



The 2023 NWMN Synod of the ELCA Middle School
(Grades 6th-8th) Gathering at Luther Crest Bible Camp
Session One: Friday, November 17- Saturday, November 18
Session Two: 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 (these items are also online):

1. Event poster
2. Medical Release/Parent Permission Form (Trip Leader keeps these with them)
3. Sample registration form
4. Group Covenant

Registration is available online; please follow this link: <https://nwmnsynod.regfox.com/2023-middle-school-gathering> OR you can access it through the Events page on the Synod website www.nwmnsynod.org

You will need a "Trip Leader," an adult, who will be at the Gathering and will be the point person.

For each registrant, you need the following:

1. Name (first and last)
2. What they are registering as (Adult Leader, WHEATY, Youth)
3. Gender (for housing)¹
4. T-shirt size
5. Any Dietary and Accessibility needs.



Rev. Angie Larson is Calvary Lutheran Church in Alexandria's Executive Pastor and our **Keynote speaker** for the weekend. In her role at Calvary, she gets to explore how Calvary cares for people both in and outside of church and how people can develop and grow their faith. She is married to the most awesome guy, Ryan, and the mom of four brilliant people, Chase, Mackenzie, Sawyer, and Skyler. She has served in the church in various roles for twenty years. This has allowed her far more experiences than she could possibly imagine and continues to surprise her. She has

taught theology at Grand View University, started an after-school program for inner city kids, partnered with mission organizations and traveled to Ghana to start a vocational school for young women, spoken at large group gatherings, led groups all over the country for disaster relief, and sat with people during some of their most intimate, difficult times. She is constantly surprised by the work of the Holy Spirit as she seeks to be faithful and inspire belief and pour out grace upon others. Her favorite things include spending time with my family, traveling, creating stained glass, and napping!

We are excited to welcome back **The Worship Collective** to lead music at the gathering. This praise band consists of a collective of worship musicians that call the NW MN Synod home and are led by Rev. Chris Leach from Calvary Lutheran Church in Bemidji. They self-identify as a bible camp jam band and will lead us in a variety of music throughout each session's three worship services. Come ready to get your praise on!

¹ If you have transgendered, nonbinary, or transitioning participants, please email Kris (krisdernier@cord.edu) and we will work on housing that is best for them.

You will also hear from **Rev. Birgitte Simpson** - she goes by B or Pastor B. In March, the Peoples Church Board voted to have her join the staff as a part-time Mission Developer. As Mission Developer, Pastor B is working on fundraising and building relationships with other congregations and entities throughout the region. You'll find her at the church as often as she can, often sitting on the porch chatting with guests or finding cleaning projects. Pastor B also serves as the pastor at Aardahl Lutheran Church in Bemidji. Pastor B lives just outside Bemidji with her two dogs and two cats on the ancestral land of the Ojibwe people.



Again, this year, there will be an opportunity to bring **"WHEATYS,"** or High School teens (mentors/role models), who will have a short training session in peer ministry and leadership skills during registration time. 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 of 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 1:5 adult-to-youth ratio.

Cost: Registration is \$150 a person (youth, adult, and WHEATY). What is included in that? You will receive an awesome t-shirt, great worship music, powerful speakers, terrific social time, moving breakout sessions, dinner, and a snack on Day 1, breakfast, and lunch on Day 2; all the stuff that youth boast about at school the Monday after the gathering. All of that there is there is nothing we can do that will separate us from God's love!

Non-refundable registration costs \$150 until Oct 27th.
Registrations received from October 28th to November 3rd will be \$180.

Schedule of events: The weekend is not divided by conferences, but rather registration is on first come, first serve. Please bear in mind the schedule and driving time.

Registration is from 4:00-6:00 in the Program Center (the building with the gym and animals). **The WHEATYS training will be from 5:30-6:30. The Adult Leader meeting will be at 6:00, and the youth will be led in "mixers" at the same time. Dinner will end at 6:00** on Day 1; please plan accordingly. The gathering will conclude at about 2:30 pm, after the closing worship service.

Sample of what the youth need to bring:

- Clothes for 1 day
- Offering (monetary and in-kind)
 - Companion Synod's Bible Women
 - Peoples Church
 - Toilet paper (good stuff) & warm adult winter gloves – Peoples Church
- Linens (bedding/sleeping bag, pillow, towel/wash cloth)
- Pajamas
- Toiletries

Accommodations: Since we will be at a camp, we will be staying in the new and newly remodeled winterized cabins. Each cabin has 6 bunk beds (give or take) and a bathroom (private showers). Linens are **not** provided. You may be sharing a cabin with other churches.

Come with your youth and let us together discover how God has created us very good, and how there is nothing we can do that will separate us from God's love!

See you at camp (if not before)!

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