

# LYO Western ND Synod Gathering

“I am, We are, You are...”

**Baymont Hotel: Mandan**

**9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: October 19-20 and  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade: October 20-21**

*“Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, I am strong.” -2 Corinthians 12:10*

## SPECIAL GUESTS of LYO 2023:

### **AGAPE\* & Joe Davis: Lead Presenters, Musicians & Poet**



**AGAPE\*** combines rapping, dancing, storytelling and his fluency in Spanish to connect with his listeners in a way that they really “get it”. His energy is contagious, and his stories of faith transcend differences. Even those who do not normally enjoy hip-hop find themselves dancing to his music and are captivated by his unique presentation of the Gospel. We are so excited to be welcoming back him and Joe for a great LYO!

**Joe Davis** is a nationally touring writer, speaker, and performer based in Minneapolis, MN. As a student and educator, he has served as teaching artist at dozens of high schools and universities and has recently published his inspirational books of poetry: “We Rise Higher” and “Remind me Again”.



### **Bishop Craig Schweitzer, Synod Bishop**



Pastor Craig Schweitzer serves as Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod and is so excited to join our LYO events to support our Youth of Western North Dakota!

Bishop Craig loves his family, his dogs, and Lark Baseball Games. Craig cares deeply about helping Lutherans in our synod engage in God’s mission of sharing Christ’s love with our communities, through service, words, and actions.

### **Pastor Dawn Busch, LYO Chaplain**

Pastor Dawn Busch grew up in Montana and discerned a call to pastoral ministry after working with a Computer Science degree for several years. Dawn graduated from Luther Seminary in May 2020 and was called to serve as Pastor alongside the people of Belfield, Dagleum, and Medora Lutheran Churches. Outside her great work in the church, Dawn enjoys camping, crafting and flying a small airplane!



### **LYO 2023 In-Kind OFFERING: Heart River Bridges of Hope**

LYO will collect NEW Items for a “Fresh Start” Kit for incarcerated women, including Towels, Washcloths, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Deodorant, Lotion, Chapstick, Razors, Shaving Cream, Hairbrush or Comb, Feminine Hygiene Products, Nail Polish, etc.

### WORSHIP OFFERING:

Support our four Outdoor Ministry Sites

**A cash offering will be received during the opening and closing worship services and will be equally divided between each of our synod's four Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Sites.**

### IN-KIND OFFERING:

Heart River Bridges of Hope

The Bridges of Hope Ministries Support women in the Heart River Correctional Center. Our donations (listed on front) will support their "Fresh Start" kits to help support residents, easing the stress of reentry.

### HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECT

**The Adult leader will receive information about your Service Project Assignment at the LYO Adult Leader Meeting Thursday Evening of the event.**

The Local Planning Team 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 advisor prior to the trip.

### BREAK OUT SESSIONS

Participants will participate in two Break Out sessions during the gathering. Participation in these sessions is expected.

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! A list of Break Outs will be posted on the Gathering website shortly before the Gathering.

### 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 talent and arranged beforehand with the LYO tech crew.

### NIGHTLIFE

Karaoke, 9-Square, Dance Party, Gaga Ball (hopefully), Tie Blankets, Snacks & More

### MEALS

**The following meals will be provided during the Gathering:**

9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Thursday Dinner and Friday Continental Breakfast

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Saturday Continental Breakfast & Lunch

*Friday lunch and dinner will not be provided as part of the gathering.*

**Any other snacks or pizza that may be ordered in will be at the expense of the individual(s).**

### POLICIES of the WND LYO Gathering:

- A. **Age:** Participants must currently be in grades 6-8 for the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade event and Grades 9-12 for the High School event.
- B. **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.
- C. **Male and Female Youth** cannot be in a hotel room together without an adult advisor chaperoning them.
- D. **THERE IS NO TIME FOR SWIMMING AT LYO.** Please make your kids aware as they attend.
- E. **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.
- F. **Refunds:** \$50 of the \$100 registration will be refunded if requested by October 2, if the request is made in writing to the registrar. (\$50 is non-refundable.) **NO REFUNDS AFTER October 2.**
- G. **Substitutions:** Participant names may be substituted, if done so in writing and submitted to the registrar by October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- H. **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.
- I. **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.**

## HOUSING

Standard housing is 4 youth per room and 2 adults per room. You will be asked to organize and indicate the roommate requests for each participant at the time of group online registration. Female youth will stay with other female youth and male youth with other male youth. The only exception is a parent may request to stay with their child.

