. She has been involved with youth ministry for the past 9 years. She loves to encourage students with her stories and also see and affirm their gifts. Rachel sings in a variety of venues, from coffee shops to colleges, youth weekends to churches and the last three National ELCA Youth Gatherings.
- ❖ Nightlife will include an excellent variety of options for your youth to choose from.
- ❖ Intentional Small Groups led by trained youth.
- ❖ Service projects and breakout sessions.
- ❖ The Spirit Garage, a place for meditation and prayer, will be an integral part of our time together.
- ❖ The gathering will of course include mass gatherings, lively worship, dancing, singing, faith and relationship building.

Gathering registration opens February 8, 2010. Regular registration closes February 22, 2010. Late registration will begin February 23<sup>rd</sup> and will go through March 1, 2010. Registrations will be taken in the order received. If you register participants after the February 23<sup>rd</sup> deadline, you will be charged a \$10 late fee per person. **No registrations can be taken after March 1<sup>st</sup>**

After your registration is received, you will receive an email confirming your registration. You will then be directed to download from the synod website the Registration Confirmation Packet which will include a full schedule, group covenant, what to pack list, medical releases, and a pre-gathering checklist.

Thank you for promoting the gathering in your congregation and with your youth. We are looking forward to an outstanding gathering! If you have questions regarding the gathering please contact Senior High Gathering Managers, Carrie Peterson by phone at (320) 235-5450, or Patrice Luker by phone at (507)-276-5908. Carrie and Patrice can both be reached by email at [gatheringregistrar@yahoo.com](mailto:gatheringregistrar@yahoo.com). If you have questions specific to registration please contact Patrice Luker.

See you in March!

In Christ,  
The Southwestern Minnesota Lutheran Youth Organization



# Registration Information

**COST:** **\$75 per person** (includes room, all programming, a gathering t-shirt, breakfast, and a lunch)  
A \$50 per person NON-REFUNDABLE deposit is due with your registration.

**DEADLINES:** Regular registration opens February 8, 2010 and closes February 22, 2010.  
Late registration will take place from February 23 – March 1. If you register participants after the February 22<sup>nd</sup> deadline, you will be assessed a \$10 late fee per late registrant.  
**Absolutely no late registrations can be received after March 1, 2010.**

**GROUPS:** Groups must register with one adult (**21 yrs. or older – for liability reasons**) for every 7 youth.  
Example: 16 youth need 3 adults. If you register 5 or fewer youth, the accompanying adult may be of either gender. If you register more than 5 youth (including youth of both genders) your adults must be of both genders.

**ROOMS:** Rooms are assigned on the basis of 4 people to a room. Persons from different churches will be housed together in order to reduce gathering costs. If you are uncomfortable sharing beds, please bring a sleeping bag and pillow. If you would like to have your congregation room with a specific congregation you need to register those congregations together in one envelope with one primary contact person.

**DETAILS:** Once all your deposits are gathered, fill out the registration form, make ONE CHECK out to the “SW MN Synod” then send the registration sheet(s) and check to:

**SW MN Synod Sr. High Gathering**  
**Patrice Luker**  
**41475 593<sup>rd</sup> Ave**  
**New Ulm MN 56073**

**Please do not send  
registrations to the  
Synod office.  
Thank you.**

**REGISTRATION FORMS:** Please make extra copies as needed.

**QUESTIONS** about registration should be directed to Patrice Luker at (507)-276-5908 or [gatheringregistrar@yahoo.com](mailto:gatheringregistrar@yahoo.com).

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

### Friday

4-6:30 pm Registration  
6:30-7 pm Pre-Assembly Music  
7-8:30 pm Assembly I  
8:30-9 pm Small Groups, Chaperone Orientation,  
9:15 -11:45 pm Nightlife, LYO Board info meeting  
12:00 am Family Time  
1:00 am Curfew

### Saturday

8:00-8:45 am Breakfast  
9:00-11:15 am Assembly II with small groups, adult ed  
and LYO elections  
11:15-12:00pm Lunch  
12:30 – 2:30 pm Service Projects and Breakouts  
3:00-5pm Small Groups and Closing worship

# SW MN Sr. High Gathering 2010 Registration Form

Send to: SW MN Synod Jr. High Gathering, Patrice Luker, 41475 593<sup>rd</sup> Ave. New Ulm, MN 56073

Registration Questions: Email Patrice at gatheringregistrar@yahoo.com or call 507-276-5908

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Directions for completing registration form:

Please fill out this form as you prefer to have your room assignments. Do not list males with females in a room group. We will do our best to keep your room assignments as they are listed. Rooms may have no more than 4 individuals due to the hotel's fire code. **There must be one adult over age 21 for every 7 youth.** If you register 5 or fewer youth, the accompanying adult may be of either gender. If you register more than 5 youth of both genders your adults must be of both genders. Please maintain a copy of each of your registration forms for your records.

\*\*\*\*\*Forms that are not completed fully or properly may experience delays in the registration process\*\*\*\*\*

Room 1	Name	Gender	Adult/Grade	T-Shirt Size <small>(Adult Small -XX Large)</small>
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Room 2	Name	Gender	Adult/Grade	T-Shirt Size
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Room 3	Name	Gender	Adult/Grade	T-Shirt Size
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Room 4	Name	Gender	Adult/Grade	T-Shirt Size
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please list any special needs related to housing participants in your group may have (ie. wheelchair accessibility):

**Please complete this section with the totals for your group:**

Total Participants Registered: \_\_\_\_\_ Males: \_\_\_\_\_ Females: \_\_\_\_\_ Youth: \_\_\_\_\_ Adults: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total T-Shirts: Small \_\_\_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_\_\_ Large \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_\_\_

For Office Use Only:

Postmark: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount Owed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Rooms: \_\_\_\_\_



# LYO Board Elections

A new LYO Board will be elected at the Sr. 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 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.

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

On this sheet you will find an LYO application form. Forms received by **March 1** 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 1 will be printed.**

If you have any questions please contact Sarah Hausken, 507-430-2273 or [sarah.hausken@swmnelca.org](mailto:sarah.hausken@swmnelca.org).

## What has it meant to you to serve on the SW MN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Board?

*Thoughts from current board members . . .*

"There were times when I had doubts of what my faith was about. But my eyes have opened and I no longer believe because I've been told to believe. I've felt God with me. I've noticed everything that God does for me. I understand that the gifts of the Holy Spirit will help me build up the church, and I wish to share in building up the Holy church by helping the younger youth come closer to God. Being on the LYO Board this year has been an amazing opportunity for me. We are called to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through various activities. Being on this board is not only an honor, but a valuable learning experience for me as well! This board is helping me and others grow in faith."  
Janelle Curry, New Ulm, MN

"Serving on the LYO board has meant the world to me. I have met some of the most amazing people and made tons of new friends. I have made connections that will last a lifetime. My faith life has also been deeply strengthened. I feel much closer to God and I am a lot more comfortable spreading his word and having a great time while doing it! LYO is a great experience. I've recommended it to lots of friends. I just love having the opportunity to serve God and others and to do so with others who share the same excitement about it as I do!"  
Brittani Lamb, St. Peter, MN



## 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 2001-2011 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. Thank you.

LYO Training in June (date to be decided); September 11, 2010; November 18-21, 2010;  
January 14-15, 2011; March 10-12, 2011

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ 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 1, 2009**.

All candidates must fill out an application before voting takes place on March 13, 2009 **Please send to:**

LYO Secretary Jessica Epple, 1689 340<sup>th</sup> St. Canby, MN 56220, [epple\\_2011@live.com](mailto:epple_2011@live.com) 507-694-1340, cell – 1 507 530 2763

Jessica will contact you via email or text to let you know she's received your application.

If you do not hear from her, please contact her to make sure she received it.

# SMALL GROUP LEADERS

Small groups are a central part of the Sr. High Youth Gathering, and are instrumental in promoting and cultivating friendships between youth from different congregational groups, thereby helping youth to dig deeper into the entire gathering experience.

We are asking you as an adult leader to seek out 10-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth whom you feel would be gifted in leading a small group, and ask them to consider serving in this way. We are looking for youth who display an aptitude for leadership and conversation. Past experience in leading a small group is helpful but not required. We are trusting your judgment to ask youth who would be gifted in this way. We certainly don't want to set any one up to fail.

Small groups will be made up of approximately 7 youth from different congregations (both male and female), in the same grade.

We ask that each small group leader come to a required training. This training will take place on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> from 2-5pm at Bethel Lutheran Church in Willmar. If you cannot make the training, please contact Brittani to make other arrangements.

This is a wonderful opportunity to give youth a chance to serve at the Sr. High Youth Gathering and use the gifts God has given them. If you have any questions about small group leaders, training, etc please contact Brittani Lamb (507) 351-1516 [brittani167@hotmail.com](mailto:brittani167@hotmail.com) or Pastor Steve Rasmusson 507-829-9164 [rasmus@frontiernet.net](mailto:rasmus@frontiernet.net)

Please ask youth to fill out the following form. Adult leaders can mail or email the form to Brittani Lamb, 2015 Bunker Lane St. Peter, MN 56082 [brittani167@hotmail.com](mailto:brittani167@hotmail.com)

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## Small Group Leader Questionnaire

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (if you check it regularly) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cong. Town \_\_\_\_\_

Youth 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?

*Following is a recommendation made by the SW MN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization to be explained more thoroughly, discussed and voted on at the LYO Convention which will take place at the SW MN Synod Sr. High Youth Gathering March 12-13, 2010*

## **2010 Proposed Constitutional Amendment**

WHEREAS the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Board would like to be more intentionally inclusive and diverse, and

WHEREAS the election process can sometimes unintentionally exclude people who have gifts to serve, and

WHEREAS a well functioning board benefits from a balanced mix of gifts, skills, experiences and perspectives to complete their mission, and

WHEREAS It is important for this church to have all voices represented at the table, and

WHEREAS the 2009 Convention of the Lutheran Youth Organization passed a resolution strongly recommending that synod LYO boards make provisions for intentional multicultural and definitely-abled representatives to have full voice and vote in synod youth leadership positions, as equal partners in ministry, and

WHEREAS having the ability to choose two additional at-large youth representatives would allow individuals' gifts to shine and allow for greater insight and representation from across our synod;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following changes be made to the SW MN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Constitution:

### Article V.

The board of this organization shall consist of the president, the vice-president, secretary, the bishop (or representative of the same), ~~ten~~ **twelve** at-large youth representatives, ten adult conference representatives, and the adult advisor. The adult advisor shall be appointed by the Executive Committee which consists of the bishop (or appointed representative), the president, the vice president, and the secretary.

### Section 6.06

**Two at-large youth representatives will be appointed by the outgoing board after elections have been completed. The intent of these positions is to further diversity and bring a balanced mix of gifts and skills to help further the mission of the LYO board. Special consideration will be given to multicultural, definitely-abled, and other under represented voices.**

### Section 6.0607

Ten adult conference representatives shall be chosen by their conference in a manner determined by each conference.

## **SW MN Synod 2010 Senior High Gathering Covenant**

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

We, the undersigned, agree to covenant the following behaviors for the duration of the SW MN Synod Sr. High Gathering, March 12-13, 2010. We do this in order to receive maximum benefits from our time together.

In keeping with our witness as a Christian Community, we will:

- in
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 - 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.
  4. Not leave the designated hotels or other locations without the permission of our adult advisor.
  5. Actively participate in all gathering events.
  6. Refrain from using cell phones and texting during gathering activities.

Signed:

Date: