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## THE COVENANT

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AUBURN, NE

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Trinity Lutheran Senior Youth Group's Covenant for  
2019 LCMS National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN (10 or) 11-15JUL19

### Psalm 46

### Songs of Sinners, Songs of Saints, and the Real. Present. God.

(Note the period after each word in this Gathering's slogan. This is meant to have people chew on every. single. word. Don't rush it. Take some time to think! God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble...)

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A covenant is a promise or agreement between two or more people. The first covenant we know of was made by God with humankind after the Flood. The rainbow was used as the physical sign to us of God's covenant to never again destroy the earth with a flood (Genesis 9). As we prepare to experience the 2019 LCMS National Youth Gathering (NYG) together, we covenant with one another as a family in Christ. The Covenant contains our commitments to each other for how we will act, interact, and react during the 2019 LCMS National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. We write it out and sign it as a physical representation of what we have promised to each other.

You have been given two copies. One will be signed, returned, and filed with other NYG documents. The other should also be signed, but it will stay with you. Keep it somewhere handy, somewhere that will help you remember your commitment to attend and participate in the days leading up to the big event. This is not a week-long deal in July of 2019; this is a year-long deal from now until about a month after the NYG! If ever it seems our commitment or participation is lacking, be prepared for a separate meeting (we all love meetings) to re-visit The Covenant and find a way to stick to it better. We will also re-visit The Covenant as a refresher right before we leave; the better we know it, the quicker that will go!

1. We agree to honor one another as members of God's family by treating others in a Christian manner:
  - Show concern for others' physical, emotional and spiritual well being.
  - Use words that "build people up."
  - Have a positive attitude and be flexible when things go wrong or schedules change.
  - Understand that leaders will sometimes make decisions that we don't like but we will be supportive anyway.
2. We agree to care for each other by helping in these (and other) ways:

- Offering to carry luggage, open doors or assist with any job.
  - Being on time for meetings, so we don't hold everyone up.
  - Not trying to “sneak out” of commitments made in this covenant.
  - Being tidy in rooms and considerate of others' sleep needs.
3. In addition, we expect our Adult Leaders to:
- Show patience with the group and be flexible when a change of plans is needed.
  - Show us a lighthearted, loving and fun side to themselves.
  - Consult youth in decision making as much as possible.
  - Act as “Shepherds” vice “Chaperones” - Let youth maintain some independence but guide them to safely grow their own faith.
  - Walk a LOT with us.
  - Hold Youth (and selves) accountable to The Covenant rules and boundaries set for our safety.
  - Submit to or provide a background check, as required.
4. We agree that we are called to be responsible to one another and to the families and church we represent and that we will behave in the following ways:
- With members of the opposite sex, we will show respect and follow biblical guidelines for Christian conduct, always being concerned for the other person's reputation, feelings and well-being.
  - Dress modestly. Show respect toward the opposite sex and toward yourself in the way you dress.
  - Be considerate in the hotel. Don't leave the room without notifying the Primary Adult Leader, and keep track of your key (don't write on it).
  - Opposite genders will not be in rooms 30 minutes before lights out and never in the mornings (roommates may be getting ready). If we are visiting in other youth rooms at other times, Community Group leaders will be informed and doors must be completely open.
  - When we are angry or upset we will talk to the person(s) involved (Matthew 18) or seek the help of an adult in resolving a problem.
  - We will refrain from smoking and the use of any tobacco or alcohol or any controlled or illicit substance.
  - We will not use “put-downs” or insults (be it serious, in jest, or sarcasm).
  - We will keep copies of our personal emergency forms (also known as Medical Consent and Liability Release Forms) with us at all times in our backpacks. (Primary Adult Leader will carry a 2nd copy for everyone in their group.)
  - We will use common sense and Christian care when an issue isn't covered by this covenant.
5. We agree to abide by these rules and expectations:
- Full participation in all Gathering events. Attend an agreed-upon number of sessions (as determined during Community Group Time) and report back to group at the next Community Group Time on any big ideas/revelations/thoughts you liked.
  - Full cooperation with any Adult Leader.
  - Follow the lights out time set by your Primary Adult Leader, and get enough sleep.
  - No illegal use of drugs or alcohol.
  - To always travel in groups of 3 or more, and *always* let your Primary Adult Leader know where you are going.

