

# Quick-facts and FAQs



**July 11-16, 2019**  
**Minneapolis, MN**

## What is "The Gathering"?

Held every 3 years since 1980, the 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. During the five days of the Gathering, youth spend time together in God's word, worship, service, and fellowship with others from across the synod.

**Who can attend?** Any student who is 14-19 years old at the time of The Gathering. This means you must currently be in 8th-12th grade. If you will not be 14, but will be entering 9th grade at the time of The Gathering, then you are eligible to go. If you will be 20-26 years old, or one year out of high school, please talk to Wes Gong ([wesgongdce@gmail.com](mailto:wesgongdce@gmail.com)) about signing up to be a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV).

**I have friends who don't go to church. Can they attend too?** Yes! The same expectations regarding fundraising, meeting, and commitment apply

**How much is it? How do we pay for it?** \$2000 paid through a deposit, church support, fundraising, and payment plan

**Will there be fundraisers?** Yes! There will be multiple opportunities to raise money as a group.

**Who are the leaders?** DCE Maddie Gong is the Primary Adult Leader. The remainder of the leadership team will be confirmed and announced in early October, but will consist of CLS/VLHS staff and CCL Volunteers

**How will we get there?** Fly as a group; plane tickets will be purchased in December. After that there will be a wait-list to join the team

**When do we meet?** Tentatively plan on meeting the first Tuesday of the month, beginning in October (day subject to change based on majority of group availability).

**When do I have to sign-up?** Deposits and info forms are due October 15, 2018



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## What is the theme?

Real.Present.God: Psalm 46: Real life is broken and messy, but because Jesus is real, I can be real amidst the brokenness. God is present in His Word and through His people. And because of this, God's presence is our refuge and strength, no matter what. God is all powerful, all personal, and this God is present for us in Jesus and his life, death and resurrection.

## What does a typical day include

- **Breakout sessions** covering all topics you could ever be interested in (different religions, leadership development, talking to our parents, learning more about the faith, etc.)
- **Service projects:** both on and off site, includes house builds, painting, preparing dry meals to send overseas, creating prayer blankets, blood drive, etc.
- **Experiential Center:** games, crafts, exhibitors, free stuff!
- **Mass event:** nightly worship with speakers, music, testimonies
- **Community Life Activities**
- **Bible Study**
- **explore:** explore downtown Minneapolis (including Mall of America)
- **lots of walking:** plan on walking a few miles a day throughout downtown Minneapolis

**Where do we stay?** Our hotel will be assigned to us in the spring. Plan on 4 team members to a room. Chaperones will stay in rooms separate from youth

**Where will we be?** Downtown Minneapolis, including the Minneapolis Convention Center, US Bank Stadium, our hotel, and restaurants and points of interest around that area

## What are the "Special Opportunities?"

- **Gathering Choir:** audition to sing in the chorale ensemble for the closing worship service
- **Gathering orchestra:** audition to perform in the orchestra for the closing worship service
- **5k:** sign-up to run The Gathering 5k one of the mornings we're there
- information about these and more will be available in early 2019

## Contact Information

- Your primary contact for all things Gathering related is **DCE Maddie Gong**
- **text:** (919) 931-5525
- **all information and forms can also be found online** [www.cclphoenix.org/youth-ministry](http://www.cclphoenix.org/youth-ministry)
- **desk phone:** (602) 955-4830 ext. 1010
- **instagram:** @missmaddie.dean/@cclphxyouth
- **email:** [mgong@cclphoenix.org](mailto:mgong@cclphoenix.org)
- **desk:** back corner of the CCL Ministry office
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- Phoenix, AZ 85018



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