

2016-2017 NE MN Synod Youth Events

Middle School Gathering: Nov. 18-19, 2016 OR Nov. 19-20, 2016

Cragun's Resort, Brainerd

Speaker: Kari Lyn Wampler

Grades: 6-9

+iBelong

Focus: The Apostle's Creed

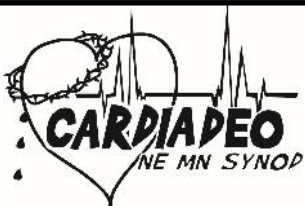
But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. - Isaiah 43:1

The Middle School Gathering brings together nearly 1000 youth and adults from across our synod to grow in faith and build new friendships, while digging into confirmation teachings in a unique way! The event includes a keynote speaker, band (comprised of synod youth musicians), large group assemblies, learning clusters (small group learning), family time (time to meet with your church group), hotel life (fun activities often including a dance, inflatable games, basketball, swimming pool, Wii, board games and crafts, prayer room and more), and worship.

The focus for this year's Middle School Gathering is the Apostle's Creed. The Creed is much more than a saying. It shapes our identity: I am created for a purpose, I am loved, I belong. It teaches us where and to whom we belong: I belong here, I belong to Christ, I belong to the community, I belong forever. When we know who we are, and we know where we belong...we know how to live. This Middle School Gathering, be equipped and inspired to live the Creed as you remember that no matter what, you belong to Christ forever.



Kari Lyn Wampler has been advocating for the well being of youth and adults for over 25 years. She is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, International Speaker, Teacher and Author who empowers adults, families and youth to live their best lives. Her dedication to this vision brought her to Luther Seminary where she earned a Masters Degree in Pastoral Theology and Youth Leadership. After serving in the church for many years Kari Lyn went back to school to pursue a specialty in Marriage and Family Therapy and is currently completing Ordination Requirements for the ELCA. Kari Lyn combines solid theological witness with compassionate wisdom in down to earth ways that allow for entry points for all people. She enjoys singing, traveling, yoga, meditation, camping and hanging out with friends. Most of all she enjoys spending time with her husband and two beautiful girls. Kari Lyn loves to encourage others toward a path of wellness and discovery within a faith context.



2017 Cardia Deo: "Called"

March 3-5, 2017 at Big Sandy Camp, McGregor

We are *Called, Gathered, Equipped* and *Sent* to share the Heart of God (Cardia Deo) in the world. This year we focus on what it means to be **Called**. Bible studies led by the LYO Board and college interns, service learning, worship, mystery event, camp life, and an adult track led by the retreat chaplain all make this event a deeply meaningful, fun and faith-nurturing event.

At last year's Cardia Deo Retreat, one youth commented, **"I learned what my faith means to me and why it's important. I was able to talk to people in my Bible study group about the obstacles we face in our faith."** Young people long for real conversations about faith and life, and they will find that here! Another youth shared, **"I'm so glad I came! I am so sad I didn't come sooner."** No matter your group size (many churches bring 1-5 youth), this event is a worthwhile investment in the faith life of your high school youth!

Middle School Gathering: Grades 6-9

Dates: November 18-19, 2016 OR November 19-20, 2016 at Cragun's Resort (www.craguns.com)

Both events are identical. On the registration form, request your first choice. Congregations will be assigned a date on a first received, first assigned basis. Registration is limited to 450 participants per event to keep numbers for each event even and ensure a quality event for all participants. Confirmation letters will be sent beginning Nov. 1. You will be contacted upon receipt of your registration if the date you registered for is full.

Cost: **Early Registration:** \$65 if postmarked on or before October 17, 2016

Standard Registration: \$75 if postmarked on or after October 18, 2016 **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**

Last Day to Register: November 7, 2016 (postmarked) - **OR** - when event fills, whichever occurs first
Please note: This event typically fills before the final day of registration. Register early!

Includes hotel, breakfast, t-shirt and all Gathering activities. Registration opens Oct. 1, 2016. Add-ons to your initial registration are accepted as space allows. Please note: Late registration applies to each registration received after October 17, even if the bulk of your group registered early.

Deposit: \$30 per person, non-refundable

Registrations are not accepted without a deposit. Same-sex substitutions are accepted.

What to Bring: Comfortable clothing, toiletries, swimsuit, Bible. Money for pizza and snacks is optional.

What NOT to Bring: Alcohol and drugs, weapons. Participants are asked to leave electronic devices in the bus/car so they can be fully engaged in the weekend activities (cell phones*, iPods, iPads, and other internet, texting, music and gaming devices). Adults, please make sure your cell phone is set to "vibrate" if it is essential to bring it to activities during the Gathering. **With adult leader permission, participants may use the camera function on mobile devices if the device is set in airplane mode so it cannot transmit and wi-fi is turned off. Participants will be asked to put devices away or give to an adult leader if they are being used for reasons other than taking pictures.*

Pizza: Pizza will be available to purchase from Cragun's during Hotel Life, late evening on Night One. This is NOT supper, so plan a stop for supper on your way to Cragun's!

Offering: The offering for the Middle School Gathering and Cardia Deo will be given to support PV for Phebe. 450,000 people in rural Liberia depend on Phebe Hospital as their only access to health care. Reliable energy supply is necessary for quality health care delivery. In Liberia, where less than 1% of the population has access to the electricity grid, generating needed power at rural hospitals literally is a life-or-death scenario. The PV for

Phebe project aims to raise funds to construct a photovoltaic solar array to serve the energy needs of Phebe Hospital. By investing funds in a photovoltaic microgrid, Phebe Hospital and its staff will not only be empowered to achieve self-reliance through solar power, but serve as a powerful model for rebuilding critical infrastructure in a resilient manner. www.skipthegrid.org.

Tentative Schedule

(Subject to Change)

Day One

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| 4:30-7:00pm | Registration |
| 6:30pm | Welcoming Clusters |
| 7:00pm | Adult Leader Meeting |
| 7:45pm | GIG #1 |
| 9:00pm | Family Time |
| 9:45pm | Hotel Life |
| 12:00am | Family Time Check-In |
| 1:00am | Lights Out |

Day Two

| | |
|---------|---------------------------|
| 7:30am | Breakfast Buffet |
| 8:30am | GIG #2 |
| 9:00am | Learning Cluster #1 |
| 10:00am | Learning Cluster #2 |
| 10:45am | Break/Check-Out/Pack Cars |
| 11:15am | Closing Worship |
| 12:30pm | Depart for Home |

Forms: Registration forms for the Middle School Gathering can be downloaded at www.nemnsynod.org/MSG. If you are unable to download forms, please call the synod office at 218-724-4424 to have forms sent to you. Forms needed are:

- Group Registration Form
- Housing Request Form
- Health and Release Form
- Participation Covenant

Be sure to make a copy of all forms for your use. Forms and payments are needed for youth AND adult participants. Please discuss the covenant with your group before obtaining their signatures. Check all forms for completeness and accuracy before mailing. **Incomplete forms may cause your group to not be registered or miss the early registration deadline!**

Cardia Deo: Grades 9-12

Dates: March 3-5, 2017: Big Sandy Camp (www.bigsandycamp.org)

Cost: **Early Registration:** \$ 120 if postmarked on or before February 1, 2017

Standard Registration: \$ 140 if postmarked on or after February 2, 2017 **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**

Last Day to Register: February 20, 2017 (postmarked) - **OR** - when event fills, whichever occurs first
Please note: This event often fills before the final day of registration. Register early!

Includes housing, Saturday breakfast through Sunday lunch, t-shirt and all Gathering activities. Registration opens January 1, 2017. Add-ons to your initial registration are accepted as space allows. Please note: Late registration applies to each registration received after February 1, even if the bulk of your group registered early.

Deposit: \$50 per person, non-refundable. Registrations are not accepted without a deposit. Same-sex substitutions are accepted.

Housing: Housing is in dormitory style cabins. Each cabin has 8 bunks. Bathrooms (shower, toilet and sinks) are down the hall. Expect to share cabin space with other groups.

What to Bring: Sleeping bag, pillow, towel/washcloth, toiletries, comfortable indoor and outdoor seasonal clothing, flashlight, Bible, pen and paper. Money for snacks/gift shop is optional. Adult leaders might also wish to bring an alarm clock.

What NOT to Bring: Alcohol and drugs, weapons. Participants are asked to leave electronic devices in the bus/car so they can be fully engaged in the weekend activities (cell phones*, iPods, iPads, and other internet, texting, music and gaming devices). Adults, please make sure your cell phone is set to "vibrate" if it is essential to bring it to activities during the Gathering. **With adult leader permission, participants may use the camera function on mobile devices if the device is set in airplane mode so it cannot transmit. Participants will be asked to put devices away or give to an adult leader if they are being used for reasons other than taking pictures.*

Offering: The offering for the Middle School Gathering and Cardia Deo will be given to support PV for Phebe. 450,000 people in rural Liberia depend on Phebe Hospital as their only access to health care. Reliable energy supply is necessary for quality health care delivery. In Liberia, where less than 1% of the population has access to the electricity grid, generating needed power at rural hospitals literally is a life-or-death scenario. The PV for Phebe project aims to raise funds to construct a photovoltaic solar array to serve the energy needs of Phebe Hospital. By investing funds in a photovoltaic microgrid, Phebe Hospital and its staff will not only be empowered to achieve self-reliance through solar power, but serve as a powerful model for rebuilding critical infrastructure in a resilient manner. www.skipthegrid.org.

Forms: Registration forms for Cardia Deo can be downloaded at www.nemnsynod.org/CD. If you are unable to download forms, please call the synod office at 218-724-4424 to have forms sent to you. Forms needed are:

- Group Registration Form
- Housing Request Form
- Health and Release Form
- Participation Covenant

Be sure to make a copy of all forms for your use. Forms are needed for youth AND adult participants. Please discuss the covenant with your group before obtaining their signatures. Check all forms for completeness and accuracy before mailing. **Incomplete forms may cause your group to not be registered or miss the early registration deadline!**

Tentative Schedule

(subject to change)

FRIDAY

6-7:00pm: Registration
7:15pm: PUMPED - Opening Worship
8:00pm: Clusters
8:45pm: Small Group Builders
Adult Leader Meeting
9:15pm: Mystery Event
11:00pm: Family Time Check-In
12:00am: Lights Out

SATURDAY

8:15am: Breakfast
9:00am: PUMPED
9:30am: Youth and Adult Tracks
11:00am: Servant Learning Orientation
11:45am: Lunch
12:15pm: Servant Learning Experience
4:15pm: Servant Learning Debriefing
5:00pm: Banquet Intro
5:30pm: Banquet
7:00pm: Family Time
8:00pm: PUMPED
8:30pm: Youth and Adult Tracks
10:00pm: Camp Life
11:45pm: Final 15
12:00am: Family Time
1:00am: Lights Out

SUNDAY

8:15am: Breakfast
9:00am: Family Time
Pack Cars, Check Out
10:15am: Youth and Adult Tracks
11:00am: Worship, with Communion
12:15pm: Lunch
Depart for Home

How To Register

All registration forms are online at www.nemnsynod.org/youth. Follow the links to the Middle School Gathering or Cardia Deo Retreats. If you are unable to download forms, call the synod office at 218-724-4424 to have forms sent to you. Be sure to use the appropriate forms for each event. Duplicate copies as needed.

Remember - adult leaders must be at least 21 years old!

SEND THESE ITEMS:

- **Group Registration Form** (*mark the event you are registering for!*)
- **Housing Form**
- **Non-Refundable Deposit:** \$30 (*Middle School*) or \$50 (*Cardia Deo*), per person, including adult leaders.
- **Health and Release Form** for each participant (*including adults*)
- **Covenant** (*adults sign too!*)

Be sure to thoroughly check forms for parent signatures and all information before sending in your registration to:

Northeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA
Attention: MSG or Cardia Deo
1105 E. Superior St., Upper Suite
Duluth, MN 55802

Registration questions?

Middle School Gathering Registrar: Marilyn Hull, MSG@nemnsynod.org or 218.724.4424, ext. 120
(*Marilyn is available Tuesday and Thursday mornings beginning October 4. Email is preferred.*)

Cardia Deo Registrar: Catherine Anderson: Catherine.Anderson@nemnsynod.org or 218.724.4424, ext. 124

NE MN SYNOD HOUSING POLICY!

- No adult leader will be assigned to a room with only one youth.
- No adult leader may share a bed with a youth.
- Due to the expense of hotel rooms, it is necessary to assign 4 people to a room. In order to keep costs at a minimum and comply with the policy that no adult leader will share a bed with a youth, **it is expected that adult leaders will be responsible for bringing a sleeping bag and sleeping pad to youth events with the expectation that either the adult leader or one of the youth in the room will sleep on the floor to avoid the sharing of a bed.** It is the responsibility of the adult leader to determine who will sleep on the floor.
- The only exception to this policy is in the event that an adult leader is housed with his/her son/daughter. Only family members may share beds.

This policy is in place for the protection of both youth and adult leaders. Each adult should bring a sleeping bag to the event, even if it looks like you will have a bed to yourself. We encourage congregations to invest in a twin air mattress for use at events. The LYO Board recommends that adults be given the bed space, and youth use the mattress and sleeping bag. For rooms where there are 2 youth and 1 adult, it is expected that the youth will share a bed.



Other Housing Info:

- In cases where group size or gender breakdowns leave one or two youth assigned to a room, youth will be assigned to share a room with youth from another church.
- To the best of our ability, we try to group rooms together by church, especially when youth are combined with youth from other churches to share a room.
- When choosing adult leaders, it is best (when possible) to have an even ratio of male and female adults according to the gender make-up of the group.
- We reserve the right to rearrange room assignments as necessary to keep room costs at a minimum. Be assured that careful consideration is given to how rooms are assigned.

More information on the web! Visit www.nemnsynod.org/youth and follow the links to Middle School Gathering and Cardia Deo!

Tips on inviting youth to events - How to recruit adult leaders - Forms – Updates – Clip Art