



YOUTH PARTICIPANT Application Packet

**For the 2025 Youth Gathering
in New Orleans, LA
- July 2025 -**

PLEASE SEPARATE AND **RETURN PAGE 9 WITH
YOUR \$150 COMMITMENT PAYMENT TO THE
FLY REGISTRAR'S MAILBOX AT FAITH
BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**





YOUTH PARTICIPANT

Application Packet

for the 2025 Youth Gathering

The Youth Gathering is an exciting time for all of the youth and adults who attend! Held every 3 years since 1980, the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity. The next Gathering will be held on **July 19-23, 2025 in New Orleans, Louisiana**. Our final trip dates will be finalized once plane tickets have been purchased in the Fall/Winter of 2024. FLY typically stays in the host city a few days before or a few days after the Gathering itself.

During the five days of the Gathering, youth spend time together in God's Word, worship, service, and fellowship with others from across the world. You will hear world-class speakers share about living for Christ. You will experience worship with tens of thousands of other Christians at the SuperDome (home of the New Orleans Saints)! You will also learn more about your faith through daily Bible studies, Experiential Learning, Sessions, and Interest Centers at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center! You will also have the chance to explore downtown New Orleans, experience Cajun food, ride an airboat in the bayou, see some gators, and make a ton of new memories with your friends!

Faith Lutheran Youth (FLY) has been attending NYG since 1980 and countless lives have been changed and memories have been made over the years. In 2022, FLY joined with over 18,000 other Christians for the Gathering in New Orleans, LA. We are excited for all that God has in store for us at the Gathering in New Orleans, LA!

NYG is open to youth entering 8th grade in 2024 through current 20 year olds. The total cost of the trip will be around \$1500 per youth (see cost breakdown in this packet) but a lot of the money can be FUNdraised with FLY.

With your parents/guardians, please be sure to read through this packet and complete the application on **page 9** to attend the 2025 Youth Gathering. **The page 9 application, along with a \$150 commitment deposit made out to "Faith Lutheran Youth" are due in the FLY Registrar's mailbox at Faith by Monday, Sept. 30, 2024.**

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please contact Pastor Peter Johnson at: flypenfield@gmail.com or cell #: (585)773-4475.

You can also explore the Gathering website at: www.lcmsgathering.com.

2025 Youth Gathering



ESTIMATED Youth Budget (Based on 8 days, 7 nights)

Gathering Registration	\$395
Gathering Housing	\$340 (Estimated on \$180/room night + tax/room a night, 7 nights, 4 ppl per room.)
Travel to New Orleans	\$525 (Includes 2 baggage fees of \$35 each)
Travel in New Orleans	\$20 (Public transportation fees)
Food	\$180 (\$20 per meal/6 meals on your own/\$60 for groceries)
Group's Special Items	\$50 (T-shirt & group activity or dinner)
TOTAL	\$1,510

*NYG Payment Schedule	Amount	Due Date	Total in Your Account
Commitment Payment #1	\$150	Monday, Sept. 30, 2024	\$150
Payment #2	\$150	Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024	\$300
Payment #3	\$150	Sunday, Nov. 24, 2024	\$450
Payment #4	\$150	Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025	\$600
Payment #5	\$150	Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025	\$750
Payment #6	\$150	Sunday, Mar. 30, 2025	\$900
Payment #7	\$150	Sunday, Apr. 27, 2025	\$1,050
Payment #8	\$150	Sunday, May 25, 2025	\$1,200
**Remaining Balance Payment	\$310	Sunday, June 29, 2025	\$1,510

(Checks made to "Faith Lutheran Youth")

***All payments are non-refundable.** If for any reason you need to back out of the Gathering, you may choose a substitute before April 30th (talk to Pastor Peter Johnson immediately).

****In early June, Gathering youth participants will receive a letter from FLY which will include information about the amount of money they earned through our 2024-25 FUNdraisers. Participants may or may not have a remaining balance due on June 29, based on their FUNdraised amounts. Read page 8 for more info about our volunteer fundraising policy.**

2024-25 FLY FUNdraisers

- Hot Dog/Burger FUNdraiser - Sept. 8, 2024
- Bake Sale - Nov. 3, 2024
- Ornament FUNdraiser - Dec. 1 & 8, 2024
- Coffee House Stage/Lights Setup - Jan. 29, 2025
- Coffee House/Placemat FUNdraiser - Jan. 31, 2025
- Spaghetti Dinner/Placemat FUNdraiser – Mar. 5, 2025
- Cinnamon Roll Sunday – Apr. 27, 2025
- Sponsorships – Summer 2025 (**\$ will help pay for additional hotel & travel fees not covered by you**)
- Letter-writing FUNdraiser - Anytime

2025

Youth Gathering

FLY Group Covenant

A covenant is an agreement made between a group of people. It helps define the expectations we have of one another and the consequences for failing to meet those expectations. The purpose of making a Group Covenant is to aid harmonious living and provide a good experience to everyone involved.

