

REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

2019 LCMS Youth Gathering

OUR SAVIOR  
LUTHERAN church  
registration  
packet



# REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

## 2019 LCMS Youth Gathering

### What is the National Youth Gathering?

Join 30,000 high schoolers from all over the country during this once-in-a-lifetime event! Held every three years in a different city, teens will gather in Minneapolis to worship, serve, & grow. They'll hear from dynamic speakers, worship with the nation's most talented musicians, & enjoy tons of incredible activities like games, servant events, crafts, parades, and more as teens take over the city for a week!

### Who Can Go?

Eligible participants range from current 8th grade students to graduating high school seniors. Your registration must be completed and a deposit paid to secure your spot.

### How Do I Learn More?

We'll be having an informational meeting early this fall! The total cost for participants will include travel, lodging in a downtown hotel, food, and the event itself. In years past, our youth have financed their trip to NYG by participating in monthly fundraisers held at Our Savior. Historically, our participants have only paid a very small portion of that overall cost, because we have so many fundraisers for them throughout the year.

Financial assistance and scholarships will be available, so don't let cost hold you back from this life-changing event!

## Register at [oursaviorfl.org/youth](https://oursaviorfl.org/youth)

*For more information, please contact Graham ([graham.barber@oursaviorfl.org](mailto:graham.barber@oursaviorfl.org))  
or Cassie ([cassie.moore@oursaviorfl.org](mailto:cassie.moore@oursaviorfl.org))*



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2019 LCMS Youth Gathering

## **Tuesday, July 9, 2019**

Fly to Minneapolis

## **Wednesday, July 10, 2019**

Free Day (likely Mall of America & Minnehaha Falls)

### **Wednesday, July 10, 2019**

1-5p Early Registration, tentative  
Pre-Gathering Orientation Sessions

### **Thursday – July 11, 2019**

8a-6p Registration, tentative  
Pre-Gathering Orientation Sessions

**Potential Slot for District Event**

8:30p **Mass Event (U.S. Bank Stadium)**  
Late Night Options

### **Friday – July 12, 2019**

TBD: **Adult Leader Morning Meeting**  
**Servant Event Deployment**

MORNING (9:00a - 12:00p)  
**Morning Sessions**  
Convention Center and selected Hotels

**Interactive Center Opens**

AFTERNOON (12:00p - 6:00p)  
**Breakout and Intensive Sessions**  
**Adult Leader Sessions**  
**Interactive Center**

6:00p Interactive Center and convention center close

EVENING (6:00p - Midnight)

**Potential Slot for District Event**

8:30p **Mass Event**  
**Mass Event Plus**  
Late Night Community Group Activities

### **Saturday – July 13, 2019**

TBD: **Adult Leader Morning Meeting**  
**Servant Event Deployment**

MORNING (9:00a - 12:00p)  
**Morning Session**  
Convention Center and selected Hotels

**Interactive Center Opens**

### **Saturday – July 13, 2019 (continued)**

AFTERNOON (12:00p - 6:00p)

**Breakout and Intensive Sessions**  
**Adult Leader Sessions**  
**Interactive Center**

6:00p Interactive Center and convention center close

EVENING (6:00p - Midnight)

**Potential Slot for District Event**

8:30p **Mass Event**  
**Mass Event Plus**  
Late Night Community Group Activities

### **Sunday – July 14, 2019**

TBD: **Adult Leader Morning Meeting**  
**Servant Event Deployment**  
**5K Walk/Run (Tentative)**

MORNING (9:00a - 12:00p)  
**Morning Session**  
Convention Center and selected Hotels

**Interactive Center Opens**

AFTERNOON (12:00p - 6:00p)  
**Breakout and Intensive Sessions**  
**Adult Leader Sessions**  
**Interactive Center**

6:00p Interactive Center and convention center close

EVENING (6:00p - Midnight)

**Potential Slot for District Event**

8:30p **Mass Event**  
**NO Mass Event Plus**  
Late Night Community Group Activities

### **Monday – July 15, 2019**

TBD: **Adult Leader Morning Meeting**

9:00a **Gathering Worship Service**  
Following the Benediction, there will be a short closing of thanks and dismissal.

