

LYO Western ND Synod Gathering

Baymont Inn & Suites, Mandan, ND

High School Event: October 16-17, 2026

Middle School Event: October 17-18, 2026

LYO Coordinator – Lora Isakson, childrensministry@lordoflifebismarck.org, 701-223-2986

IMPORTANT TIMES

- Middle School registration in the lobby will be from 6-7 pm on Friday, October 16.
- Middle School will end closing worship at 3:00 pm on Saturday, October 17.
- High School registration in the lobby will be from 12:30-1:30 pm on Saturday, October 17.
- High School will end closing worship at 2:30 pm on Sunday, October 18.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Please register your group online at: www.wndsynod.org/LYO

Registration instructions:

- Once you've collected participants registrations, an online registration should be completed by the congregation as a group.
- Payment may be made via credit card at the time of registration OR once you have completed your registration, print the confirmation e-mail and mail it along with a check made out to "WND Lutheran Youth Organization" to:
 - WND LYO Gathering 1830 N 11th St, Bismarck, ND 58501
- You will be asked to provide room assignments on the registration form. The lodging cost is included in the cost of registration. There will be an additional fee for adults requesting rooms at less than standard occupancy (see housing).
- Please include a t-shirt size for each member of your group.

Registration fee: \$125/person

- The registration deadline is **Friday, September 25, 2026**.
- All adult advisors are required to pay the registration fee.
- A late fee of \$25 per person should be included with registrations entered between September 26, 2026 and October 1, 2026.
- **All registration closes October 1, 2026.** No late registrations will be accepted.
- Need to make changes to your registration? Additions? Cancellations? Substitutions? Contact Lesley at 701-223-5312 or Lesley@wndsynod.org.

NECESSARY FORMS

The following forms must be brought by the advisor to the Gathering:

- Code of Conduct Form
 - Complete one form per participant.
 - Please read and discuss this with your LYO Gathering group.
 - Each participant, adult and youth, must sign the Code of Conduct and **bring it to the gathering**.

- *Breaking the Code of Conduct at the gathering can result in being sent home, at parental or individual expense.*
- Medical Form
 - Parents/Guardians must complete on form per participant.
 - Adult advisors: please keep these with you at all times!

HEALTH CONCERNS

We ask that our LYO participants stay home if they are feeling any symptoms of a sickness. Love your neighbor; keep your boogers to yourself please.

POLICIES OF THE WND LYO GATHERING

- **Age:** Participants must currently be in grades 6-8 for the Middle School event and Grades 9-12 for the High School event.
- **7:1 Groups:** All participants must register as part of a 7:1 group. For every 7 youth there must be one Adult Advisor, an individual who is at least 21 years of age or employed by the congregation whose youth they are supervising.
- Male and Female Youth cannot be in a hotel room together without an adult advisor chaperoning them.
- THERE IS NO TIME FOR SWIMMING AT LYO. Please make your kids aware as they attend.
- All Gathering participants will wear a Gathering Identification Nametag throughout the duration of the Gathering. Entrance to all Gathering events is gained by wearing the nametag.
- **Refunds:** \$75 of the \$125 registration will be refunded if requested by October 1, if the request is made in writing to the registrar. (\$50 is non-refundable.) **NO REFUNDS AFTER October 1.**
- **Substitutions:** Participant names may be substituted, if done so in writing and submitted to the registrar by October 1.
- **Hotel Services:** Phone calls and room service or other hotel service charges are not included in Gathering registration costs and therefore are the responsibility of the occupants of the rooms and must be paid before checking out. NOTE: Our covenant includes that all Gathering participants will interact with hotel staff in a positive and polite manner, as well as with all other hotel guests.
- **Adult Leaders:** Please plan to participate in the LYO schedule. Adult Leaders are expected to assist LYO Gathering staff and planners, as well as hotel staff, in keeping our youth involved in the scheduled activities, and interacting with their group in a leadership capacity.

MEALS

The following meals will be provided during the gathering:

- 6th-8th Grade: Friday night late night pizza, Saturday Continental Breakfast and lunch
- 9th-12th Grade: Saturday night late night pizza, Sunday Continental Breakfast and lunch

*Saturday dinner will **not** be provided as part of the gathering, it will be on your own after your service project. Any other food or drinks that may be ordered in will be at the expense of the individual(s).*

LYO 2026 IN-KIND OFFERING

LYO will collect an in-kind offering of NEW socks and underwear for males and females (all sizes accepted).

