

Parents of current 7th-11th graders at Christ Lincoln,

The LCMS National Youth Gathering (NYG) began in 1980 and has been held every three years since then. We're beginning to make plans for our Christ Lincoln group to journey to the 2025 Gathering in New Orleans, and all current 7th-11th grade students are eligible to attend. The theme this year is ENDURE based on Hebrews 12:1-3 ([theme reveal video](#)). I know many of our students are already looking forward to this opportunity to come together as a community of God's people with approximately 20,000 other Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Christians from around the world!

Our church took a group of 90 (77 students and 13 adult chaperones) on two charter buses to the 2022 National Youth Gathering in Houston. One of our students on the journey made [this video](#) that will allow you to better picture all that's a part of this incredible faith growth experience.

For the 2025 Gathering, our group plans to depart for **New Orleans on July 18 and return on July 24**. Since we will not be assigned a hotel for many months yet and our numbers will affect our transportation options, it's challenging to nail down the cost of this experience. Our hope is to only charge each student \$1000 and to cover the additional expenses with generous donations from congregants, our Stuff the Bus fundraiser, Egg My Yard fundraiser, and an additional group fundraiser TBD. We will use donations from congregants to offer a scholarship opportunity as well.

While I typically wait until August to open registration for NYG, I've moved that timing up this year in an effort to determine our busing needs. Should we need to rent a third bus, over the summer I'll invite other congregations from this part of Nebraska to share our transportation and help us defray the cost. Consequently, I am asking you to **register your son/daughter if he/she plans to attend NYG 2025 using this [link](#) with a non-refundable \$100 deposit by May 15**. Students will not be guaranteed a spot if they register after May 15 as this will be dependent on bus seating availability. Current 7th graders may desire to attend the week-long middle school mission trip in June 2025 instead. There will not be a high school mission trip during the summer of 2025.

Some of you have been sending students to NYG for years (or went yourselves!) and just need to know where to sign. Others have never heard of this event. If you're interested in hearing more about this anticipated event, make plans to attend an informational meeting at **Sumner on April 17 in the 211 space from 7:30-8pm or youth room from 8-8:30pm or at Yankee Hill on April 24 in the high school room from 7:45-8:15pm**. Another valuable way to learn more about this event is to ask any student or chaperone who went last time. They have wonderful stories and takeaways to share.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or if the \$100 deposit creates a financial hardship for your family at this time. We want all of our students to be able to attend, regardless of financial situation, and will partner with your family to make that happen.

Because He Lives,

*Maria Castens*

*Executive Director of Family Ministries*

