



## WHY WE ATTEND THE NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING?

The National Youth Gathering (NYG) is one of the major projects of the Youth Ministry Office of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. The Gathering carries forth the vision of Youth Ministry by providing opportunities for young people and adults to boldly come together in the name of Jesus Christ to proclaim, celebrate and witness their salvation through Him, rejoice in the fellowship of their church and be affirmed and nurtured in their lives as God's people through Work and Sacrament.

The Gathering is a chance to experience faith, friends and self in a bold new way. This isn't just a place to observe, but to jump off the sidelines with 25,000 believers and encounter the reality of a life in Christ that goes beyond imagination.

St. John Youth Ministry is here to help youth love God, love others and impact our world. We know this trip does all three of these and is a great experience and faith builder for our youth.

## THE WHO...WHEN...WHERE...HOW MUCH?

### WHEN:

The 2010 Youth Gathering will be held July 16-22, 2010 in New Orleans, Louisiana.  
(These dates include travel.)

### WHY NEW ORLEANS:

Few cities in the United States possess the necessary infrastructure, hotels, mass transit options, airports, Convention Centers and/or sports facilities to accommodate the incredible space and housing needs of the Gathering. The Gathering requires 500,000 square feet of convention center and meeting space, a venue to seat 30,000 for mass events and worship (and open-air stadiums are not a great option), 14,000 hotel rooms within a fifteen minute radius of the convention center, and plenty of food options for hungry teenagers. These needs really limit the number of US cities open to hosting the event.

New Orleans has the facilities necessary for housing an event as large as the National Youth Gathering. The Morial Convention Center is one of the top Convention facilities in the United States, and ensures a convenient, safe and versatile home for the numerous events that play a part in the Gathering. The Louisiana Super Dome provides excellent facilities for daily Mass Events and Worship. Additionally, with tens of thousands of hotel rooms available, participants can be conveniently and affordably housed in New Orleans.

### WHAT IS THE NYG?

A focus on servantship, outreach, and discipleship defines the National Youth Gathering program. Daily large-scale mass events are scheduled, but throughout each daily schedule, participants will experience the program in groups of 10-12,000. The three groups will learn through a series of program tracks based on three themes: **LOOK, LISTEN, and LIVE.**

## THEME:

We live in a world where we are constantly bombarded with messages about how we should dress, spend money, eat, drink, study, work, vote, believe, live, etc. There are so many different messages that it gets hard to know which messages are true and which are just a bunch of lies. And then there are those in-between messages—the ones that aren't entirely wrong, but aren't entirely right either. So how do we know what messages we should listen to? How do we know what we really believe?

In God's Word, we find this statement in John's Gospel: ***But these things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*** John 20:31

At the 2010 National Youth Gathering, we'll be focusing on these words. We'll look at what we believe and at what that means for everything we do. We'll **LOOK...** and see the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. We'll **LISTEN...** and hear the words of the Word made Flesh, whose words are spirit and life. And we'll **LIVE...** because we have been given life in Jesus' name to love others as He first loved us.

## WHO CAN ATTEND:

The program content of the Gathering is designed to be age appropriate for high school youth ages 14-19. However, the Gathering age requirements do allow for youth older than 19 to attend. The Gathering encourages youth over the age of 19 to first consider serving as a member of the Gathering's Young Adult Volunteer Corps (YAV). *You can register online to be part of the YAV Corps at [www.lcmsgathering.com](http://www.lcmsgathering.com)*

To register for the 2010 National Youth Gathering, youth participants must meet ONE of the following eligibility requirements:

1. Must be 14 years old at the time of the Gathering.
2. Entering his/her freshmen year of high school at the time of the Gathering.
3. Not have turned 21 by the time of the Gathering.

## ADULT LEADERS:

These leaders are responsible for the care and nurture of each St. John youth throughout the duration of the National Gathering. Adult leaders must meet the following requirements:

1. Must be at least 21 years old at the time of registration.
2. Complete a St John volunteer background check and Adult Leader Participant Form.

