

REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

2019 LCMS Youth Gathering

Held every 3 years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity. The next Gathering will be held on July 11-15, 2019 in Minneapolis, MN.

Guiding Principles

- Youth Gatherings proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ and God's saving grace to His people through Christ. In this setting, young people grow in their personal relationship with God and grow in their fellowship of Word and Sacrament in Christ's Church.
- Youth Gatherings are a vehicle by which the Church reaches out to, cares for and affirms young people, both churched and unchurched.
- Youth Gatherings equip youth and adults for ministry in a variety of settings in their congregations, communities, and world.
- Youth Gatherings affirm, equip, and support adults who work with young people.
- Youth Gatherings celebrate the meaning of Christian joy in all of life's situations.
- Youth Gatherings recognize and affirm the diversity of God's people
- Youth Gatherings affirm, support, and promote the ministry of LCMS Districts and congregations.



Friends in Christ will be sending 4 youth and 2 adult leaders to the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our youth who will be attending.



Emma Oslakovich

I am currently 17 years old and attend Coal City High School. I will be graduating in May. I will be attending Trine University in Angola, Indiana in the fall. I intend to major in Civil Engineering. I recently applied and was accepted to be a Junior Counselor at Camp Luther. This is a camp I attended as a child every summer in Three Lakes, Wisconsin near my grandmother's home. I will be spending about two weeks there in June with children between 3rd and 8th grade that want to grow closer to God. After camp, I will be attending The National Youth Gathering with our Friends in Christ Youth Group. I had so much fun the last time we attended when it was held in New Orleans. I look forward to being able to grow with the youth group and in Christ this summer.

Shaye Carter

I am 19 years old. I am a graduate from Red Bud High School (We had a blast!)

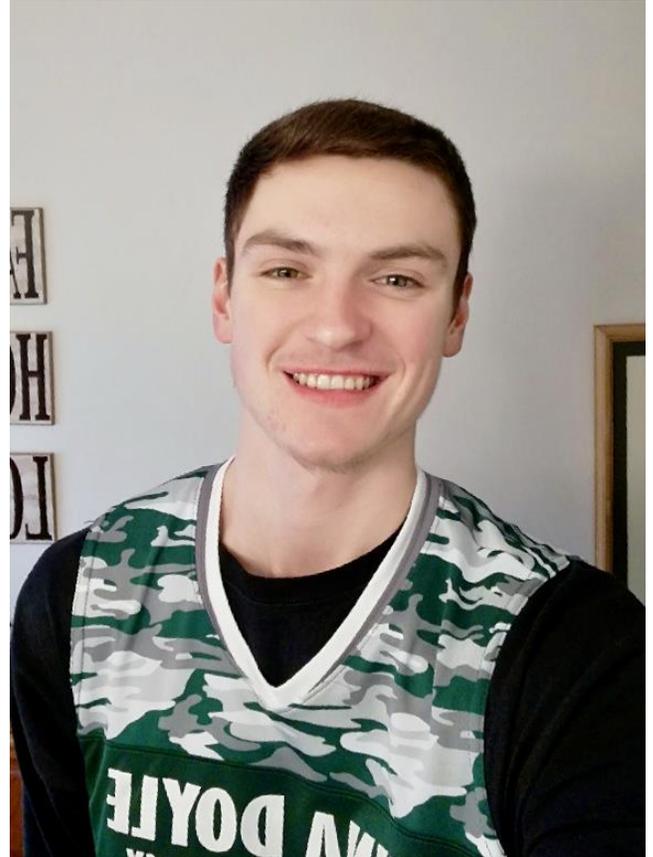
I am currently employed at the Aldi warehouse in Dwight. I would like to say I have summer plans but I would be lying. I will really be working the 40+ hours a week like every person on this planet.

When we attended the gathering in 2016 it was the most enlightening thing I had ever experienced. I would have never known that 25,000+ kids would be as interested in God as Emma and I are. It was amazing to meet the fellow kids and talk to them; just to see where they are from and what church they attend. Also, it is going to be amazing to see all the friends that I made last time that we went.

But okay - time to get down the business. I am looking forward to going to the gathering one more time before I hit the allowable age limit. But I'm mostly looking forward also to catching up with old friends.

I am thankful to God for my job because they were kind enough to give me a week's paid vacation. On a more serious note, the greatest feeling is to talk about our Lord and Savior in a "safe" environment with other people who want to be there and want to talk about God.

If there is one thing I want to learn during the week that we are there, it's something new about Jesus or a story in the Bible that I haven't ever heard about or something that I have not picked up on or taught during confirmation, church or Bible study. I know we will never stop learning about our Lord! So, when I come back to this small town and head right back into the same old routine, I can finally say to my mother, 'HA! I know something that you probably don't know!'



Elizabeth Kirk

Hi! I'm Elizabeth and I'm a sophomore at Wilmington High School. Next school year I will be working for the park district kids' club after school program. Over the summer I plan to help out with the kids' camp which will help me get ready for the new school year.

Going to the youth gathering this year would help me to meet new people and give me a chance to experience what the gathering has to offer. Some things I would like to learn is getting closer to God and learning more about my life and how I can trust more.



Elicia Kirk

Hi! My name is Elicia Kirk. I'm in 8th grade and I'm 13 years old. I go to Wilmington Middle School and am currently in confirmation class at Friends in Christ. I hope to learn more about God at the National Youth Gathering. I want to bring back what I learn and share it with my family and friends.

Cathy Thompson and Terry Carter

will also be attending the NYG as adult leaders.

*"Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"
The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our fortress."*

Psalms 46:10-11 ESV

Let us do the cooking!!



Please join the youth for a freewill offering Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, June 2, 2019. We will be serving from 4:30-6:30 pm. We ask that you sign up at church for the dinner or call the church office so that we have an idea how many to prepare for.

There is still time to “buy stock” in our youth attending the National Youth Gathering. All stockholders will be invited to a special dinner in the fall of 2019 where the kids will share about their experience in Minneapolis learning about our “REAL. PRESENT. GOD.”

To donate you can simply include your gift in the offering plate designated to the National Youth Gathering or personally bring or mail it to the church office.