Below is the Group Covenant for the members of Faith Lutheran Youth (FLY) attending the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. Each youth and their parent/guardian must read the Group Covenant.

All FLY Gathering Youth & Adults will be assigned to “Community Groups” in the Fall of 2024. Each Community Group will be led by an Adult Leader. Your Community Group will connect throughout the year leading up to the Gathering. Your group will build relationships with each other while preparing for what God has in store at the Gathering.

BEFORE THE GATHERING

1. We will continue to *Grow* in our relationship with Christ and others in these ways:

- Actively participate in weekly worship services and Bible studies.
- Attend Youth Gathering meetings and Community Group hang outs.

2. We will continue to *Connect* with God and other Christians in these ways:

- Talk with our loving God every day through prayer.
- Participate and invite friends to Sunday Night FLY, retreats, and other FLY activities.

3. We will continue to *Serve* God and serve others in these ways:

- Volunteer at our FLY FUNdraisers.
- Serve God by serving Faith Lutheran Church and our community.

4. We will respect our Community Groups attending the Gathering in these ways:

- Being supportive of our Community Group Adult Leader’s decisions, even if we don’t always agree.
- Reflect Christ’s love to other youth and adults.
- Regularly communicate with other Gathering participants and Community Group members in order to build friendships.

5. We will honor our church members and Gathering leaders in these ways:

- Sharing Christ through our words and actions before, during, and after the Gathering.

- Regularly thanking other church members for supporting our trip and praying for us.
- Making our Gathering payments on time so we are able to reserve flights, lodging, food, etc...

DURING THE GATHERING

1. We will keep in mind that we represent God and the Church and will do so in the following ways:

- Having a positive attitude and being flexible when things go wrong or schedules change.
- Being supportive of Adult Leaders' decisions, even if we don't always agree.
- Being respectful, obedient, and considerate to the adult leaders and other Gathering participants. This includes telling the truth, being where I say I'm going to be, and doing what we've agreed to do.
- Treating one another in a loving, Christian manner by respecting and caring for each other. When disagreements or problems do come up, we will talk to that person first and then, if necessary, bring the issue to the attention of an Adult Leader instead of gossiping or venting to others. (*see Matthew 18*)

2. We agree to care for each other by helping each other in these ways:

- Being on time for meetings, flights, and other scheduled activities so we don't hold everyone up.
- Being tidy in hotel rooms and considerate of others' sleep needs.
- Offering to carry luggage, open doors or assist with any job.
- To help one another by encouraging a Christian atmosphere, including others (being inclusive), using Christ-like language, staying away from cliques, and praying for one other.

3. In addition, we expect our Adult Leaders to:

- Show patience and try to get the 'whole story' before reacting.
- Be flexible when a change of plans or rules is needed.
- Consult us in decision making as much as possible.
- Follow this covenant fairly in dealing with problems.

4. For safety and consideration, we will agree:

- To stay in groups at all times. We will only leave the direct supervision of a Community Group Adult Leader with their **expressed permission**. We will never go anywhere by myself. We will always be with a partner or a group of three and will not leave anyone by themselves.
- To report any illness or personal emergency to an Adult Leader. If we cannot find an Adult Leader or need additional help, we will go to an Event Administrator or the hotel's front desk for assistance.
- To refrain from the use of cell phones and other electronic devices during Gathering Programming (Bible Study, Mass Events, Interest Centers, etc.) which could cause a distraction to us and those around us and also during times when it could pose a safety issue or hinder interaction with the rest of the group (airport, streets of New Orleans, etc.).

- To keep a copy of our personal emergency form with us at all times in our backpack. (Community Group Adult Leaders will also have copies of all forms.)
- To remain in communication with our Community Group Adult Leaders.

5. We willingly agree to abide by these rules and expectations:

- To fully participate in Gathering events – including attending all required sessions.
- We will “step out of our box” and try new things to enrich our overall experience of the Youth Gathering.
- Feeling free to voice our opinion in a respectful manner and to stand up for one’s values and opinions. When we don’t feel like going to a specific Interest Center or group activity, we will talk to an Adult Leader to share our opinion.
- To treat the hotel property with respect – not stealing anything or destroying any part of the hotel’s property. We understand that we are financially responsible (not Faith Lutheran) for anything that we break.
- To be in our hotel room, lights out and quiet at the designated time each night.
- We understand that being outside of our hotel room and/or allowing others into our hotel room after the designated time will result in being sent home.
- To not participate in any of the following behaviors: Use or possession of alcohol, drugs (including tobacco), or weapons (including pocket knives); new body piercings or tattoos; sexual behavior of any type (*aka “No Purpling”*); sexting; bullying; violence/fighting, etc. We understand that these are behaviors that can get us sent home.
- To never be in the room of a member of the opposite sex without the **expressed permission** of an Adult Leader and the door completely open.
- To abide by the following dress code:
 - Girls:** Clothing must be better than school dress codes and appropriate for a Christian gathering. No short shorts and visible bra/bra-straps.
 - Boys:** You must wear shirts at all times (other than at the pool, beach or showers) and no baggy pants or shorts (we don’t want to see your underwear).
 - Both:** The content (pictures/text) on your clothing must be consistent with a Christian worldview. Keep in mind that people not associated with our Group Work Camp will be in our midst.
- We understand that if we are in violation of the dress code we will be asked to change clothes and may lose privileges such as swimming or a fun group activity.

