



2019 LCMS National Youth Gathering

JULY 11-15 IN MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Dear Parents,

In a little over two years, a group of young people from the St. Matthews Community will embark on a life-changing and faith-building adventure. We can't wait to work together to bring the National Youth Gathering experience to another group of young people. Here are answers to a few questions you may have:

What is the National Youth Gathering?

It is a gathering of youth and adults in one place to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith and our Lutheran identity. It is held every three years in an exciting host city.

Who is eligible?

Youth entering 9th grade for the 2018-2019 school year - 2019 graduates.

How much will it cost?

Cost is difficult to estimate before we have travel and lodging in place, but an estimate is \$1400. It sounds like a lot, but the value of the investment is immeasurable.

How can I get involved as a parent?

There are lots of ways! Join us during planning meetings, consider chaperoning the trip, participate in fundraising, and just keep the group in your prayers. However you choose to participate will be a blessing to us. Also, because this year's gathering is nearby, consider becoming a Community Builder or Gathering Volunteer. For more information talk to the NYG leadership team or go to lcmsgathering.com.

When do we have to sign up?

You should begin participating and preparing now. You and your child will be asked to make a commitment in July 2018.

FUNDRAISING INFO ON THE BACK OF THIS SHEET

Dear Youth,

Start getting excited! Only a little more than 2 years until the next National Youth Gathering. Prepare to get rained on, sweat, and have a blast in Minneapolis with 25,000 Lutheran friends! Have some questions? Here are some answers:

Who is going?

YOU, your friends, and other kids from all over the world. One of your pastors, Adult leaders from the congregation.

What will we do?

You will worship God, you will serve other people, you will play games, you will sing and dance, you will swim, you will study God's Word, you will share faith, the list goes on and on....

What if I don't want to go with my siblings?

Don't worry about it, we will be so busy and have enough participants that you won't even notice they are there.

How can I learn more about this?

Check out the website: lcmsgathering.com ! New information will be appearing there all the time and you can check out what the last one was like.

What should I be doing now?

This is a time to get together to strengthen relationships with each other and with the Lord. Activities will include a variety of things and we expect everyone to be involved.

All youth should plan on participating in these events beginning today:

- ❖ **WEEKLY** Bible Study - Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the Youth Room
- ❖ **WEEKLY** Youth Group - Thursdays 6:30 - 8:00 pm in the Youth Room
- ❖ **MONTHLY** Activities - Days & times will vary

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FUNDRAISING:

- All church fundraisers will benefit the group as a whole.
- There will be individual accounts for each student. There are some youth who have money in their account from the past couple of years. That money will remain in their account and all money from this time forward will be split among all youth going on the trip.

We expect everyone to participate in fundraising, everyone helps out and everyone gets to go. Together. As a community of believers. Every family contributes to planning and running fundraisers, and we understand some of you have school, basketball, band, a job, dance, Boy Scouts or swimming, but we ask for your commitment not just to fundraising, but to this group and our purpose for going on this trip.

- Fundraising activities are more than just raising money. It is another time for us to be together and get to know one another better as we prepare to journey together not only to Minneapolis, but in our Faith.
- There are roughly 6-8 major fundraisers, per calendar year, that we do as a group within the church. You are encouraged to be a part of all of them, but the expectation is for each youth and/or parents to help plan, organize and participate in at least 3 of these events.
- Individual fundraising outside of the church is also encouraged. If you need some ideas, let us know. Some of the things that have been done in the past are writing letters to relatives, selling candy bars, yard or house work for members of the congregation.
- Any money that is raised by an individual youth will not go into their account here at the church, it is up to the family to keep track of that separately and then add that to the amount they have in their church account right before the Youth Gathering in 2019.
- There will be checkpoints through the year to help keep everyone on track and aware of how much we have raised.
- Our first fundraising meeting will be on Sunday, October 1, at 11:30 (right after the 2nd Service). We will begin planning the Silent Auction which takes place in December. Please plan on attending.
- **Keep in mind that we do not want money to be a reason for a youth to not participate. There are members of the congregation that are willing to help and we want everyone to be able to be a part of this opportunity.**

Upcoming Fundraisers:

- Monthly (September – May) – Connections Café
- October 28, 2017 – Fall Harvest Festival Booth at the Esko School
- October 31, 2017 – Trunk-or-Treat & BBQ, 5:00-6:00 pm
- December 10, 2017 – Silent Auction, and Poinsettia Sales
- February or March 2018 – Chili Cook-off
- April 1, 2018 – Easter Breakfast
- May 2018 – Rummage Sale
- August 2018 – Esko Fun Day
- October 2018 – Trunk-or-Treat BBQ
- November 2018 – Craft Fair