Serving as an adult leader for the National Youth Gathering takes hard work and true dedication to young people. Adult leaders are responsible for the care and nurture of their small group and St. John's larger group at the Gathering. Adult leaders attend all Gathering related activities and participate with their small group and St. John's larger group. Adult leaders will need to be intentionally involved in the events leading up to the Gathering as well as events that take place upon our return from the Gathering.

Youth to Adult ration will be 6:1.

We know this is a financial commitment and adult leaders will most likely have a youth going also, we are only asking the adult leaders to cover the cost of food and transportation for themselves. If you are willing to cover more, it will help us provide more financial assistance to youth.

## ROOMING ASSIGNMENTS:

St. John adult leadership will make hotel rooming assignments. We will typically house 4 youth participants per room. When an adult leader is assigned a hotel room with youth, St. John policy requires that they have their own bed. Youth have the opportunity to list 4-6 roommate choices upon registration. (See NYG registration form). Although roommates are not guaranteed, every effort is made to include one or more participants from each youth's requested list.

## ADDING IT UP:

**1. Registration & Programming = \$395**

This covers St. John programming costs, NYG registration fees, materials, backpack, Gathering Bible, NYG t-shirt, secondary insurance.

**2. Hotel = \$240 (6 nights)**

Hotel cost is approx. \$155 per room per night, or \$40 per person per night based on 4 participants in a room

**3. Food = \$280 (7 days)**

Food will cost approximately \$40 per day depending on the kind of restaurant selected. Food costs are included in the total amount but are *not included in the NYG payment schedule (listed below)*. *Each individual will carry their own money for food.*

**4. Transportation = \$285**

We are looking into transportation options, which include airplane, charter bus, or van rentals.

**5. Souvenirs & Incidentals**

Determined by each individual.

**TOTAL ESTIMATE: \$1200**

## FINANCIAL CARE:

At St. John we do realize this trip is expensive and we want to help in any way we can. With the help of parents and other adults, there will be fundraising options to pursue. For those who might need additional assistance after having participated in fundraising activities, we are also working to make available scholarship funds.

## NYG PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

PAYMENT	AMOUNT	DUE DATE
Deposit	\$395	February 1, 2010
Payment #1	\$200	March 1, 2010
Payment #2	\$200	May 1, 2010
Payment #3	\$125	July 1, 2010

*Note: Food costs are not included in the above payment schedule as each individual will carry their own money for food.*

## MAKING A COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EVENT MEANS:

1. Youth will be expected to attend pre-NYG meetings.
2. Participant's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be expected to participate in pre-NYG meetings.
3. Participants will complete all forms by the designated timeline.
4. Participants will be expected to make full payment of NYG monies according to the payment schedule.
5. Participants will participate in the post NYG activity.
6. If a participant is unable to attend the NYG, full payment of all NYG fees must be made unless a substitute of the same gender can be arranged. No substitutions can be made after June 2010.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED?

- This is a big commitment of both time and money...but the benefits can be eternal!
- Pray and talk over this commitment as a family.
- Find out more information on the NYG website at [www.lcmsgathering.com](http://www.lcmsgathering.com)
- Need to be convinced... set up an individual meeting with Will Hanke.

## HOW TO REGISTER:

- Return your *NYG Registration Form* and the *Youth Participation Worksheet* to Will Hanke by January 15, 2010 or sooner.
- Turn in your \$395 deposit to Will Hanke by February 1, 2010. All checks are to be made payable to St. John Lutheran Church. If finances are a barrier, please talk with Will Hanke.
- Turn in an updated *Medical Release form* by June 1, 2010.
- Questions? Contact Will at 636.779.2352

## FINALLY...

As we prepare for the 2010 NYG, it is my hope that you will have opportunities to LOOK and see God's fingerprints in your life. I pray that you will have time to LISTEN to God's word and connect it to your dreams, questions, and concerns. And I pray that you will enjoy the blessing to LIVE in God's grace and mercy. I hope to see you in New Orleans in July 2010!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Will Hanke". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

Will Hanke  
High School Youth Director  
St. John Lutheran Church  
636.779.2352  
whanke@stjstl.net

