



**IN ALL THINGS**  
**REGISTRATION BOOK**



## LCMS YOUTH MINISTRY STAFF:

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## ON OUR WAY TO JULY 2022!

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Since March 2020, your life has been full of changes, new learnings, and perhaps great loss. Church life may have been disrupted and some traditions altered. Know you have been in our prayers as you walked with young people in these tumultuous times. We are also thankful for young people through whom God has displayed

His power. It has been a great blessing to see the Holy Spirit work in the lives of young people as they continue to confess and live out the Gospel.

We can't wait to bring God's people together at the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering to share the stories of God's mighty deliverance. The Gathering will be a unique experience for us to celebrate Jesus' gift of love, redemption, and life. It's time to prepare for this experience that will take place July 9-13. In the challenges and the joys of life, and Gathering planning, God is faithful and is your guide. The Bible studies, the meetings, the paperwork, the fundraisers, are all opportunities for God's people to reflect on and give thanks Jesus Christ is with us in all things and holds all things together. While the months leading up to the Gathering are filled with many details, our prayer is you see the Gathering is more than the five days in Houston. May this journey bear fruit in you and the lives of the young people in your congregation through the study of God's Word, conversation, and prayer.

May you look to the summer of 2022 with anticipation, hope, and joy! - LCMS Youth Ministry

## WHY THE LCMS YOUTH GATHERING?

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For over 40 years, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has demonstrated its care and affirmation of young people by providing LCMS Youth Gatherings.

LCMS Youth Gatherings provide opportunities for youth 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 encouraged and nurtured in their lives as God's people through Word and Sacrament.

LCMS Youth Gatherings proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ and God's saving grace to His people through Christ alone. In this setting, youth grow in their personal relationship with God and in the fellowship of Word and Sacrament in Christ's Church.

The LCMS Youth Gathering is a vehicle through which the Church cares for, affirms and reaches out to young people, both church and unchurched.

LCMS Youth Gatherings equip youth and Adult Leaders to recognize that youth ministry happens in a variety of settings in their congregation, community and world.

## KEY REGISTRATION DATES AND DEADLINES

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All dates listed are postmarked dates

### September 2021

*Begin data entry for online registration*

### November 1, 2021

*Gathering registration begins on a first come, first served basis. Materials may not be postmarked before this date.*

### January 2022

*Registration confirmation for groups accepted to the Gathering*

### March 1, 2022

*Registration rate increases*

### Early Spring 2022

*Primary Adult Leaders receive Gathering hotel information*

### Early April 2022

*Hotel deposit is due*

### May 4, 2022

*Full payment due to qualify for express registration on-site at the Gathering. No payments will be accepted in the Gathering Office after this date. Remaining payments can be made on-site in Houston.*

### July 9-13, 2022

*The 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering!*

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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### The Gathering registration fee is \$395 per participant.

This fee covers all Gathering program and Office of National Mission Youth Ministry administrative costs and secondary insurance for all participants.

Hotel, travel and meal costs are not included in the registration fee.

In an effort to practice good environmental and financial stewardship, registration will take place online. **There will be no paper registration for the Gathering.** However, each group will be required to mail a Pastoral Affirmation Form, Registration Account Form (available to print after completing online registration), and the deposit payment.

The LCMS Youth Gathering will work with groups to provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with a disability. In addition to online registration, individuals with a disability will be required to complete a Special Needs Form (available online), stating their disability and need. Once registered, the Gathering Special Needs Team will work with the individual and their group to coordinate services.

### Everyone who attends the Gathering must register.

All paid participants will receive a youth or adult wristband for entrance into Gathering activities. Youth and adult wristbands are not transferable. **LOST WRISTBANDS WILL NOT BE REPLACED!**

Only registered participants will be allowed to take part in Gathering events. Non-registered individuals—including children, spouses, and other adults—will not be accommodated in Gathering hotels or events.

## REQUIREMENT: YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

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The Gathering is intended for high school youth ages 14-19. To register for the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering, youth participants must meet ONE of the two following eligibility requirements:

1. Must be 14 years old at the time of the Gathering.

**OR**

2. Entering his or her ninth grade year at the time of the Gathering.

Youth participants must also not have turned 21 by the time of the Gathering.

## YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS (YAV)

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Young adults who are 19-25 years old are encouraged to submit applications to serve the Gathering as Young Adult Volunteers (YAV). The YAV application process will begin July 2021 and ends December 31, 2021.

Details about YAVs are available at [www.lcmsgathering.com/volunteer](http://www.lcmsgathering.com/volunteer).



## INVITE A FRIEND

The Gathering is an excellent event for youth to invite friends who are not members of their church. These young people may be just starting their journey in the Christian faith with a desire to go deep into God's Word. They may love the community of believers in your congregation and are blessed by the support and love they give. The Gathering and preparation for it can be a catalyst for these young people to grow and build relationships. Be sure to include the friends and their parents in all pre-Gathering meetings and events. Pre-Gathering meetings are ideal times to discuss Scripture, support faith development and introduce congregational pastors, church workers and members.

## REQUIREMENT: ADULT LEADERS

Adult Leaders are responsible to care, nurture and support each youth throughout the Gathering. These leaders are expected to attend the Gathering activities and participate fully with their group. They must be 21 at the time of registration and approved by their pastor to serve in this role.

The Gathering strongly recommends that every congregation attending has a minimum of two Adult Leaders and that each Community Group includes at least two youth.

## PRIMARY ADULT LEADER

Each congregation will designate one Primary Adult Leader. **All communication between the Gathering Office and the congregation is handled through each group's Primary Adult Leader.**

## YOUTH-TO-ADULT RATIO

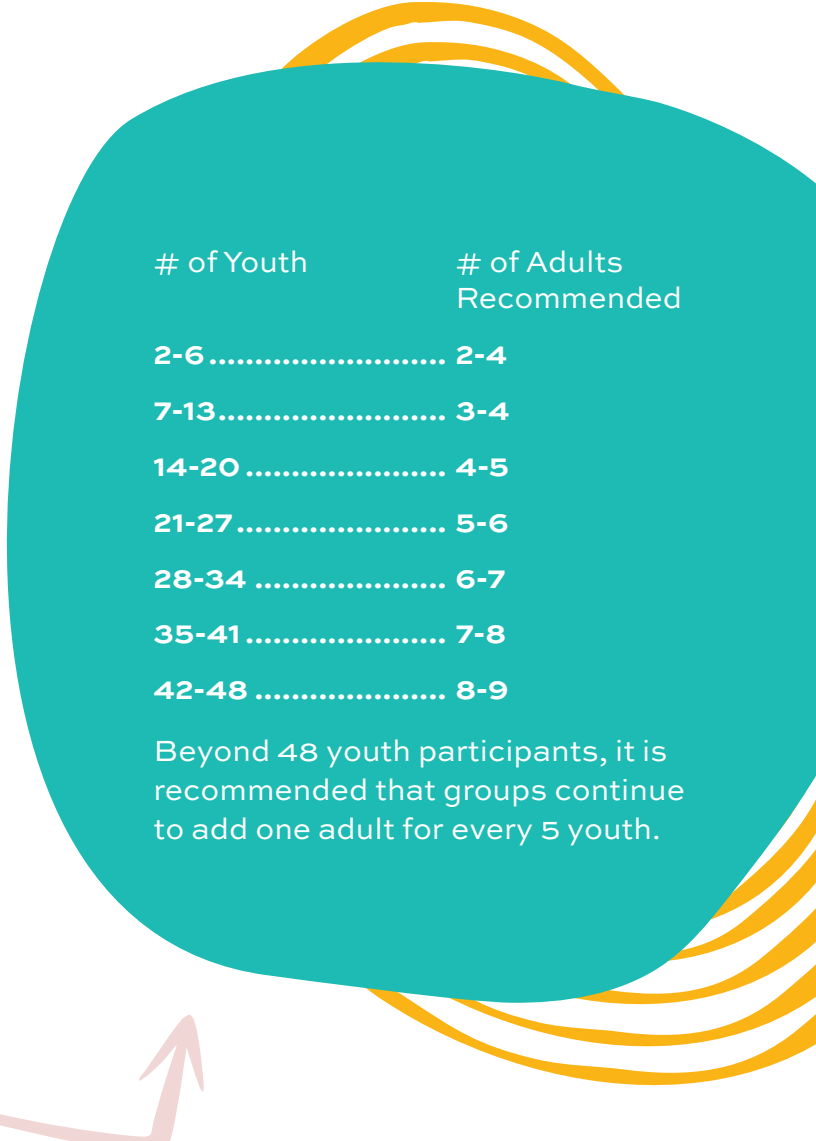
The Youth Gathering promotes a ratio comparing youth to adults in order to provide sufficient space for youth to attend the event. The youth-to-adult ratio for the 2022 Gathering allows congregations flexibility in determining the number of Adult Leaders they select to attend the Gathering.

The Gathering values the involvement of parents and other supportive adults in the faith life of young people and encourages their participation as Adult Leaders at the Gathering. It is recommended that groups do not exceed 1 adult to every two youth.

**It is strongly recommended all groups have at least two adults.**

**Congregations should secure criminal background checks for its Adult Leaders.**

Congregations with only one youth attending the Gathering can be connected to other LCMS congregations by their District Coordinator. District Coordinators' contact information is found at the District Coordinators' page on the Gathering website.



# of Youth	# of Adults Recommended
2-6 .....	2-4
7-13 .....	3-4
14-20 .....	4-5
21-27 .....	5-6
28-34 .....	6-7
35-41 .....	7-8
42-48 .....	8-9

Beyond 48 youth participants, it is recommended that groups continue to add one adult for every 5 youth.

## ONLINE REGISTRATION

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Refer to the registration page on the Gathering website to download the Youth and Adult Participant Worksheets and give to potential attendees. Use the worksheet information to complete the online registration. Data can be entered into the registration program starting September 2021.

Complete online registration instructions are found at the Gathering website:

### All participants must register online.

After completing the online registration process, the Primary Adult Leader will:

- Follow the available instructions to print the appropriate forms (Pastoral Affirmation Form and Registration Account Form)
- Acquire signatures where required
- Complete Special Needs Form, if necessary
- Mail forms and required deposit to the Gathering Office

All registration forms and deposits can be mailed on or after November 1, 2021. **Any forms that arrive at the Gathering Office postmarked before November 1, 2021, will be returned and registration will be delayed.**

Congregations may begin entering registration information starting September 2021. Forms may not be mailed to the Gathering Office. Forms **may not** be mailed to the Gathering Office before November 1, 2021.

## GATHERING REGISTRATION

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**Registration for the Gathering opens November 1, 2021** and will be open on a first come, first served basis.

When registration fills to capacity, remaining groups will be placed on a waiting list. Participants for the waiting list will be admitted to the Gathering on a space available basis.

After March 1, 2022, participants will continue to be admitted to the Gathering on a space available basis for the late registration fee of \$450.

## REGISTRATION WORKSHEETS (AVAILABLE AUGUST 2021)

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**Youth Participant Worksheet:** Use this worksheet to collect registration information and complete the registration process for each youth participant.

This form can be kept for personal records.

**Adult Participant Worksheet:** Use this worksheet to collect registration information and complete the registration process for each adult participant.

This form can be kept for personal records.

**Special Needs Form:** This form is required for individuals with a disability that requires assistance from the Gathering. Must be mailed to the Gathering Office.

**Pastoral Affirmation Form:** This form lists all participants' names and must be signed by the pastor. Must be mailed to the Gathering Office.

**Registration Account Form:** This form contains important account information about payment etc. Must be mailed to the Gathering Office.

## CANCELLATIONS

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A \$150 charge per person will be retained for cancellations made on or before May 31, 2022. **This fee goes into effect once the initial congregational group has been accepted into the Gathering.** The remaining funds will be refunded to the congregation through the Primary Adult Leader.

No refunds will be issued as of June 1, 2022.

Because all supplies and materials needed for the Gathering are ordered based on the registration number up to this point, participants who cancel after May 31, 2022, will still be required to pay the full \$395 registration fee.

**All cancellations must be made in writing and submitted to the Gathering Office.**

**The congregational ID must be included on all correspondence with the Gathering Office.**

## SUBSTITUTIONS

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Participant substitutions may be made with the Gathering Office until May 31, 2022. Following May 31, 2022, substitutions will not be accepted. Substitutions will not be accepted on-site at the Gathering.

Substituted participants must complete the online registration form in order to be accepted. Both the name of the registered participant and the substitute must be clearly indicated, or the substitution will not be accepted.

**The congregational ID must be included on all correspondence with the Gathering Office.**

## PAYMENT OPTIONS

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**Express Registration:** Congregations that pay their group's registration fees in full before reaching Houston save time at the Youth Gathering.

An expedited express registration service will be available in the George R. Brown Convention Center for congregations that pay the full \$395 fee per participant before May 4, 2022.

Hassle-free express registration is the best way to begin the Gathering experience. Arrive, register quickly and conveniently, and start enjoying the Gathering!

**No payments will be accepted in the Gathering Office that are postmarked after May 4, 2022. Payments after May 4, 2022 must be made on-site at the Gathering.**

Select one of the following options only. Do not combine options when making payment:

1. Submit \$150 non-refundable deposit per person with each registration. Pay the balance any time before May 4, 2022, or upon arrival at the Gathering.

**OR**

2. Submit payment in full for ALL participants at the time of registration

## PAYMENT PROCEDURES

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### LCEF Account

Gathering payments can be easily submitted with a direct transfer from a Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) investment. (Note: an authorized signature is required for an organization's LCEF investment.) Indicate this method of payment and provide account information when prompted. For more information on your account, or creating an LCEF Account, call 1-800-843-5233 or visit [www.lcef.org](http://www.lcef.org).

### Other Options – Check or Money Order

When making any payment (deposit, balances, or payment in full), be advised of the following:

- Checks must be drawn on the congregation or youth group bank account.
- One check per congregation.
- A cashier's check or money order may be sent in lieu of a congregation or youth group check.
- Make checks, money orders, or cashier's checks payable to the LCMS Youth Gathering.
- Congregational ID number must be included on check memo line.
- Personal checks and cash are not accepted and will be returned.
- A \$50 fee will be assessed for any check returned with insufficient funds.

**Note:** Congregations ARE tax exempt in the state of Texas. To receive the exemption, an Adult Leader will need to follow the instructions found at <https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/exempt/religious.php>. Groups planning to attend the Gathering should begin this process as soon as possible. As the Gathering approaches, groups are not guaranteed to receive their tax-exempt certificate by the event's start. Groups that do not receive their certificate will be required to pay tax and apply for a refund after the Gathering.

The Youth Ministry and Gathering Office do not have access to this process.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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Limited financial aid is available. Interested registrants should submit a letter or email of request to the Gathering Office no later than January 1, 2022. For an individual to receive financial assistance to offset registration fees, send the letter or email to the attention of the LCMS Youth Gathering Financial Aid.

## HOUSING AT THE GATHERING

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The Gathering has contracted with hotels in Houston to ensure that there will be sufficient space for all Gathering participants. Hotel properties for the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering include Downtown and surrounding areas. Special housing rates of approximately \$180 + tax have been arranged for Gathering participants.

All Gathering participants will be assigned to official Gathering hotels. **Congregations do not book their own housing; the Gathering assigns all participants to a hotel.** Groups that attempt to book their own housing will not be accepted for the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering. There are no exceptions to this important policy.

## PROGRAM OPTIONS

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Gathering congregations can give input about their interest in specific Gathering program options. In addition to daily Bible study, Sessions, and Interactive Center, these program options allow participants to serve or learn at the Gathering in a unique or extended way. At the time of registration, the Gathering Office asks you to rank your order of preference to participate in the program options listed below. (You are also given the option to opt-out of this process.)

Congregations will be selected for their preferred program option based on availability and order in which they registered for the Gathering. Providing this information at registration will allow more congregations to connect to unique Gathering programs and assist Gathering planners' allocation of resources.

At a later date, the Primary Adult Leader will be notified of which program option their group, or individuals in their group may participate. Following notification, registration will take place for individual program options. This Gathering's servant events will happen in two ways at the Gathering:

- On-site service opportunities will take place at the Convention Center and Hotels and will allow groups to actively participate in 4-5 serving initiatives. These opportunities will include an educational piece, active hands-on experience and a serving challenge.
- Off-site service will take place in the city of Houston and will consist of local congregational partnerships and city serving organizations. There will be a first come first serve process with these available opportunities along with an additional cost.

## PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES COMING LATER:

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### Gathering Worship Choir and Symphony

Share your gifts and serve during the Gathering Worship Service by participating in the Gathering choir, wind symphony. Application and audition information will be available Spring 2022.

## STEP-BY-STEP HOUSING PREFERENCE PROCESS

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Determine what type and how many rooms are needed for your group.

- Double (four people per room; do not plan to put more than four in each room)
- King (two people per room; do not plan to put more than two in each room)

Note: For liability reasons, it is not advisable to put one adult and one youth alone in one room or one bed. Do not put male and female participants in the same room, unless they are married. (*continued on next page*)

## STEP-BY-STEP HOUSING PREFERENCE PROCESS (CONTINUED)

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Primary Adult Leaders will be notified of their housing assignment in early Spring 2022. Additional information about Gathering housing will be provided at that time.

- Once assigned to a hotel, groups will be required to provide a one-night deposit for each room in the room block along with a rooming list indicating the names of the individuals in each room. Information about the deposit and rooming list will be included in your housing confirmation information.

**Reminder: Housing costs are not included in your registration fee.**

Hotels have different policies about when hotel bills must be paid. Some will expect payment before you arrive in Houston, others upon check-out. Please confirm this with your assigned hotel.

Note: All hotel rates are commissionable and include a rebate to defray administrative costs.

## GROUPS TRAVELING TOGETHER

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If you are traveling to the Gathering with another group and wish to be housed in close proximity:

- Each congregation must complete its own registration and print the online forms.
- Each congregation must (separately) follow the recommended youth-to-adult ratio.
- Each congregation must include its own (separate) payment – check or LCEF account.
- All forms from ALL congregations must be mailed to the Gathering Office in the SAME envelope
- One person must be identified as the contact person for the ENTIRE group (Each group still has its own Primary Adult Leader)

If any form is incomplete or if there is a discrepancy in any group's deposit, the registration of all congregations in the group will be delayed.

## ADULT LEADER RESOURCES

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The Gathering website is the place to find information about the Gathering. Visit the website often for the latest Gathering news. A few things available at [www.lcmsgathering.com](http://www.lcmsgathering.com):

- **Adult Leaders** - Get directed to current information regarding programming, resources, tips, and more. Join the “LCMS Youth Ministry” Facebook group ([www.facebook.com/groups/LCMSYouthMinistry](http://www.facebook.com/groups/LCMSYouthMinistry))
- **Adult Leader Resources** - Find a comprehensive list of Gathering resources from fundraising tips to Community Life resources.
- **District Information** - Get up-to-date information on Districts’ plans for the Gathering.
- **eGuidebook** - This page will have information on programming, bands, speakers, etc. (Coming in 2022)
- **FAQ** - Check here for answers to questions that the Gathering office gets asked most frequently.
- **Gathering Update Emails** - Sign up to receive Gathering updates via email.
- **Media Kit** - Download the Gathering media kit and watch Gathering videos
- **Registration Information** - Find registration dates and learn more about the registration process.
- **Social Media** - Don’t forget to ‘like’ the Gathering Facebook Page ([www.facebook.com/lcmsgathering](http://www.facebook.com/lcmsgathering)), follow us on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/lcmsgathering>) Snapchat (<https://www.snapchat.com/add/lcmsnyg>) and Instagram ([www.instagram.com/lcmsgathering](http://www.instagram.com/lcmsgathering))
- **Young Adult Volunteer** - Anyone aged 19-25 years old and interested in being a YAV should check here for Gathering information related to this particular group.
- **Team Flex** - Do you know adults looking to serve the Gathering for a day or a few days? Have them check out opportunities to volunteer with Team Flex and experience the Gathering in a unique way.

## CONTACT US

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For questions pertaining to registration and housing, please send an email to [nygregistration@lcms.org](mailto:nygregistration@lcms.org).