11:00a Expected end of the Stadium Event

12:00p End of Gathering

### **Monday, July 15, 2019**

Free afternoon & evening

### **Tuesday, July 16, 2019**

# Prayer and Support Raising

You are about to embark on an awesome faith-building journey, and prayer is the foundation of your trip. Prayer needs to start now – long before you pack your bags and travel. God is willing and able to do far more than all we ask or imagine, but we must PRAY. Here are some things to be diligently praying about as you are preparing your heart to be used by God on this trip:

## Pray for...

- growing faith as you rely on Him to provide financial support
- wisdom for your team leaders
- unity of purpose for your team
- opportunities to share your story with those who need Him
- safe travel and smooth planning of all the details
- God to prepare the hearts of the people that you will encounter

For your plans to succeed, you must be committed to prayer. Prayer doesn't seem practical, and unfortunately is often left out of the fundraising process.

## Raising Support Communication & Fundraising

Are you concerned that people won't understand why they should support your trip? Here are some reasons why people give:

- People give when they feel informed. Think about...why am I going? How will the money be used? How can others be involved? How do I expect to grow spiritually through this trip?
- People give because they believe their gifts will change lives. Help them understand how their gift will benefit God's kingdom.
- People give if you make them feel as much a part of the trip as those going. Communicate with them before, during, and after the trip. They need to know you are depending on their prayer and support.
- People give when they see that you are completely committed to this and enthusiastic about it! People are excited to see others with a passion and are then inspired to support them.

Above all else, focus on God, not on your own need, claiming this promise: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Raising the funds necessary to take this trip may seem like an insurmountable hurdle, but this critical step – when given the proper attention – will build the foundation for a spiritual, Christ-filled trip. Fundraising has a scriptural basis. The way you view it is crucial in turning fundraising into a partnership.

The level of anxiety associated with money and trips is high. Worry and anxiety often result when our finances are not entrusted to God. We often think that God will help us when sharing our testimony, with cultural adjustments, or with our problems on the trip, but we have to worry about the money! Make sure you dedicate a good amount of time to prayer, and ask God for help and wisdom as you prepare for your trip.

The overall goal and purpose of fundraising should be to share the vision of what God is doing in your life. A critical, sometimes neglected, aspect of fundraising is communicating the bigger picture.

## How Do You Start?

Prepare a list of potential prayer and financial partners to whom you would like to send a support letter. Keep in mind that your prayer partners will be an important part of your team, even if they do not support you financially.

Types of communication include:

- one-on-one conversations (phone call or in person)
- letter writing
- keeping the prayer support team updated
- follow-up after the trip

## Sending Support Letters

Before you send your support letters:

- Write your letter based on the template below. If needed, your trip leader can read through it and give tips and ideas for your letter.
- Use the list above as well as the sample below for ideas. **Support letters should generally go to people outside of the congregation.** Congregation members will be given the chance to give to a free-will donation sometime prior to the trip.
- Include with each letter:
  - A stamped envelope addressed to church
  - One of the NYG Trip Donation Forms

# sample support Letter

Dear Family and Friends,

I have been given the opportunity to be a part of the 2019 National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis this upcoming July. This is a step of faith for me as I embrace new experiences, new friends, and new opportunities to serve God on this week-long trip.

*INSERT INFORMATION HERE ABOUT THE PLACE YOU ARE GOING AND WHAT YOU ARE MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO.*

Part of my responsibility as a team member is to raise my own funds for this trip. I will need to raise \$1500 to cover trip costs. I need a team of people who are willing to share in this ministry by helping me to go. Would you be willing to be a part of this team? Please take some time to pray about this opportunity.

If you feel God calling you to help me financially, please make your check payable to Our Savior Lutheran Church and complete the included NYG Trip Donations Form. Then send both the form and check in the enclosed envelope to Our Savior Lutheran Church.

If you feel God would have you commit to pray for me while I am on my trip then please indicate that as well. Prayer is a vital part of our team and we do not take your commitment lightly. Psalm 17:6 reminds me, "I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer."

Please pray that God will give us boldness and courage as we share His love on the trip and with all those we encounter!

I look forward to seeing God will use us together to reach His people!

For His Glory,

*PARTICIPANT'S NAME*

**NYG Trip Donation Form**

***Please return this form in the envelope provided to:***

Our Savior Lutheran Church  
301 58<sup>th</sup> Street S.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33707



Individual you are supporting:

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**I'd like to help by (please check one and/or both!):**

\_\_\_\_\_ Praying

\_\_\_\_\_ Providing

Please apply the enclosed gift to the individual mentioned.

Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Select One:

CASH or Check # \_\_\_\_\_

*Checks should be made out to Our Savior Lutheran Church (please put "NYG-Participant's Name" in memo)*

If you would like to receive a contribution statement for your donation (for tax deduction purposes), please initial the statement below.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand in order to receive a contribution statement, my donation must be non-refundable. If the person I would like to support is not able to participate in the trip, my contribution will still be used to benefit the ministry at Our Savior.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your support of ministry at  
Our Savior Lutheran Church!**



# NYG 2019 PACKING LIST

*(Limit to 1 bag and 1 small carry-all per student, please!)*

## **Clothing:**

*Please make sure all clothing is appropriate for the nature of this trip. Avoid overly short items, offensive slogans or brands, crop tops, or revealing clothing. Our Savior leaders reserve the right to ask you to change offensive clothing.*

- 7-8 changes of clothes (we will be participating in a service event on one afternoon, so please bring clothes you can get sweaty and dirty in on that day. Also, remember it can be cool in the convention center and Dome, so a light sweater or jacket is recommended.)
- Modest swimsuits for hotel pool
- Several pairs of underwear and socks
- Comfortable shoes or sandals (you'll be walking all over town all day long!)
- Closed-toed shoes for the service event
- Our Savior NYG t-shirt
- Pajamas
- Large plastic trash bag or Ziploc bag for storing dirty clothes

## **Toiletries:**

- Soap, shampoo, razor, shaving cream, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste
- Brush or comb, ponytail holders
- Glasses, extra contact lenses, cleaning solution
- Moisturizer, nail clippers or nail file, Q tips
- Sunscreen
- Medicine (if you're under 18, please follow guidelines for leaders administering your dosage daily)

## **Other:**

- Cell phone and charger (you'll have many opportunities to use it!)
- Extra cell phone charger (suggested)
- Watch (if you're the type that drains your phone battery....you'll need to be on time to meet ups!)
- Photo ID
- Sunglasses (suggested)
- Water bottle (suggested)
- Camera (if desired)
- Extra money for meals, snacks and souvenirs (cash or preloaded debit cards recommended)
  - ○ The NYG will be selling books, shirts, and more!

## **DO NOT BRING:**

- Backpack (Gathering will provide!)
- Bible (Gathering will provide!)
- Expensive jewelry, watches, or sunglasses that could be lost or be stolen
- Alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, fireworks, or weapons



**2019 LCMS Youth Gathering**

# FUNDRAISER SCHEDULE

## **Coffee with a Smile - First Sunday of every month**

October 7: Coffee with a Smile (8:30—11:30 am)

November 4: Coffee with a Smile (8:30—11:30 am)

December 2: Coffee with a Smile (8:30—11:30 am)

January 6: Coffee with a Smile (8:30—11:30 am)

February 3: Coffee with a Smile (8:30—11:30 am)

March 3: Coffee with a Smile (8:30—11:30 am)

April 7: Coffee with a Smile (8:30—11:30 am)

May 5: Coffee with a Smile (8:30—11:30 am)

June 2: Coffee with a Smile (8:30—11:30 am)

July 7: Coffee with a Smile (8:30—11:30 am)

## **October Events:**

October 21: Oktoberfest 50/50 raffle (11:00—1:00 pm)?

October 28: Trunk or Treat concession stand (3:30—6:30 pm)

## **November - December Events:**

NYG Christmas Tree (date TBD)

## **January Events:**

M&Ms fundraiser (date TBD)

## **February Events:**

Bake sale (date TBD)

## **March Events:**

Car wash (date TBD)

## **April Events:**

April 21: Easter breakfast (7:00—12:30 pm)

# NYG 2019 FAQs

## **WHAT ARE THE AGE REQUIREMENTS?**

Completed 8th grade through completed 12th grade by summer.

## **HOW MANY ADULTS ARE GOING?**

We are taking 3 adult leaders (age 21+ with full background checks and previous youth ministry experience). We will have an expected 5-to-1 ratio of minors-to-adults.

## **CAN WE ARRIVE LATE OR LEAVE EARLY?**

No, attendance is mandatory from start to finish for all participants. Every part of the program is valuable and helps guarantee a life-changing week.

## **WHAT WILL A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE?**

We'll get up in the morning, have a brief devotion and prayer, make breakfast, and pack our lunches together. We'll then depart from our hotel for the day's activities at the convention center and stadium. We'll typically have free time for exploring the city during our lunch and dinner hours. In the evening, we'll eat dinner together and enjoy the Mass Events and group debriefings together.

## **WHAT SERVICE EVENTS WILL WE BE DOING?**

Participants should be ready to tackle any projects and expect to interact each day with local residents from the community. Projects could include working at a food bank or homeless shelter, improving the structures/buildings of the church, assisting the elderly, working with children's day camps, and/or serving churches and other human service organizations in different ways. At the last NYG, we helped pick up trash and beautify a neighborhood.

## **HOW FAR ARE THE SITES FROM THE LODGING FACILITY?**

Our hotel is expected to be no more than a 20 minute walk from the convention center and stadium. We do walk a lot during this week, so bring comfortable shoes!

## **WHAT WILL THE WEEK BE LIKE?**

We will have devotions, energetic and unforgettable worship and speakers, personal reflection time, fun and engaging activities in the convention center, opportunities to explore Minneapolis, and group debriefs every day. From day to night, we'll be having a blast!

## **WHAT DO WE DO DURING OUR FREE AFTERNOON OFF?**

This is our group's time to spend together, so we will be doing something fun—probably visiting the unique and fun areas in the city. The students will continue to be supervised the entire time.

## **WHERE DO PARTICIPANTS STAY?**

We will be staying in a hotel in Minneapolis. Leaders are assigned to the rooms with students, and separate sleeping quarters are assigned to males and females. These hotels are in a safe part of town, and will be secured at all times. Additionally, the NYG will have staff stationed throughout the city to help provide added safety and helpful directions all week.

### **WHAT ABOUT FOOD? WHAT IF I HAVE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?**

We try to offer a great variety of food during the week. For special diets, please talk to trip leaders in advance. We can typically accommodate most special needs.

### **WHAT FORMS ARE WE REQUIRED TO FILL OUT?**

Students are required to fill out and turn in the Medical Consent and Liability Release form, the Parent Release for Administration of Medication form, the Release of Rights, and the Code of Conduct agreement. Forms will be handed out closer to the trip departure date.

### **WHAT ABOUT ELECTRONIC DEVICES?**

We encourage youth to bring their phones with them for this event, as there are many interactive elements to worship and convention center activities. We recommend that all participants pack an extra battery to charge their phones. All adult leaders will have cell phones on them at all times, in case of an emergency.

### **IS IT SAFE?**

It's often hard to trust your children to someone else! Rest assured, our youth leaders have years of experience, and we're working with an international organization with over three decades of experience. While at our mission site, we'll be supervised by thousands of NYG volunteers, local police, private security at both the stadium and convention center, our own adult leaders, and have access to phones at all times. Each leader travels with first aid kits. Our leaders have your child's safety at the forefront of their minds at all times, and thus supervise youth and activities at all times with the utmost thoughtfulness.

### **WHAT IF A PARTICIPANT BECOMES INJURED DURING THE WEEK?**

If the injury or illness is severe, the supervising leader will call 911 immediately and then notify the students' parents and all other necessary leaders. In most cases, emergency professionals are already onsite and respond rapidly. The trip leader will bring all necessary paperwork to the hospital or other appropriate health-care facility, and arrange supervision for the other participants in the crew, if needed. The personal health insurance information of any student/leader will be presented to the hospital or health-care facility. Any costs not covered by the participant's own insurance are the responsibility of the participant or his or her parent/guardian. Additionally, each adult leader is will have a small first-aid kit containing basic supplies like bandages and antibiotic ointment.

***We're excited for a safe, memorable, & life-changing experience  
with our group!***

***For any other questions, please contact Cassie Moore at [cassie.moore@oursaviorfl.org](mailto:cassie.moore@oursaviorfl.org)  
or Graham Barber at [graham.barber@oursaviorfl.org](mailto:graham.barber@oursaviorfl.org).***

# Team Accountability

## Primary Points of Interest:

### (Convention Center)

- Students will be free to roam throughout the convention center in groups (3 or more, boy/girl mix is fine), or pairs (2 individuals, NO boy/girl together alone)
- Every two leaders will do an accountability check with all students. Students will respond with a text message indicating *who* they are with and *where* in the convention center they are located.
- As needed, leaders may request to meet up with students in-person throughout the day.
- At NO point will a student exit the convention center without an OSL adult leader.

### (Stadium)

- For mass events in the stadium, our group will always plan to sit together.
- There won't be a whole lot of opportunities to "roam" the stadium, however students may use the restrooms or water fountains as needed. When doing so, a "buddy" of the same gender will always accompany each student.
- At NO point will a student exit the stadium without an OSL adult leader.

### (Hotel)

- More than likely, our time at the hotel will be spent either sleeping or eating breakfast in the morning.
- If time permits, students will be allowed to utilize the hotel fitness center for exercise or common areas for reading, relaxation, quiet time. During any of these activities, students will be with a buddy (same gender) or group (3 or more), and will have to coordinate the activity with an OSL adult leader.
- At NO point will a student exit the hotel without an OSL leader.

## Secondary Points of Interest:

### (Servant Events)

- During our off-site servant events, students will be under the supervision of an OSL adult leader at all times. In the event that our team is divided into two groups due to servant event needs, OSL adult leaders will each supervise one of the groups.

### (Nightlife Events)

- Multiple nightlife events happen each evening of the gathering. Our team will decide between two nightlife events taking place each evening. If all participants agree on one particular nightlife event, students and leaders will all attend. If our group is undecided, two groups will form, with an OSL adult leader accompanying one group each.

### (Restaurants/Walking the City)

- Each night our entire group will eat together at a previously designated restaurant in the city. While walking the city, our students and leaders will always travel together to and from event center, restaurants, and while touring the city.

### (Emergencies)

- In the event that a student gets injured, experiences an allergic reaction, or is feeling too sick to participate in the remainder of the daily activities, one OSL adult leader will escort them towards medical personnel (if necessary) or back to the hotel.

## Additional Information

Our Savior Staff:

Cassie Moore, Director of Christian Education  
[cassie.moore@oursaviorfl.org](mailto:cassie.moore@oursaviorfl.org)

Graham Barber, Director of Youth Ministries  
[graham.barber@oursaviorfl.org](mailto:graham.barber@oursaviorfl.org)

Our Savior Website:

**[oursaviorfl.org](http://oursaviorfl.org)**

NYG Website:

**[lcmessaging.com](http://lcmessaging.com)**