Watch our Facebook Page for more info: www.facebook.com/WNDLYO

WORSHIP OFFERING

Support the four Western ND Synod Outdoor Ministry Sites with worship offering.

JOIN THE HIGH SCHOOL LYO BOARD

- The 2026 Board is accepting applications for the roles of Vice President, Secretary, Social Media Manager, Upper Missouri Rep., Turtle Mountain Rep., Badlands Rep., Western Prairie Rep., and Lonetree Rep. position.
- Applications are ONLY open to 9th-11th graders who are youth members of ELCA churches in the Western North Dakota Synod.
- **Candidates must commit to attending 3-4 meetings per year for two years.**
- Application and information can be found at the WND LYO Website: www.wndsynod.org/lyo.
- LYO Board applications and adult recommendation forms are due November 1, 2026. Upon sending, youth are asked to provide a video response to interview questions due on November 8, 2026. Youth will be contacted by December 11, 2026.

POSITION DESCRIPTIONS FOR LYO BOARD OFFICERS & CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES

Expectations of all LYO Board Officers:

- Serve a two-year term on the WND Synod LYO Board, attending all meetings of the LYO Board (usually 3 times per year, and the fall gathering).
- Assist in the planning and promotion of the annual WND Synod LYO Gathering.
- Encourage all youth of the synod to grow in their faith and participate in the life of the congregation, synod, and wider church.
- Encourage and support all LYO Board members.

VICE PRESIDENT

The synod LYO vice president serves the first year as vice president then transitions into a second year serving as president of the Western North Dakota Synod LYO Board.

Expectations of the Vice President:

- Acts in the absence of the president, assuming the responsibilities of the president
- Supports the president by accepting duties and responsibilities assigned.

SECRETARY

The synod LYO secretary is elected to a two-year term on the WND Synod LYO Board.

Expectations of the Secretary:

- Takes accurate minutes, including important discussions, decisions, and action items.
- Organizes meeting minutes in a clear and easy-to-understand format.
- Sends completed meeting minutes to all members of the Youth Board and Advisory Board within one week of each meeting.
- Helps keep the board accountable by documenting assignments, responsibilities, and next steps discussed during meetings.

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

The synod LYO Social Media Manager is elected to a two-year term on the WND Synod LYO Board.

Expectations of the Social Media Manager:

- Creates and posts content promoting LYO events, gatherings, opportunities, and important announcements.
- Takes and/or gathers appropriate photos and videos at LYO events to share on social media.
- Helps create fun and engaging posts that encourage youth across the synod to participate and get connected.
- Follows appropriate guidelines for photo permissions, online safety, and respectful social media use.

CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE & MEMBER AT LARGE

Conference Representatives and members at large are elected to a two-year term on the WND Synod LYO Board.

Expectations of Conference Representatives & Members at Large:

- Communicate with the congregations of their respective conference,
- Encourage congregations in their support of youth in ministry in their communities.
- Encourage congregations to participate in synod and national youth events.
- Promote the annual gathering within their church.

HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECT

- The adult leader will receive information about your service project assignment at Registration on Saturday and in an email before hand.
- The Board is working with agency partners to determine the exact service projects and participants will be assigned service projects at agencies throughout the community.
- *Please indicate on your registration if you are traveling with another group, so you can be assigned projects in the same vicinity.*
- Any special site instructions will be shared with the primary adult leader prior to the trip.

BREAK OUT SESSIONS

Participants will participate in breakout sessions during the gathering. Participation in these sessions is expected by both youth and adults.

We'll have a great mix of activities to choose from, including informational sessions and interactive sessions that will require you to get up and MOVE!

HIGH SCHOOL TALENT NIGHT

The LYO Board will host a High School Talent Night that will feature our talented gathering participants! A limited number of spots will be available and participants must fill out a form available at the event. All genres of entertainment are encouraged – poetry, song, dance, video, skits, etc. Music and props must be supplied by the participant and arranged beforehand with the LYO tech crew.

