

The NWMN Synod of the ELCA Middle School (Grades 6th-8th) Gathering



**and the word became flesh
and lived among us JOHN 1:14a**

At Young Life's Castaway Club near Detroit Lakes!

Conferences 1-5 Friday, April 28-Saturday, April 29

Conferences 5-8 Saturday, April 29 – Sunday, April 30

Enclosed in this mailing is everything you need to get yourself, your Adult Leaders, WHEATYS and your Middle School Youth ready to attend the best weekend of the year!

Enclosed you will find:

1. Event poster
2. Medical Release/Parent Permission Form on the back of this letter (please circle the days you are attending)
3. A map to Young Life's Castaway

Things that you will find online:

1. Sample registration form
2. Group Covenant
3. Synod map to answer the question "What conference are we?"
4. And everything in this mailing

Registration is available on-line, please follow this link.

<http://nwmnsynod.org/synod-organizations/lutheran-youth-organization-lyo/>

You will need a "Trip Leader" an adult, who will be at the Gathering, who will be the point person.

For each registrant you need:

1. Name (first and last)
2. Gender
3. What they are registering as (Adult Leader, WHEATY, Youth)
4. T-shirt size
5. Any Dietary and Accessibility needs



Our Key Note presenter is **Jonathan Swenson**; Jonathan grew up in Two Harbors, MN and is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College (BA - Psychology, Theatre and Music, 1988) and Luther Seminary (Masters of Divinity, 1994). After serving congregations in IA and MN as an ordained Lutheran pastor for over 15 years, he launched Paraphrase Theatre. Since that time he has been sharing his unique blend of drama, storytelling and teaching at churches, retreats, and conferences throughout the country. Jonathan has been married to the love of his life, Jana, for over 25 years. Together they are the proud parents of

two daughters – Christina Joy and Caitlyn Grace.

Jonathan is also the Director of Programming for Mount Carmel Family Camp and Retreat Center on the shores of Lake Carlos in Alexandria, MN.

Jonathon will be performing pieces from *Witnesses*, which is written by Curt Cloninger, a nationally known actor, writer and speaker. Jonathan is grateful to Curt for allowing him to perform this inspired piece.



The LYO Board is also proud to present, **Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Band**, out of Moorhead as the worship leaders. They have been to the last two Middle School Youth Gatherings and are excited to be asked back again this year!

Led by Jon Dahl and others; each member has a unique background with music, worship leadership and a variety of ministry roles in the Fargo-Moorhead area and looks forward to bringing that to Castaway at the end of April!!

Again this year there will be an opportunity to bring **“WHEATYS”**, or High School teens, which will have a short training session in peer ministry and leadership skills. There is more information on what a WHEATY is and a job description on the synod’s LYO website. As for the number of WHEATYs you can bring; every church can have at least 2. Then, you can have extra WHEATYs at this ratio 5 participants to 1 WHEATY, so at 15 Middle Schoolers there can be 3 and so on. However, the number of WHEATYs cannot outnumber the number of adults. The LYO Board recommends at least a 1:7 adult to youth ratio.

Cost: Registration is \$95 a person (youth, adult and WHEATY). What is included in that? You will receive **housing**, an awesome t-shirt; great worship music; powerful presenters; terrific nightlife (black light dance and more!); moving breakout sessions, a **pizza snack Night one**, breakfast and lunch on Day 2; all the stuff that youth boast about at school the Monday after the gathering. All of that while exploring Jesus’ life! If the night that your conference is assigned to come, does not work for your congregation, please email Kristina (lyo@cord.edu) and she will make the necessary arrangements with you.

Non-refundable registration cost \$95 until April 3rd
Registrations received April 4th – April 21st will be \$125

Schedule of events:

Registration is 4:00-6:00 in the Bridge, the building at the top of the driveway loop, please follow the signs. The WHEATYs meeting will be 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the coffee shop. The Adult Leader meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. in the “Hold” (basement) of the Windjammer, with the youth being in “mixers” led by the LYO Board in the gym. Please have dinner before arriving at Castaway or bring snacks. There will be pizza included in the registration cost during nightlife (after 9:00 p.m.).

You will need to “check out” of your rooms before you go to breakfast. We will conclude at 3:00 p.m. on Day 2.

Adult Leaders: Since we are in dorm housing we will need at least one same gender leader for every 7 of your youth. If you have any males you need at least one male leader, same for female.

Sample of what the youth need to bring:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothes for 1 day | <input type="checkbox"/> An outfit for the “Black light dance” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pajamas | <input type="checkbox"/> Offering[monetary] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries | |

Accommodations:

Since we will be at a camp, we will be staying in dormitory housing. Each room has 4-6 bunk beds and a bathroom (private showers). Linens and towels are provided. There are separate buildings for males and females. You may be sharing a dorm room with other churches. If you would like to look around at the camp virtually, please visit <http://castaway.younglife.org/Pages/Dorms.aspx>

Offering:

The LYO Board has voted to have our monetary offering go to **Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR)**. "Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need." We will send it to LDR so they can use it for their deepest need. Please talk to your young people before the gathering on the work that Lutheran Disaster Response does, for more information visit them online.

Night Life:

There will be a pizza snack, as well as a "Black Light" dance (your youth will know how to dress, but white and neon colored clothes/accessories are the way to go). The game room will be open, as well as the coffee shop and gym. Adult Leaders will be invited to an Adult Leader Reception.

"On Stage" Volunteers:

One of the LYO Board's favorite parts is having youth from various churches up front to play a game. Please email Kristina (lyo@cord.edu) at least one male and one female youth that would enjoy some "stage time".

Come with your youth and let us together discover how all of our stories are intertwined in God's Story. See you at Castaway (if not before)!

Kristina Johnson Dernier
LYO Advisor and Gathering Coordinator

Keep updated on Synod LYO information: NWMN SYNOD LYO web site <http://nwmnsynod.org/synod-organizations/lutheran-youth-organization-lyo/> OR Kristina lyo@cord.edu OR contact John Bell at (218) 299-3019 OR email jbellsynod@cord.edu

Middle School (6th-8th grade) Gathering
November 17-18 and 18-19, 2017!!!
REFORMATION REMIX!
at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria