



**Iowa District West
Senior Youth Gathering
Holiday Inn—Airport/Conference Center
Des Moines, IA
November 17-19, 2023**

Welcome to “**Ready, Set, GO!**” the 2023 Iowa District West Senior Youth Gathering. All high school youth and their adult leaders are invited to attend the IDW Youth Gathering this November 17-19, 2023, where we will focus together on Matthew 28:19-20. The weekend will include music, Bible study, hands-on activities, sectionals,

games, and worship. Our fabulous presenter is Pastor Travis Hartjen along with emcee Pastor Gregg McCaslin. Music will be provided by the high school worship team, “Good News,” from Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Cost is \$250 for registration and the full payment and paperwork must be received by October 27. Cost includes hotel, meals on Saturday and Sunday, T-shirt, and total program. **Your registration will not be processed if payment is not received by the deadline.*

NEW THIS YEAR IS OUR REGISTRATION WILL BE DONE ONLINE!

Registration will be done similar to that of a National Youth Gathering. **Kindly gather all of your group’s information using the forms provided in your packet and plan to enter your groups information all at once.**

When ready, you may access the online registration using the QR code (take your cell phone and open the camera app and hold it up to the square to the right, it will take you to the District website which has the link to register) **OR** go directly to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SYG2023> to begin registering.



The IDW Youth Gathering will start Friday, November 17, with registration from 7-9 pm. Gathering activities will begin at 8:30 p.m. A tentative schedule is enclosed.

Your registration packet includes the following items for you to copy and distribute as needed:

1. Registration Information & Instructions
2. Youth Registration Form with Health Form on back (use this to enter online registration and then keep for your records at the gathering)
3. IDW Senior Youth Gathering Covenant (keep for your records at the gathering)
4. Tentative Schedule of Events (copy as needed)
5. Financial Aid Form (copy if needed)
6. Poster
7. Offering Adoption Agreement
8. Activity Participation Agreement (copy as needed)

ONE Activity Participation Agreement from each participant MUST be brought to the gathering and turned in at registration.

We look forward to a fabulous Gathering weekend. If you have any questions regarding online registration, please contact our volunteer registrar, Angie Spann, at 515-556-6508 or Angie@sotv-wdm.org.

Registration Information and Instructions

Who may attend the Youth Gathering?

- Any 9th - 12th grade member of the LCMS
- Guests are welcome to attend if they are registered with your church group
- Adult Leaders

What are the Adult Leader Requirements?

The IDW Youth Gathering requires that congregations send *at least* 1 adult for every 6 youth. Adult leaders must be 21 years of age or older, approved by your pastor, active in church, spiritually mature, and willing to be involved with youth. Congregations also choose one of their leaders as their Primary Adult Leader. Gathering confirmation and all other information will be sent to the Primary Adult Leader.

IDW strongly encourages each congregation to have a background check on all adult counselors. (The Synod recommends Protect My Ministry. For information go to www.protectmyministry.com/lcms.) If you have additional questions, contact Rhonda Mohr at the District office.

What is the Cost?

Total Cost: \$250 per person (due by October 27). There will be no exceptions to these fees and deadlines. All congregations must send their registrations by October 27 and they will not be processed unless payment is received at the District Office.

Cost includes 2 nights' lodging at the Holiday Inn—Airport Conference Center (arranged through the IDW Youth Gathering planning team), 3 meals on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday, a T-shirt, and the total program.

Refunds: The District counts on those registered to keep their commitments as t-shirts, food and hotel rooms must be secured in advance. We strongly encourage finding a replacement for someone previously registered to attend. Refunds are only granted in certain instances and within a certain time frame. We will grant a refund if we receive it by November 3. If the cancelation is after t-shirts have already been ordered, a refund minus \$10 for the shirt will be granted.

More about the hotel: All rooms at the Holiday Inn accommodate 2 to 4 people (depending on the room) and will be assigned by our Registrar based on your group's needs. If you are open to sharing rooms with a neighboring congregation, please contact Angie Spann at 515-556-6508 or Angie@sotv-wdm.org so that a connection can be made. This will help us be good stewards for the Gathering. Alternately, if you feel your group will need more rooms than what you would be assigned under our 2-4 people per room procedure, please contact Angie Spann to inquire about reserving additional rooms (at an additional cost to your congregation).

Forms: Pastors or youth leaders may complete the bottom portion of the Youth forms to provide instructions on registration and payment for your congregation's needs.

Pro tip: Choose a registration deadline for your participants to turn in their forms that is **earlier** than the actual deadline. Put this earlier date on the registration forms and on all your publicity materials. This will give you plenty of time to have a church check written and finalize other details before the Gathering's actual online registration deadline (**October 27**).

Registration is open now!

After completing your group's ONLINE registration, please send:

___ A payment of \$250 per person with one church check payable to Iowa District West - SYG

To: Roger Curtis
Iowa District West, LCMS
409 Kenyon Road, Suite B
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Adult or Youth Registration Form

(copy on *white* paper)

Iowa District West Senior Youth Gathering
November 17-19, 2023
Holiday Inn—Airport Conference Center, Des Moines, IA

Name: _____ M _____ F _____
Last First Middle Initial

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Grade Level: _____

Home Congregation & City: _____

T-Shirt Size (adult sizes): ___S ___M ___L ___XL ___2XL ___3XL ___4XL ___5XL

Special health concerns? Yes / No Please Explain: _____

Approved for Communion by Pastor of Congregation: Yes or No

Adult or Youth Commitment

I agree to participate and cooperate in every way at the IDW Senior Youth Gathering.

Signature of Adult Chaperone or Youth

Parental Consent

I give my permission for my son/daughter to participate in the IDW Youth Gathering and I have completed and signed the Health Form included in this registration.

I understand that photographs and/or video/audio recordings made during this Youth Gathering may include my child, and I authorize use of such photographs or recordings at the discretion of the IDW Youth Gathering Committee and/or Iowa District West.

Signature of parent/guardian

I have reviewed this form and the Gathering Covenant and certify that they are complete.

(This portion is to be completed by your pastor or youth leader prior to distribution.)

Please give your forms to _____ by _____
(Pastor, DCE, or Youth Leader) (date)

with a payment of \$ _____ made payable to _____

Health Form—Youth

Participant's Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Parent(s) Name(s): _____

Primary Phone: (____) _____ Alternate Phone: (____) _____

Family member/friend who can be responsible for student if you cannot be reached:

Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Relationship: _____

Medications: _____ **Allergies:** _____

Special health conditions? ____ No ____ Yes Explain: _____

Insurance Provider Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____

Policy Holder's Name: _____

Policy Number: _____ Group Number: _____

Title XIX: _____

I verify that the above medical information on my child is complete and accurate and that I have legal custody of the participant named above. I grant my permission for adult leaders at the Gathering to administer general first aid treatment for any minor injuries or illnesses experienced by my child. In the event of an emergency, I hereby authorize the calling of an ambulance and/or physician at my expense to provide whatever emergency medical or surgical treatment is deemed necessary by a licensed physician.

I authorize release to the above insurance company any information needed to process a claim. I understand that I am financially responsible for all charges incurred.

Signature of parent: _____ Date: ____/____/____

IDW Senior Youth Gathering Covenant

In our baptism we are blessed with power from the Holy Spirit; power to resist temptation and live in response to God's love for us. At the IDW Senior Youth Gathering we strive to share Christ's Word with others as we live as the family of faith. This Gathering Covenant guides us to live in love while we celebrate and learn at this year's event.

1. I promise to participate in all Gathering activities as scheduled.
2. I will treat others with love, building each other up.
3. I will offer my respect to our leaders and to other youth. I will be respectful of the feelings of others.
4. I will give everyone and everything a fair chance, approaching each situation with a positive attitude.
5. I will put away my phone and electronic devices when my attention is expected elsewhere.
6. I will be helpful to other participants and to Gathering staff.
7. I will use our group leaders to help us resolve problems that may arise between other youth and me.
8. I will ensure other's privacy by not entering rooms when not invited. I agree that **NO COUPLES ARE TO BE ALONE IN ROOMS AT ANY TIME** and I will obey that rule.
9. As a Christian citizen I will obey rules that are set by our group leader(s), the Gathering staff, and other governing authorities for my health and safety. Among those rules are:
 - a. No illegal drugs
 - b. No alcohol
 - c. No tobacco
10. I will be courteous to other hotel guests at all times. I will be in my room with the lights out by the designated time each night.
11. I will treat the property of the hotel with care. I understand that any damages may be billed to those responsible for the damage.
12. I agree that everyone who violates this covenant will be counseled and disciplined appropriately. A major violation may result in a youth being sent home with a parent.
13. I will remember that I have a great opportunity to be a Christian witness and reflect Christ's love in my words and actions.

In response to God's grace given in our Baptism, I promise to live by this covenant at the IDW Youth Gathering at the Holiday Inn—Airport Conference Center and Hotel in Des Moines.

Youth Signature

I support the IDW Youth Gathering Covenant and I have discussed it with my child. In case of a major disciplinary issue during the Gathering, I understand that I may be asked to come and take my child home. I can be reached at:

Primary phone number

Parent Signature

2023 - "READY, SET, GO" Schedule

Friday

7:00-9:00 Registration-Check-in
8:30-10:00 MASS EVENT #1
10:00-10:30 Free Time
10:00-10:30 Counselor Orientation- IOWA B
10:30 In Room End of Day Reflections
11:00 In Rooms
11:30 Lights Out

Saturday

8:00-9:00 Breakfast
9:00-9:30 Bible Study #1
9:30-10:30 MASS EVENT #2
10:40-11:30 Sectional 1
11:40-12:30 Sectional 2
12:30-1:30 Lunch
1:40-2:35 Servant Sectional 3
2:45-3:35 Servant Sectional 4
2:45-3:35 Sectional 3
3:40-4:20 Bible Study #2
4:20-4:40 Free Time
4:40-5:50 MASS EVENT #3
6:00-7:00 DINNER
7:00-10:00 Night Life
10:00-10:30 In Room Reflection Time
10:30-11:30 Free Time
11:30 In Room/Lights Out

Sunday

8:00-8:45 Breakfast
9:00-10:30 Worship
10:30 Closing



"This year's offering will be used to support the Mighty Fortress Mercy House in Lima, Peru. This ministry provides food to children who otherwise may go without. In addition to a meal, the children are fed with God's Word in chapel, catechesis, and Bible study. Because the children then go and share the Gospel with their families, this ministry has directly led to a new church plant. As we support these children with our gifts and prayers, Jesus uses these little ones to go into the world and make disciples."

Application for Financial Assistance Iowa District West Youth Events

Important Information:

- * This application is to be completed by the pastor or church professional of the youth attending. Use a separate application for each youth.
- * The applicant must be a member of an Iowa District West, LCMS, congregation.
- * In the space provided (#3), explain the reason this youth is in need of financial assistance and any special circumstances that pertain to that need. This section must be completed.
- * The policy of the Iowa District West Youth Services Committee is to award a maximum of 50% of the registration fee. Please apply only for the assistance genuinely needed.
- * Families and congregations are to have primary financial responsibility. Please indicate the amount the congregation is able to contribute. District assistance is intended to supplement the family's and local support.
- * Send the completed application by the event registration deadline to:

**Mail: Youth Department
Iowa District West, LCMS
409 Kenyon Road, Suite B
Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501**

Email: sue@iowadistrictwest.org

Applicant Information (please print or type)

Date of Application _____
Name of Youth _____
Parent(s)/Guardian _____
Home Congregation _____ Town _____

Financial Need (fill out completely)

- 1) Check the event the applicant will attend:
Cub Week ____ Jr. High Week ____ Youth Week ____
Jr. Youth Gathering ____ Sr. Youth Gathering ____
- 2) Cost of the event: \$ _____
Amount the congregation is able to provide: \$ _____
Amount of assistance requested: \$ _____
- 3) Explanation of the need/special circumstances: _____

- 4) Signature of pastor/church professional: _____

* * * * * District Use * * * * *

Signature of District Executive: _____ Amount Awarded \$ _____

HOLIDAY INN - DES MOINES
AIRPORT/CONFERENCE CENTER
6111 FLEUR DRIVE • DES MOINES

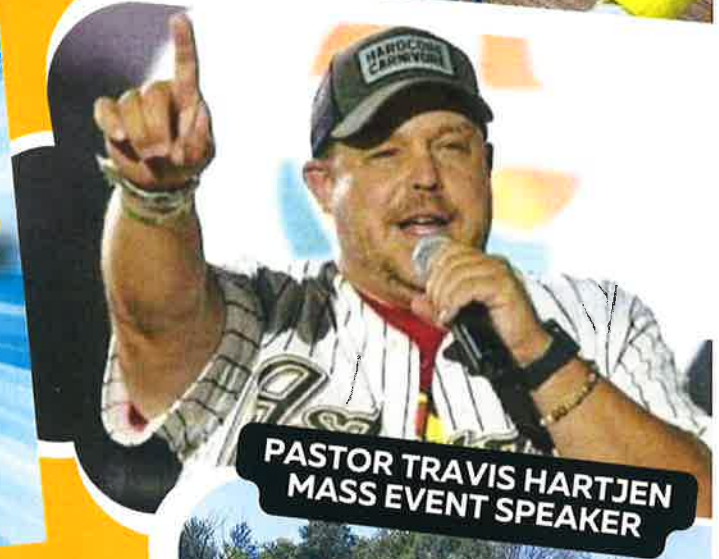
Iowa District West Senior Youth Gathering

Ready, SET, GO

Matthew 28: 19-20

November 17-19, 2023

"GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND BEHOLD, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE END OF THE AGE."



Activities

- ✓ Keynote
- ✓ Sectional Speakers
- ✓ Mission Project
- ✓ Worship

Night Life

- ✓ Escape Room
- ✓ Knocker Balls
- ✓ Gaga Ball
- ✓ 9 Square In The Air

New This Year, Register Online:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/SYG2023



More Information www.idwlcms.org/youth-ministry.php

Official Adoption Agreement

For the

Direct Support of

MIGHTY FORTRESS MERCY HOUSE IN LIMA, PERU

Project #PE0002-65605

FEEDING LITTLE CHILDREN & TELLING THEM OF JESUS



Little children taught about Jesus! 24 people going to be members of new church! 130 little children receive a healthy meal!

Mercy arm of the Peruvian Lutheran Church provides children's ministry for at-risk youth in 3 locations and serves as a launching place for church plants.

Having been begun by previous missionaries to address the economic, educational and especially spiritual needs of the most needy in Lima, Castillo Fuerte is dedicated to aiding the communities around our mission sites in Word and deed while preaching the Good News of Salvation that Christ has so freely given us.

One area where we work is a heavily-trafficked marketplace, known to be particularly dangerous, but is a prime location for outreach and mercy projects. The second is on the side of a mountain where some of the neediest of Lima live. To the south of the city is another project where we have partnered with another non-profit that helps teach at-risk mothers how to start their own businesses, support their families and provide for themselves. The opportunities in all three are immense and all afford us the opportunity to be in the daily lives of those around us.

The structure of the day at the missions is primarily built around improving the education of the children, who come from families without the resources to provide them the education and mentorship they need. Each day is organized around chapel services, daily catechesis and Bible study. We also, in select locations, have programs to address hunger, which is a serious issue around our churches, as well as programs for health and disaster relief. We have approximately 200 children enrolled across our three sites, learning not just the things they need vocationally, but even more, they are learning the Scriptures, the catechism and what Our Lord has done for them in Jesus Christ. This then provides us an invaluable connection to the family for further work and evangelism.

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Activity Participation Agreement

Activity Information

Name of sponsoring organization: Iowa District West-LCMS
Address: 409 Kenyon Road, Suite B, Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Name of sponsor's coordinator: Rhonda Mohr Telephone: 515-576-7666
Description of activity: Inflatable games
Date(s) and location of activity: November 17-19, 2023 | Holiday Inn - Airport, Des Moines

Participant Information *(To be completed by participant or authorized guardian)*

Name of participant: _____
Name of parents/guardians: _____
Address: _____ Telephone: _____
Name of emergency contact: _____
Telephone (Day): _____ Telephone (evening): _____
List allergies or medical conditions: _____
Is sponsor authorized to approve medical treatment? Yes No
Is participant covered by personal/family medical insurance? Yes No
If yes, name of insurer: _____
Policy or group number: _____

Participation Agreement

I acknowledge that participation in the activity described above involves risk to the Participant (and to Participant's parents or guardians, if Participant is a minor), and may result in various types of injury including, but not limited to, the following: sickness, bodily injury, death, emotional injury, personal injury, property damage and financial damage.

In consideration for the opportunity to participate in the activity described above (the "Activity"), the Participant (or parent/guardian if Participant is a minor) acknowledges and accepts the risks of injury associated with participation in and transportation to and from the Activity. The Participant (or parent/guardian) accepts personal financial responsibility for any injury or other loss sustained during the Activity or during transportation to and from the activity, as well as for any medical treatment rendered to the Participant that is authorized by the Sponsor or its agents, employees, volunteers, or any other representatives (collectively referred to hereinafter as the "Activity Sponsor"). Further, the Participant (or parent/guardian) releases and promises to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Activity Sponsor for any injury arising directly or indirectly out of the described Activity or transportation to and from the Activity, whether such injury arises out of the negligence of the Activity Sponsor, the Participant, or otherwise.

If a dispute over this agreement or any claim for damages arises, the Participant (or parent/guardian) agrees to resolve the matter through a mutually acceptable alternative dispute resolution process. If the Participant (or parent/guardian) and the Activity Sponsor cannot agree upon such a process, the dispute will be submitted to a three-member arbitration panel for resolution pursuant to the rules of the American Arbitration Association.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Participant and/or ALL parent/guardians if participant is a minor)