

LYA 2023



JULY 27-30  
MANKATO, MN

# Created

*A Lutheran youth convention exploring  
God's good and unique creations of man & woman.*

## Conference Information



LUTHERAN  
YOUTH  
ASSOCIATION

## THE MISSION OF LYA

The ELS Board for Youth Outreach's goal is to promote the spiritual education and Christian fellowship of the youth of the synod. The annual Lutheran Youth Association convention (LYA) is one way in which this is done.

### “CREATED”

<sup>26</sup>God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the sky, and over the livestock, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that crawls on the earth.”

<sup>27</sup>God created the man in his own image.  
In the image of God he created him.  
Male and female he created them.

<sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. There was evening and there was morning—the sixth day.<sup>1</sup>

We live in a time of immense confusion, where human beings are regarded as a byproduct of mere chance. As a result, our modern society views human beings as not good – in need, perhaps, of physical change. While the overwhelming spirit of the time perports this change to be for the benefit of individuals in general, and youth in particular, in effect it ends up heaping guilt on those it claims to help. Youth can be left wondering, “Am I good enough?”

Unfortunately, the world cannot absolve this guilt. There is only Person who can – and does – and who gives this authority to His Church. He is the One who created us in His image. He is the One who created us on the sixth day. He is the One who created us male or female. He is the One who created us and called us *good*.

LYA 2023 will explore God’s good an unique creations of male and female.



## WHO CAN COME?

LYA is flexible about who can come. Registration is generally open to confirmed youth, but exceptions are often made for groups bringing those in confirmation class. Many of our churches, for instance, in order to have any youth group at all, combine junior and senior youth. If it helps your youth to come, please encourage all students to attend – just be prepared for the additional supervision on your church group chaperones' part.

Non-ELS participants may register for LYA with the approval of your group's pastor/youth leader.

## CHAPERONES

Every church needs to send at least one youth leader/chaperone of the same gender as the students (consider paying their way as a church). If your church is unable to send a youth leader/chaperone, consider partnering with another congregation.

## ROOMS, BEDDING, ETC.

You will be provided with pillows, blankets, sheets and towels in the dorm rooms at BLC. Men and women are separated. Attendees can request one roommate, although these cannot be guaranteed.



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## WORSHIP AT LYA

Worship at LYA is intended to be the best of what youth might experience in their local parish. Bringing together a large group of people will permit more flourishes to the services, but we do not want youth to have some “mountaintop experience” that drives them away from their local parish, but rather to appreciate the heritage, freedom, and Christ-centeredness of Evangelical Lutheran worship. Youth who come can go back to their home churches with a greater appreciation for their own church’s liturgical life.

Our Synod’s report on Worship says,

“Confessional Lutheranism’s balanced approach toward such matters (liturgical forms and ceremonies.) is evangelical and pastoral in motivation, while also being generally conservative in application. The *Apology* bears witness to this defining trait of the Church of the Lutheran Reformation when it states: “We believe that the true unity of the Church is not injured by dissimilar ceremonies instituted by humans... However, it is pleasing to us that, for the sake of peace, universal ceremonies are kept. We also willingly keep the order of the Mass in the churches, the Lord’s Day, and other more famous festival days. With a very grateful mind we include the beneficial and ancient ordinances, especially since they contain a discipline. This discipline is beneficial for educating and training the people and those who are ignorant”” (Ap VII/VIII:33, CTLC p. 149; cf. 1 Thess. 5:21-22).

Especially since most of the activities at LYA tend to be informal, setting aside time for formal services can be beneficial, as the *Apology* says, for discipline. However, our spaces when on rented campuses are rarely if ever, designed as sacred spaces. Our convention often uses these plenary spaces both for fun and frivolity and for worship. For the preachers and the hearers, we believe this places a high degree of thought and care be put into distinguishing the space and time for sacred use.

The Sunday Divine service is always hosted by a local congregation (or the local congregation’s pastor serving as host), with the local pastor serving as presider for Holy Communion. The service, provided it is in keeping with the Orders our Synod recommends (By-laws of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Chapter 1—Liturgical Forms and Ceremonies), will generally reflect local custom (including vestments, music, hymnbook, etc.). Depending on the location of LYA each year, youth can be expected to be exposed to a good variety of local liturgical customs within our Synod.



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## HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is celebrated at the Sunday Divine Service. Only those who are confirmed members of churches of our fellowship may commune. It is the responsibility of the group's pastor to confirm the eligibility and preparedness of participants.

## INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Individual Confession & Absolution is tentatively planned to be offered at LYA this year as a pastoral way to deal with consciences, and the real issues, sins, and concerns that may come up from our sensitive topic of God's creation of man & woman. We anticipate the theme bridging into many aspects of the 6th commandment, and want to offer what the world cannot give: peace by true forgiveness from sin and guilt.

The Rite of Confession & Absolution will follow either the Service of Private Confession and Absolution from the *Hymnary* (pg. 129) or from the Catechism.

This is not intended in any way to supplant the role of local pastor, but rather, we hope that by offering this, youth may return home with a increased awareness for the important role their local pastor can play in their everyday life.



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## SECTIONALS

**When Pink Becomes Blue: How my family navigated having a loved one who identifies as Transgender**

Rev. Matt Brooks

**Purgatory: Where did this come from?**

Rev. Don Moldstad

**Just a Pretty Face: Miss World 478 B.C. has a sit down with insecure feet and arrogant eyes**

Rev. Tony Pittenger

**From Eternity to Eternity: What is Everlasting Life Like?**

Rev. Daniel Hartwig

**God, My Heart Hurts**

Rev. Sam Gullixson

**Bach, a Lutheran Theologian**

Rev. Mark DeGarmeaux

**My Dream Job or Bust?**

Rev. Dan Oberer

**Meaning in the Mundane: Biblical Relief of the Pressure to be Great**

Rev. Ben Wiechmann

**Reclaimed Belonging: Where LGBTQ+ Matters Meet Jesus**

Rev. Ben Dose

**Youth Leader Open Discussion on Challenges of Sunday School & Modern Youth Ministry**

Rev. Jeff Hendrix



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## MASTERCLASSES

### **Studio Art, Media Art, and Communication**

Cyanotypes-Making images with sunshine  
Instructor Denice Woller, Outside Meyer Hall/MH201

### **English**

Horror and Humor in Literature  
Dr. Robert Hanna, HH 210

### **Psychology**

What you don't know CAN hurt you (the power of schemas)  
Dr. Jonathan Stadler, HH 344

### **Religion**

How our forefathers prayed: Learn the Lord's Prayer and Table Prayer in Norwegian/Hebrew/Latin  
Prof. Mark DeGarmeaux, MH 202

### **Business**

Intrapreneurship: Keeping Your Entrepreneurial Spirit Alive in the Workplace  
Prof. Kenneth Johnson, HH 311

### **Psychology**

The art and science of listening to your friend's problems  
Dr. Jennifer Kom, HH 342

### **Nursing**

Germs and Blood Pressures: Test your handwashing skills and learn how to take a blood pressure in this interactive session.  
Prof. Deb Matzke-Lewis, HH 312

### **Biology**

Did Snakes Walk? And other evolutionary questions will be explored!  
Dr. Doyle Holbird, MH 130

### **Religion**

Dragons and Dinosaurs in the Bible  
Rev. Shawn Stafford, TC 101

### **Communication**

Virtual Reality and the Role of Future Communication Technologies  
Dr. Brian Klebig, VOX Lab

### **Chemistry**

Chemistry and Art: How to forge paintings for fun and profit (and how to detect them)  
Dr. Eric Woller, MH 301

### **Legal Studies, Criminal Justice, and Mock Trial**

Crime and Justice in a Corrupt World: Lie detector test exercise  
Dr. Sara Edwards, HH211

### **Graphic Design and Studio Art**

Exploring careers in the visual arts  
Prof. Andy Overn, HH 135

### **Media Arts**

Bringing Objects to Life: An Introduction to Stop Motion Animation  
Instructor Ben Lundsten, Studio B (HH LL)



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# SCHEDULE

## Thursday, July 27, 2023

3:00 – 7:45 PM Opportunity to visit the bookstore  
 Dinner On Your Own

4:00 – 7:00 PM Registration (*Old Main Foyer*)

5:00 PM Optional BLC Campus Tour  
*(meet outside the dining hall doors)*

5:00 PM Counselor Orientation Meeting 1  
*(SFC 2nd floor classroom)*

6:00 PM Optional BLC Campus Tour  
*meet outside the dining hall doors)*

7:00 PM Counselor Orientation Meeting 2  
*(SFC 2nd floor classroom)*

8:00 PM Opening Service (Trinity Chapel)

9:00 PM Ice Breakers / Pizza  
*(Bethany Activity Center)*

11:15 PM Return to dorm

12:00 AM Lights out

## Friday, July 28, 2023

7:00 – 8:00 AM Breakfast (OM)  
*(Check-In during breakfast hour)*

8:10 AM Morning Chapel (TC)

8:50 AM MasterClass # 1 (Classrooms)

9:30 AM MasterClass # 2 (Classrooms)

10:05 AM MasterClass # 3 (Classrooms)

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**SYNODY**

10:45 AM Departs For Zip/Kayak  
*(Bag Lunch)*

4:00 – 5:00 Return to BLC

5:30 – 6:30 Dinner (OM)

7:15 PM Scavenger Hunt

8:30 PM Evening Chapel (TC)

9:00 PM BLTS Presentation (TC)

9:15 PM Choir Rehearsal (TC)

9:15 – 11:30 PM Open Rec  
*(Volleyball / BAC / Gym / Soccer field)*

11:30 PM Return to dorms

12:00 AM Lights out

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**SYNODZ**

10:45 AM Scavenger Hunt

11:30 – 12:30 Lunch (OM)

1:00 PM Zip-Line Departs

1:30 PM Kayak Departs

5:30 – 7:30 Bag Dinner /  
 Lawn Games (*Shelters*)

7:30 PM Return to BLC



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## Saturday, July 29, 2023

*Wear LYA shirts today!*

7:00 – 8:00 AM	Breakfast (OM) <i>(Check-In during breakfast hour)</i>
8:10 AM	Morning Chapel (TC)
8:50 AM	Group photo ( <i>Campus Green</i> )
9:15 AM	Keynote Speaker ( <i>Sigurd Lee Theater</i> )
10:40 AM	Panel Discussion
11:30 – 12:30 PM	Lunch (OM)
12:30 PM	Sectional A (HH)
1:30 – 3:15 PM	On-Campus Recreation / Free-Time BLC Bookstore / Spirit Store open
1:45–2:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal (TC)
2:30 PM	Adult/Chaperone Fireside Chat Sponsored by Bethany (OM)
3:30 PM	Sectional B (HH)
4:25 PM	Sectional C (HH)
5:10 PM	Down-Time
5:45 PM	Depart for Moondogs game
6:00 PM	Dinner provided at the game
9:45 PM	Evening Chapel (TC)
10:30 - 12:00 AM	Dance (TBD) Indoor Rec (SFC) Lounging ( <i>Viking Village / Cafe</i> )
12:00 AM	Return to dorm
12:30 AM	Lights out

## Sunday, July 30, 2023

7:30 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast (OM) <i>Clean rooms and get packed</i>
8:00 – 9:30 AM	Check-out available (OM Foyer) Opportunity to visit the bookstore
10:00 AM	Divine Service ( <i>Mt. Olive Lutheran</i> )
11:30 PM	Picnic Lunch
12:30 PM	Leave for home
12:30 – 1:30 PM	Optional BLC Campus Tour <i>(meet outside the dining hall doors)</i>



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