

COMPONENTS OF THE GATHERING

INFO PACKET
NEW ORLEANS, LA
| JULY 17-24*

Mass Events | These worship experiences are unlike any other you have encountered. Consisting of music from a talented live praise band, dramas, and inspiring messages. All with 25,000 other students worshiping God with you! We fill the stadium with praise!

Convention Center | Located inside New Orleans, these interest centers allow students to engage with their community of peers through fun games, spiritual activities, and prayer opportunities. Professional organizations who serve and bring high school youth closer to Christ, host booths to connect with participants. Plus, you'll get lots of free stuff!

Bible Studies | This intentional time in God's Word takes place every day in various hotels. We attend each Bible study as a group.

Sessionals | These workshops are held in the convention center and cover a wide range of topics. They are opportunities for youth to engage with challenging and important faith topics relevant to life as a teen today. Each student will need to pick out 3 different sessions to attend each day.

ABOUT THE YOUTH GATHERING

For more than 43 years the youth and adults of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod have come together every 3 years for 5 days to worship, serve, learn, and celebrate our Christian identity as God's children! 25,000 or more high school students, adults, and volunteers will meet in New Orleans. The theme of the Gathering is based on Hebrews 12:1-3; reminding us "run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith."

The Gathering has become an experience which has encouraged, strengthened, and deepened thousands of relationships with Jesus Christ. We encourage students to prayerfully consider taking this journey with the Immanuel Lutheran Youth of Jesus. This year-long process will also help inspire youth in their daily faith walk as we prepare for this great adventure!

KEY TERMS

Team Meetings | These meetings are vital to the trip. Attending with people you know and trust is foundational to the growth experience of the Youth Gathering and for general safety in. These meetings will share vital information about the gathering, but also offer opportunities to get to know your team.

Community Groups | Community Groups are your spiritual growth team. Bible studies, check-ins, and session planning will be done in connection with your Community Group.

Questions? Contact Heather Vahl hvail@immanuelbrookfield.org

TIME LINE

*Note that this is a **tentative** schedule subject to change*

**Not all fundraisers have been scheduled at this time.*

- Registration Opens September 8th Non-refundable deposit due with registration.
- Adult Mentor applications are Due Oct. 20
 - Final decision on adult mentors will be made by Oct. 27th.
- Registration and letters of Intent due (Early Registration Discount) October 20
- Trivia Night Fundraiser Nov. 2
- TEAM MEETING #1 Dec 1 5-6pm
- TEAM MEETING #2 Feb 2 5-6pm
- TEAM MEETING #3 April 3 5-6pm
- Help with Immanuel's Auction March 1
- Easter Breakfast April 19-20
- TEAM MEETING May 4 #4 5-6pm
- TEAM MEETING #5 June 1 5-6pm
- Remaining balance amount paid
- July 13th Sending Service
- Travel day TBA (July 17 and/or July 18)
- Fun day in New Orleans | July 19th
- Youth Gathering Starts | Evening of July 19th
- Youth Gathering July 19th-23rd
- July 23 fun afternoon at the beach
- July 24-25 travel back to WI
- YOUTH WORSHIP Service Aug. 10th



FUNDRAISING INFORMATION

We fundraise as a group! We need to fundraise 1/3 of the overall costs. Life gets busy but if you make a commitment to going to the Gathering you also make a commitment to fundraise. There are **MANY ways to help before, during, and after each fundraiser.**

Some fundraisers already on the calendar:

- Trivia Night November 2
- Auction weekend of March 1
- Easter Breakfast set up and Breakfast April 19-20
- Some other ideas: recycle drive, brat fry, car wash, bake sale, flower sale, BINGO

Roughly our goal will be to raise \$15,000+ . We already started last year and raised about \$1,200

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Registration for the LCMS Youth Gathering will open on September 8th and closes Oct. 20th with letter of intent turned in as well as a nonreturnable deposit of \$100 (early registration discount). Deposits made after Oct. 20th is \$130, after March 3 \$180.

Adult Mentor Applications are due Oct. 20th. Final selection will be done no later than Oct. 27th with letter of intent due by Nov. 1st.

Questions? Contact Heather Vahl hvahl@immanuelbrookfield.org

COST BREAKDOWN

At this time, many components of the budget are variable based on how many participants we have registered. The variables are our mode of transportation, our hotel costs and food. Some meals will be provided for, and some meals each individual will need to pay for on their own. With this in mind, the final cost for the Youth Gathering could range from \$1,800 to \$2,025*. (plus, your food costs- more information as we get closer to the trip). But wait there is some good news! Keep reading!

A Nonrefundable deposit will be due at the point of registration. This deposit will be \$100. The deposit is the responsibility of the family. Our open registrations close on October 20th. Additional registrations after Oct. 20th may be considered. If a participant registers after or does not submit the proper paperwork by October 20th the registration cost will rise by \$30. Similarly, if there is a registration after March 3rd the registration fee will rise and additional \$50 to the existing \$30.

Once we know more about our hotel assignment and breakfast options, we will determine what we will do for breakfast. Breakfast and one other meal a day will be covered in the overall cost; the other meal will be the responsibility of each individual person. More details will be provided at a later date. It will depend on the day whether person will pay for lunch or dinner.

If a participant can no longer attend after paying the non-refundable deposit, they will still be responsible to cover their registration as the Gathering does not allow removing registration. Meaning, you will be responsible for finding someone to fill your registration or pay your registration fee in full.

Immanuel is passionate about Christian Education and values opportunities like the LCMS Youth Gathering for our teens. With this in mind we have a formula to pay for trips and servant events. 1/3: 1/3: 1/3

Families pay for 1/3 of the overall cost

The group **fundraises** 1/3 of the overall cost

Immanuel's budget will pay for 1/3 of the overall all cost

Your nonrefundable deposit will go towards your families' cost of the trip. With this formula families should expect to pay \$600-700 plus to the cost of a few meals, souvenirs and any extras the student may want.

This is for students only- adult mentors will have another set of guidelines explained on a different page.

Questions? Contact Heather Vahl hvahl@immanuelbrookfield.org



ENDURE

JULY 19-23, 2025; NEW ORLEANS, LA



ADULT MENTORS

We cannot safely attend events like the LCMS youth gathering without the help and support of adult mentors. Per Youth Gathering rules we are only allowed to bring so many adults along. To help with selecting adults to attend alongside of us, there is an application of sorts on our website.

www.ImmanuelBrookfield.org/gathering25

Applications are due Oct. 20th.

Once selected (by Oct. 27th), as an adult mentor, adults will need to sign the letter of intent and turn it in by Nov. 1st. The only cost for the adult mentors are the meals that is not covered for the students. You will only need to pay for yourself.

Being an Adult Mentor for the Gathering is a BIG, YEAR LONG commitment. This is not vacation nor a family trip. It is a lot of work! Long hours, lots of walking, helping teens get the most out of this experience, helping and checking in with teens and so much more! If you have questions before you submit an application, please reach out the Heather Vahl.

Adult mentors need to be at team meetings as well as adult mentor meetings. Team meeting dates have been set, adult mentor meetings have not been set yet. Once a group is formed we will discuss those meeting times.

YOUTH PEER LEADER

We are looking at the possibility of adding in a special leadership role for the youth. More will be explained later.

COMMUNICATION

Text messaging:

text '@yoj25' to 81010

email will be utilized! Please turn in an email address you check frequently

BAND APP: parents and youth may sign up for BAND to see pictures throughout the trip.



- Remind texting will be for quick reminders.
- Email will be utilized to go into more details.
- BAND app will mainly be for pictures and fun conversations. NOT business details.
- Our group will too large to put into