

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

ReFORMATION ReMiX

At Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria

Conferences 1-4 Friday, November 17-Saturday, November 18

Conferences 5-8 Saturday, November 18-Sunday, November 19

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 (please circle the days you are attending)
3. Arrowwood's Hotel Registration and Pizza Order Form

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.

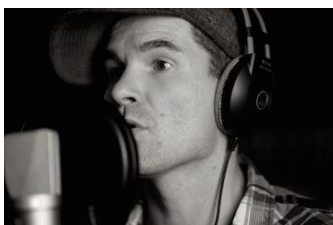
<http://nwmnsynod.org/synod-organizations/lutheran-youth-organization-lyo/>

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. What they are registering as (Adult Leader, WHEATY, Youth)
3. T-shirt size
4. Any Dietary and Accessibility needs

After reviewing why Martin Luther nailed the 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany the LYO Board prayerfully talked about what they think need to be reformed in today's world and church and have invited the following people to spend the weekend with us!



One of our presenters is **AGAPE* (DAVE SCHERER)** he has inspired youth from Brooklyn to Bosnia with his relational ministry—Hip Hop Outreach. Combining rapping, dancing, storytelling and his fluency in Spanish, AGAPE* connects 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 captivated by his unique presentation of the Gospel. AGAPE* brings an authentic approach by translating the theological depth

of his seminary training into simple songs and stories that can be understood by every listener. His passion is to bring together people of all backgrounds and let them know about God's love for the whole world. This is "AGAPE*"!

AGAPE* has been touring full-time as a musician for the last twelve years, performing for hundreds of thousands of youth across the US, and in eight different countries. He has recorded six CDs and has recorded with critically-acclaimed producer Ant (Atmosphere, Brother Ali) as well as Chris Brown's producer Ra Charm. He has shared the stage with the likes of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Toby Mac, David Crowder, Tony Campolo, and Gospel giant Kirk Franklin. In 2001 He co-founded JUMP (Joint Urban Ministries in Praise) a ministry dedicated to helping urban youth unleash their leadership skills through the arts. More recently he founded a youth-led worship service called AMP (All Metro Praise) which attracts hundreds of youth across the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metro area each month. In 2009, he received the Tom Hunstad Award for excellence in youth ministry and his contribution to the lives of young people. His ministry was also recently featured in an ABC affiliated documentary entitled "Peace of Bread" about food insecurity in America.

Another presenter is Joe Davis Joe Davis is a multi-media spoken word poet, teaching artist, and community organizer based in the Twin Cities, Minnesota. He has performed across the country including the Rise Up Together Tour alongside Agape* and Rachel Kurtz in partnership with ELCA World Hunger's Walk For Water, raising funds to equip communities around the world with clean drinking water. Engaging wildly diverse audiences— from hundreds of interfaith and intergenerational marchers at the Selma to MN 50th Anniversary March to over 35,000 youth at the Ford Field Stadium in Detroit, Michigan—Joe Davis has a gift for bringing people together around honest poems, stories, and songs. One of six recipients of the 2015 Intermedia Verve Spoken Word Artist Grant, he founded a music collective, The Poetic Diaspora, while developing a classroom curriculum and producing a documentary film exploring the history of the Minneapolis-St. Paul spoken word scene. As a student and educator, he has served as teaching artist at dozens of high schools and universities and is currently the Artist-in-Residence at Luther Seminary, pursuing a Masters in Theology of the Arts.



Another presenter is **Aubrey Thonvold** (she/her) is a lifelong Lutheran from Minnesota. Aubrey is committed to work centered in justice and inclusion for LGBT people and their families within religious and faith communities. Most recently, Aubrey has worked on marriage campaigns in Washington, Hawaii, and Oregon, organizing outreach, education, and advocacy and encouraging faith communities to support the freedom to marry for LGBT couples. With a master's degree in Transforming Spirituality from The School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University, she strives to bring people in from the margins and invite all people to the table. Aubrey and her wife Heather both have a call to ministry, a love of adventures, and enjoy time with friends and family. Aubrey is thrilled to be a part of the team at ReconcilingWorks.

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

Led by Jon Dahl and Nolan Weisz, along with a crew of their friends; each member has a unique background with music, worship leadership and a variety of ministry roles in the Fargo-Moorhead!



Again this year there will be an opportunity to bring “WHEATYS”, or High School teens, who 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 \$80 a person (youth, adult and WHEATY). What is included in that? You will receive an awesome t-shirt; great worship music; powerful speakers; terrific nightlife (black light dance and more!); moving breakout sessions, and 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 \$80 through November 1st
Registrations received November 2nd to November 16th will be \$100
Registrations received after November 6th are not guaranteed a gathering shirt

Schedule of events:

Registration is 4:00-6:00 in the ballrooms at Arrowwood. The WHEATYs training will be 5:30-6:30, with a dinner provided for the WHEATYs. The Adult Leader meeting will be at 6:00, with the youth being in “mixers” led by the LYO Board. The gathering will conclude at about 3:00 pm, after the closing worship service.

Sample of what the youth need to bring:

- Clothes for 1 day
- Pajamas
- Toiletries
- An outfit for the “Black light dance”
- Swimsuit/towel for the Waterpark or pool
- Offering[monetary and in-kind]

Accommodations:

We have a large block of rooms at Arrowwood, you will need to book your own rooms through Arrowwood directly. Preferred lodging is held until October 16th. All the information you need is on the form that is included in this mailing. Please make sure that you book your rooms for the night that you are attending the gathering.

Offering:

We will be having two offering opportunities during the Middle School Youth Gathering.

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.” With the flooding in Louisiana, the wildfires in the western states of our country, 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.

The second will be an in-kind offering for the **YWCA of Cass-Clay**, we are asking that you bring new or gently used clothing for either women or children. You can also visit their website and see what their most urgent needs include: <https://www.ywcacassclay.org/urgent-needs>

Night Life:

There will be a “Black Light” dance (your youth will know how to dress, but white and neon colored clothes/accessories are the way to go), the awesome waterpark will be open extended hours and there will be a movie/game room. Adult Leaders will be invited to the Bishop’s Reception that will be from 10:00 p.m.- 11:00 p.m.

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 our church is always reforming!
See you in Alexandria (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

Senior High (9th-12th grade) Gathering
April 13th -15th
This Changes Everything
(Friday evening – Sunday noon)
at Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria