



**Southwestern Minnesota Synod  
Senior High Youth Gathering  
March 30-31, 2012  
Best Western, North Mankato, MN**



**“Take My Hand”**

January 2012

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 for students in grade 9-12 and is sponsored and planned by the SWMN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) and will be held March 30-31, 2012 at the Best Western, North Mankato, MN. **Please note that again this year, the Gathering is just Friday evening and Saturday and it is later in March to allow those who may be involved in High School League Tournaments to attend.** We are hoping that this time frame and the later date will allow more to attend and participate in the worship and fellowship of the Gathering.

Our theme this year is “Take My Hand”, focusing on Psalm 40: 1-3. “I waited and waited and waited for God. He turned to me and heard my cry, and lifted me out of the bottomless pit, pulling me out of the sticky mud. God stood me on a rock and made my feet steady. And the Lord taught me a new song, a song of praise. Many shall see and worship and put their trust and confident reliance in the Lord” (LYO board paraphrase).

We have an excellent program planned:

- Rev. Matt Hausken will be our speaker. Matt is the pastor at Cross of Calvary in Olivia and will speak from personal experience how God lifts us from the bottomless pit.
- Avian Sunrise will lead us in song throughout the gathering.
- Nightlife will include an excellent variety of options for your youth, including a dance, swimming and games.
- Intentional small groups led by trained youth.
- A student panel 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 1 and closes on February 29**. Late registration will begin March 1 and continues through March 12, 2012. Registrations will be taken in the order received. If you register participants after the February 29 deadline, you will be charged a \$10 non-refundable late fee per person. **No registrations can be taken after March 12.**

After your registration is received, you will receive an email confirming your registration. You will also receive, via email, 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 Dana Lamb at [bdbcj5@gmail.com](mailto:bdbcj5@gmail.com) or (507)327-4758. If you have questions regarding Gathering registration, contact Patrice Luker at [gatheringregistrar@yahoo.com](mailto:gatheringregistrar@yahoo.com) or (507)-276-5908.

See you in March!

In Christ,

The Southwestern Minnesota Lutheran Youth Organization

## Senior High (Grades 9-12) Youth Gathering Registration Information

- COST:** **\$80 per person** (includes hotel room, programming, a Gathering t-shirt, Friday dinner (NEW), Saturday breakfast and lunch)  
A \$50 per person **non-refundable** deposit is due with your registration.
- DEADLINES:** February 1 - Feb 29 Regular registration  
March 1 - March 12 Late registration - add \$10 non-refundable late fee per person  
**March 12 Registration Closes -no late registrations after this date.**
- 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), 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 Senior High Gathering**  
**Patrice Luker**  
**41475 593<sup>rd</sup> Avenue**  
**New Ulm, MN 56073**

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

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

### Tentative Schedule:

<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
5:00- 6:30 pm Registration	8:00- 8:45 am Breakfast (Included)
5:00- 7:00 pm Taco Bar ( <i>Included – new this year</i> )	9:00-11:30 am Assembly II and LYO elections
6:30- 7:00 pm Pre-Assembly Music	11:30-12:30 pm Lunch (Included)
7:00- 8:30 pm Assembly I	12:30-2:30 pm Student Panel and breakouts
8:30- 9:00 pm Small Groups, Chaperone orientation	3:00- 5:00 pm Small Groups and Closing worship
9:15-11:00 pm Nightlife, LYO Board info meeting	
11:00 p.m. Large Group Activity	
12:00 a.m. Family Time	
1:00 a.m. Curfew	

# SW MN Senior High Gathering 2012 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\*\*\***

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

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

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

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

Please list any special needs related to housing/dining participants in your group may have (ie. wheelchair accessibility, food allergies, etc.):

**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: \_\_\_\_\_ # Rooms: \_\_\_\_\_



**Lutheran Youth  
Organization**

## **LYO Board Elections**

A new 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 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 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 23** 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 23 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 LYO 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

"It's such a joy to put on these events for the youth in our synod. I love seeing the looks on the kid's faces as they play games and learn together about the gifts God has given them. Not only that, but I also see myself getting caught up in the same excitement when things start getting crazy. I have a whole new reason to look forward to these great events."

Reed Schwarting, Becker, 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 2011-2012 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 the summer (date to be decided); September 15, 2012; November 15-18, 2012;  
January 11-12 or 18-19, 2013; March 21-23 (tentative), 2013

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 23, 2012**.

All candidates must fill out an application before voting takes place on March 31, 2012.

**Please send to:** LYO Secretary Logan Boese 1376 50th Avenue Lake Wilson, MN 56151 [loganboese@hotmail.com](mailto:loganboese@hotmail.com),  
(h) 507-879-3216 (cell) 507-227-8322. Logan will contact you via email or text to let you know he's received your application.

If you do not hear from him, please contact him to make sure he received it.

## Southwestern Minnesota Synod - Senior High Youth Gathering 2012 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 10-12<sup>th</sup> 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 a 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 Sunday, March 4 from 2:00 – 6:30 p.m. at Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church in Olivia (supper will be provided). If s/he cannot make the training, please contact Michaela Rohloff 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 mad skills God has given them. If you have any questions about small group leaders, training, etc., please contact Laura Anderson at [laura.anderson@cune.org](mailto:laura.anderson@cune.org) or 320-295-9988.

Please ask your youth to fill out the following form. Adult leaders can mail or email the form to Michaela at 22609 545th Avenue, Grove City, MN 56243 or [mjrohloff@live.com](mailto:mjrohloff@live.com) by February 26, 2012. This form is also available online at [www.swmnelca.org](http://www.swmnelca.org).

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Small Group Leader Questionnaire

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

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

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ 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 2012 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 30-31, 2012. 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 - 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:

Medical Release/Medical Information/Photo Release Form - SW MN Synod Senior High Youth Gathering  
*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 Best Western, N. Mankato, MN from March 30-31, 2012. I also 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**I also give permission for the use of photographs, video and electronic images including my child in Youth Gathering materials, including online sources such as Facebook and the synod website.**

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 Best Western, N. Mankato, MN from March 30-31, 2012. I also 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**I also give permission for the use of photographs, video and electronic images including my child in Youth Gathering materials, including online sources such as Facebook and the synod website.**

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

**Senior High Youth Gathering  
SW MN Synod, ELCA  
March 30-31, 2012  
Best Western, North Mankato, MN**



**“Take My Hand”**

**“I waited and waited and waited for God. He turned to me and heard my cry, and lifted me out of the bottomless pit, pulling me out of the sticky mud. God stood me on a rock and made my feet steady. And the Lord taught me a new song, a song of praise. Many shall see and worship and put their trust and confident reliance in the Lord.”**

**(Psalm 40:1-3 LYO Version)**

**Speaker: Reverend Matt Hausken**

**Band: Avian Sunrise**

**Grades: 9-12**

**Cost: \$80/per person**

**(includes: Fri. dinner, Sat. breakfast & lunch, t-shirt and hotel room)**

**Registration: February 1-29, 2012**

**For more information, contact Dana ([bdbcj5@gmail.com](mailto:bdbcj5@gmail.com) or 507-327-4758)**



**@LYO101**



**Sr. High Youth Gathering, SW MN Synod, ELCA**