6. When something in this covenant is not followed, an Adult Leader will discuss the problem with me and I will have knowledge of the possible consequences listed below. All consequences will be at the discretion of the Adult Leader.

- An Adult Leader will be assigned as a “shadow” to stay with me until trust is restored.
- Certain privileges like swimming or fun group activities may be taken away by an Adult Leader. My parents will be called.
- I will be confined to my hotel room with supervision for an appropriate period of time.
- I will be sent home at my parents’ expense.

AFTER THE GATHERING

1. We will continue to live faithfully with God and “Endure” in our faith in Him.

2. We will share all that God did in and through us at the Gathering in these ways:

- Participate in the youth-led worship services at Faith (Date TBD).
- Share stories from the Gathering at our annual Sponsorship Picnic (Date TBD).
- Tell friends and family members why we went to the Gathering and what we learned about God and His church.

3. We will continue to live as members of the Church in these ways:

- Worship our loving and gracious God on Sundays and throughout the week.
- Dig into Scripture and talk to God on a daily basis.
- Actively grow in community with other Christians through FLY and other Christian groups.
- Humbly serve others outside the walls of Faith Lutheran Church.
- Share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through words and actions!

FLY Fundraising Hours Policy

Each year, Faith Lutheran Youth (FLY) offers a variety of fundraisers to help offset the cost of major events. These major events include:

1. Retreats
2. Group Work Camp
3. Youth Gathering

We typically have the following fundraisers at church:

1. Hot Dog/Burger FUNdraiser in September
2. Coffee House in January
3. Spaghetti Dinner in February or March

All events are done through volunteer efforts with FLY advisors, youth, and parents. Even if a person isn't planning on attending a work camp, their fundraising efforts support the FLY ministry. If your child volunteers for a fundraiser, only their hours will be credited to their account. The overall volunteer hours of the youth will then be counted for that school year. The overall income of all fundraising events will then be divided by all the youth hours to get an hourly rate. When a youth incurs an expense such as work camp, his/her overall amount of hours earned multiplied by the hourly rate will then be applied to help offset that cost. The youth can earn up to the amount of the cost of the event(s) - (they cannot earn more and get the excess back). The cost of the event(s) less the amount earned will then be compared to the deposits made for the individual. If there is still money due, they will be notified of that amount. If they are overpaid, there will be a refund issued up to the amount of deposits made to date.

EXAMPLE:

\$2000 (Overall fundraising income)	\$40 (per hour)
\div 50 (Total hours worked by everyone)	\times 8 (total hours you worked)
\$40 per hour	\$320 total amount earned towards your account

Who should I contact about...?

Contact Pastor Peter Johnson on the fundraising opportunities or if you have any questions. (Church #: 585-381-3970 x16; Cell #: 585-773-4475; Email: flypenfield@gmail.com)
If there is any issue with you or the youth being able to afford an event, please contact Pastor Peter ahead of the event. We are blessed to have resources available to help cover the cost.

NYG Youth Participant Commitment Form



Youth Participant:

- By signing below, I commit to fully participating in the **2025 LCMS Youth Gathering** in New Orleans, Louisiana in July 2025 with Faith Lutheran Youth (FLY).
- I understand that the final trip dates will be finalized once plane tickets have been purchased in the Fall/Winter of 2024.
- I have read through the deposit payment schedule with my parents and our family will commit to the schedule – understanding that our payments are non-refundable.
- I have read through the Group Covenant with my parents and agree to everything in it.
- I understand that by participating in FLY FUNdraisers, money will be put into my FLY account according to the amount of hours I've fundraised.
- I give the LCMS Youth Gathering and FLY the right to use any images, videos or comments of me for publicity purposes related directly to the mission of the LCMS Youth Gathering and FLY.
- I understand that my parents and I will not be compensated should my images be used.
- I will continue to actively worship Christ, connect with others, and grow in my faith as I prepare to experience "Endure!"

Youth's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Youth's Email: _____ Youth Cell #: _____

Birthdate: ____/____/____ Grade in Fall 2024: _____ T-Shirt Size: _____

Parents's Email: _____ Parent's Cell #: _____

Youth Participant's Signature Date

Parent of Youth Participant's Signature Date

Thank you for registering for the Gathering! We can't wait to experience "Endure" with you!

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