NIGHT LIFE

Night life will have 9-square, dance parties, gaga ball, tie blankets, camp games, snacks, and more fun!

LYO Gathering REGISTRATION INFORMATION

2026 WND Synod LYO Gathering

Participant's Name _____

Event Attending _____ Middle School October 16-17 _____ High School Event October 17-18

Congregation, City _____

Grade ____6 ____7 ____8 ____9 ____10 ____11 ____12 ____Adult Leader

Gender ____Male ____Female T-shirt Size _____

Please Note Any Dietary Restrictions or Special Accommodations necessary:

Roommate request (cannot guarantee)

CODE OF CONDUCT

As a participant of the Western North Dakota Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Gathering, I agree to:

- **Exhibit the conduct and behavior** of one who follows Jesus Christ.
- **Participate** in all scheduled events.
- **Abide by curfew** times and respect stated quiet times.
- **Show respect** for myself and all other participants of this event as well as the facility we use, the people who work there, and the community that is hosting us.
- **NOT to bring or use alcohol, vaping materials or other non-prescribed drugs** including tobacco products, e-cigarettes, vaping or juuling products.
- **Not to bring any weapons of any kind** to the event.
- **Not to use offensive language.**
- **Not to engage in sexual activity.**
- **No boys in girls' room and no girls in boys' rooms** without an Adult Advisor present. Please meet up in public spaces.
- **Keep my cell phone on silent** during all activities of the event.
- **Have Fun!**

A warning will be given for breaking the covenant about:

Respecting others Curfew Participation in the event Language

The participant will be sent home and/or suspended from future synodical events for repeatedly breaking the covenant items above or the following: Illegal Drugs, alcohol, vaping, or tobacco products; sexual activity; leaving the property without adult permission

Western North Dakota Lutheran Youth Organization Board and Adult Advisors have the final say in the interpretation and enforcement of the Code of Conduct. If a participant is to be sent home, he or she will be financially responsible for any costs incurred.

I recognize that I am joining the Christian Family and Community. I agree to abide by this Code of Conduct Covenant while I am a member of this community. I understand that if I break this covenant, I may be sent home at my parents' expense.

Participant's signature _____

Parental/Guardian signature (if participant is registered as a youth participant):

Turn this form in at registration. Please keep a copy for yourself and your youth.

WESTERN ND SYNOD LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION GATHERING 2026

This completed form (one for each participant) must be with the adult advisor at all times.

Participant's Name _____

As parent/guardian of the above named minor, I hereby grant permission for my son/daughter to participate in the **2026 Western North Dakota Synod LYO Gathering**, held **October 16-17 or October 17-18, 2026**.

Photo Release

I hereby give permission to WND Synod LYO to take photographs and/or videos of me or my child. I consent to the use of such materials for promotional purposes by WND Synod LYO.

Medical Release

While every attempt is made to make the Western North Dakota Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Gathering a safe and fun experience, there is always the chance that participants will need medical care. Accidents can and do happen.

I grant permission for any adult chaperone with our group or event coordinators to take whatever steps may be necessary to obtain emergency care as warranted for the wellbeing of my son/daughter. These steps may include but are not limited to the following:

- Attempts to contact a parent or guardian
- Attempts to contact youth's physician
- Seek medical examination/ treatment for injuries/ condition by medical professional

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ Zip _____

Home (_____) _____ Cell (_____) _____ Work (_____) _____

Emergency Contact Person: _____ (This person will be notified if parent/guardian is unavailable.)

Home (_____) _____ Cell (_____) _____ Work (_____) _____

Medical Insurance Company Number _____

Medical Insurance Policy Number _____ Group Number (if applicable) _____

Name of Policy Holder _____ Policy Holder's Date of Birth _____

Medications being taken/dosage/frequency: _____

List ALL Allergies (food/meds/pets/etc.): _____

Date of last Tetanus shot _____

List any special dietary needs: _____

Please state any additional health, emotional or other conditions of which we should be aware _____

My signature below indicates that I understand and agree to the policy and terms listed above and agree that any expenses incurred in necessary emergency or other medical treatment will be borne solely by the youth's medical coverage and/or family. I will not hold any leader or organization liable for any injury or accident.

Participant Signature _____

_____ Date

Parent/Guardian Signature (if participant is under 18) _____

_____ Date