**NYG REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Initial Male or Female

Grade Completed in May 10 \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Mobile Phone Carrier \_\_\_\_\_

Student Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Student Mobile Phone Carrier \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt in Adult Size: Small \_\_\_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_\_\_ Large \_\_\_\_\_ Extra Large \_\_\_\_\_ Extra-Extra Large \_\_\_\_\_

**ROOMMATE PREFERENCE**

Although roommates are not guaranteed please list four – six participants that you would be interested in rooming with.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIRED SIGNATURES**

**Participant:** I look forward to the 2010 National LCMS National Youth Gathering and agree to participate and cooperate with a willing and joy-filled attitude.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature Date

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** I give permission for my son/daughter to participate in the 2010 LCMS National Youth Gathering. In doing so I also allow pictures taken during the Youth Gathering to be used for public relations by Immanuel Lutheran Church and/or the LCMS Board of Youth Ministry. I understand that if my son or daughter is unable to attend the 2010 National Youth Gathering I must make full payment of all NYG fees unless a substitute of the same gender can be arranged. No substitutions can be made after June 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature Date

*NYG Registration Form and Youth Participant Worksheet due January 15, 2010.*  
Deposit of \$395.00 due by February 1, 2010.

# YOUTH PARTICIPANT WORKSHEET

This worksheet is for congregational information-gathering purposes only. DO NOT MAIL. The following information will be needed to complete online registration for ALL Youth Gathering participants. Incomplete registrations will be returned and will delay group confirmation to the Gathering.

## Indicate

Male / Female \_\_\_\_\_

Year of High School Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth M: \_\_\_ / D: \_\_\_ / Y: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Phone \_\_\_\_\_

My name and address may be released to Lutheran colleges and universities for recruitment purposes.

## T-Shirt Size

The Gathering Office is requesting participant T-Shirt size to gauge proper quantities and sizing for Servant Event T-Shirts and other shirts being offered.

X-Small

Small

Medium

Large

X-Large

XX-Large

XXX-Large

## Substitutions and Cancellations

Check if this registration is a substitution.

Name of participant substituted \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Substitutions cannot be made after July 1, 2010. Substitutions are NOT allowed on site at the National Youth Gathering.

A \$100 charge per person will be retained for cancellations made on or before June 1, 2010. The remaining funds will be refunded to the congregation through the Primary Adult Leader.

## Optional Survey

Number of Previous National LCMS Youth Gatherings Attended \_\_\_\_\_

## Ethnicity

By law, participants are not required to share their ethnicity. The Gathering respectfully requests an indication of the ethnic-cultural background of persons registering for the Gathering.

Asian

Black/African

Hispanic/Latino

Indian

Middle Eastern

Native Alaskan

Native American

Pacific Islander

White/Caucasian

Multiethnic

## Primary Language

English

Spanish

German

Japanese

French

Multiethnic

## Signatures (Optional based on congregation policy)

*Adult Leaders: The Gathering will NOT collect signature forms from each youth participant. When registration data is entered online, it is assumed that proper parental permissions have been acquired based on congregational policies. If parental and participant signatures are required or preferred, we have added this portion of the worksheet for your convenience. (Adult Leaders may wish to distribute other parental permission slips used by the congregation.) The Gathering Office suggests that adult leaders consult the Gathering Web site for information on covenanting and other group planning processes.*

I agree to participate fully in all National LCMS Youth Gathering events.

Participant Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my son/daughter/ward to participate in the 2010 National LCMS Youth Gathering.

I authorize the adult leader(s) of my son/daughter/ward's congregational group to consent to any medical treatment necessary for my child while attending or traveling to and from the National LCMS Youth Gathering.

I declare that my child is covered by primary accident and medical insurance and assume all liability for injury to my child.

I give the National LCMS Youth Gathering the right to use the image and comments of my son/daughter/ward for publicity purposes related directly to the mission of the National LCMS Youth Gathering. I understand that I will not be given any creative control over the finished use of the images.

I understand that neither I, nor my son/daughter/ward will be compensated should the images be used.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_