If you have an odd number of adult advisors, they will be paired up in a room with other adult advisors, unless they wish to cover the \$40 fee for their own room.

*If you are traveling with another group, please indicate that in the roommate field on your registration form to assist in making housing assignments.*

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### **PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE:**

You will find a link starting in September @ [www.wndsynod.org/LYO](http://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  
1000 Tacoma Ave. Suite 300  
Bismarck, ND 58504**

- **Please remember, ELCA policy requires a 7:1 ratio of youth per advisor.**
- 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: \$100/person.**

- **The Registration Deadline is Monday, October 2, with a Final Registration Deadline of October 9, 2023.**
- All adult advisors are required to pay the registration fee.

## REGISTRATION (Continued)

- A **late fee of \$25/person** should be included with registrations entered after **October 2, 2023.**
- Need to make changes to your registration? Additions? Cancellations? Substitutions? Please call the synod office at 701-223-5312.

*If you need assistance, please contact Lesley Gorby at 701-223-5312 or [lesley@wndsynod.org](mailto: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 one 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.

## JOIN THE HIGH SCHOOL LYO BOARD

The 2023 Board is accepting applications for the role of Vice President and Treasurer of the WND Lutheran Youth Organization, along with Conference Representatives from the East Missouri, Lonetree, Upper Missouri and Turtle Mountain Conferences.

Applications are **ONLY** open to 9th, 10th, and 11th graders who are youth members of ELCA churches in the Western North Dakota Synod.

**Candidates must commit to attending four meetings per year for two years.**

Application and Information can be found at the WND LYO Website: [www.wndsynod.org/lyo](http://www.wndsynod.org/lyo)

**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.

**Expectations of the President:**

- Preside over all meetings of the WND Synod LYO Board and business meetings of the gathering
- Work with Board advisor to prepare agendas for all meetings of the LYO Board
- Represent the WND Synod LYO Board at functions of the synod and the ELCA, such as the Western North Dakota Synod Assembly, synod council meetings, and national gatherings of synod youth organization presidents.
- Submit reports to the WND Synod Assembly and the WND Synod Council.
- Attend the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit during the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their term.

**SECRETARY**

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

**Expectations of the Secretary**

- Report on the financial status of the LYO Board.
- Attend the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit during the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their term.

**CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE**

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

**Expectations of Conference Representatives:**

- 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 conference.

**APPLICATIONS CAN BE FOUND ONLINE @ [WWW.WNDSYNOD.ORG/LYO](http://WWW.WNDSYNOD.ORG/LYO)**

**LYO BOARD APPLICATIONS AND ADULT RECOMMENDATION FORMS ARE DUE OCTOBER 23. UPON SENDING, YOUTH ARE ASKED TO PROVIDE 3 VIDEO RESPONSES TO INTERVIEW QUESTIONS.**

Video Responses will be Due to Ashley by Monday, October 30 and will be reviewed by outgoing LYO Board Members. Adult advisors are asked to serve the LYO Board from each Conference, ideally being connected to an LYO Board officer from their area.

# LYO Gathering REGISTRATION INFORMATION

## 2023 WND Synod LYO Gathering

Participant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Event Attending \_\_\_\_\_ High School October 19-20 \_\_\_\_\_ 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Event October 20-21

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: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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):

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**Turn this form in at registration. Please keep a copy for yourself and your youth.**  
**WESTERN ND SYNOD LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION GATHERING**  
**OCTOBER 2023 – Grand Hotel, Minot, ND**

**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 **2023 Western North Dakota Synod LYO Gathering**, held **October 19-20 or October 20-21, 2023**.

**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