- Every group shall have at least one cell phone with group adults' numbers and emergency numbers programmed for easy access.
  - Cell phones will not be taken away unless improper use is discovered. Youth are expected to keep cell phones in a pocket or bag during sessions or activities but can have them out during breaks.
  - Follow through with check-in plans set during Community Group Time, and make every effort to let someone know if you are going to be late.
6. On the plane/ground transportation we will abide by these rules and expectations.
- Keep the plane/bus clean and pick up after ourselves at all times.
  - Show care for those who are sleeping by not disturbing or being loud around them.
7. When someone breaks this covenant, we will handle the problem with the following consequences:
- Youth may be asked to consult privately with the Primary Adult Leader or other youth involved.
  - Youth may be asked to spend part or all of the day under the direct supervision of an Adult Leader.
  - Group size may increase to the point where each has an adult all the time.
  - Substance abuse (alcohol and other drugs) or other major problems (theft, property damage, etc): ZERO TOLERANCE. Police may be called and the teen may be sent home at parent's expense.
8. If someone gets separated from the group:
- If possible, call the Primary Adult Leader on their cell phone. (Phone number should
  - be programmed into each participant's phone.)
  - We will meet at the place our group agreed upon in advance. (This means groups or buddies must be sure to set up designated meeting places at each event.)
  - Seek a "Yellowshirt" (Community Life Builder) for help where you are.
  - Return to the hotel if it is safe to do so (can travel with other Gathering participants wearing wristbands).
  - If in doubt, stay put and do one of the following: Stay in your room and wait for a call or
  - Call the Help Line (the number will be on your wristband and in your phone). We will also call the Help Line and let them know we are looking for you. If we cannot find you in a reasonable amount of time (30 minutes), the Gathering has Lost Person procedures to assist with situations like this.
9. Leading up to the 2019 LCMS National Youth Gathering:
- We will continue to participate in all meetings, fundraisers, and Sunday Morning Bible Studies. If we cannot attend something, we will let the Youth Facilitator know as soon as possible. NOTE: There will be NYG-Specific Bible Studies mixed in with our normal material starting very soon. Make-up sessions can be scheduled as needed, but the easiest way to make sure everyone is as prepared as they need to be is to be there every Sunday.
  - We will ask people to pray for us and everyone involved in this experience.
  - We will participate in a "Commissioning Service" during church on a Sunday (most likely 07JUL18 but will be known for sure at least a month in advance).
10. We will communicate the Gathering experience within our home congregation as we:

- Bring back photos, stories, and other mementos to share.
- Participate in sharing these experiences with the congregation by:
  - Writing/typing at least a one page summary of your Gathering Experience by 21JUL19, being sure to answer the following questions:
    - 1) How will the Gathering theme and what you experienced help you in your life of following Christ in faith? (Name at least 3 ways.)
    - 2) How will the Gathering theme and what you experienced help the Trinity Lutheran Youth Group and congregation in the coming year? (Name at least 3 ways.)
    - 3) How has the congregation and community helped support you throughout the past year? (Include your thanks to them.)
  - Participate in preparing for and making presentation to the Trinity Lutheran Congregation on 04AUG19.  
NOTE: This means the Youth will be doing the talking, so start practicing your public speaking skills!  
ANOTHER NOTE: It is highly recommended that Youth keep a journal of lots of things, memories, questions, learnings, pictures, etc. to help them with this communication.
  - Help prepare a summary and some pictures of the Gathering Experience for the Trinity Lutheran Website by 04AUG19.
- Show care not to leave those who did not attend out of conversations, but encourage them to join us for other youth events.

11. Notes for everyone to be aware of:

- Wristbands are not replaceable. If you are given a wristband, do not take it off!
- The Budget attached to The Letter does not cover the following:
  - Offerings
  - 5K/Choir/Symphony/Dance Troup Fees
  - Souvenirs
  - Snacks
  - Really Generous Tips
  - Forgotten Items
  - Sight-seeing Activities (Other than Hotel and Vans)
  - Emergency Fund

NOTE: It is strongly recommended that each Youth's family arrange for a secure way, be it debit card, Cashier's Check, etc. (preferably NOT cash) for their Youth to have an emergency fund safe/handy. If desired, the church's LCEF account can be utilized; LCEF typically sets up a bank at the Gathering for this purpose. Let Sarah know if you would like to go this route.

- There is a Gathering Worship Choir, Symphony, and Dance Troupe. Share your gifts and serve during the Gathering Worship Service! Application and audition information coming late 2018.
- There is a Gathering 5K/Walk – The event is scheduled to take place on Sunday, July 14, with registration open in Spring 2019. An additional fee will be collected for participation in the run. Please note: Run participants are required to register before the Gathering. No on-site registration will be available.

12. Please write a quick note if Youth/Parent is interested in the 5K, Choir, Symphony, or Dance:

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13. Please mark Youth's preference of Servant Event:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Off-site Servant Events  
Service is a major part of the Gathering experience and registered participants will have opportunities to serve in many ways. Some groups will participate in off-site events in the Minneapolis community, while others will work on projects in the convention center. Groups selected for off-site servant events will participate one morning on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. The Gathering provides shuttling from a designated facility to the service site back and forth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ On-Site Servant Events  
Serve for a designated amount of time at the Convention Center. Learn by doing and help agencies through activities such as canned food collecting, sorting, and distribution. On-site servant events take place Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during regular Convention Center hours, 11:00 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Food Packing Service Project  
Gathering participants have packed hundreds of thousands of meals over the past few Gatherings to support people in need across the globe. This service project will again be a key way Gathering participants reflect God's mercy for all people. In 2019, we are planning to have food packing opportunities available at the Minneapolis Convention Center and possible off-site locations.

14. Please indicate if one or more parents would like to attend:

Name of parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: If more than the allotted 3-4 (maybe 5, depending on our group's needs) adult spots for our group show interest, there will be a selection process. There is no need to supply a \$150.00 check for Parent "Shepherds."

15. Please write down the name of any friends you plan to bring with us:

Name of friend: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of friend: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of friend: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Don't forget to pick up extra forms for them from the Youth Room and help them fill everything out to turn in with yours!

16. The Fundraising Plan

- Families will cover a \$150.00 deposit at time of registration; this may be refunded, if possible, or additional funds may be required, depending on fundraising successes.
- Additional budget details can be found in The Letter Attachment 2. Tentative Budget Breakdown. Overall, the trip is expected to cost \$1,385 per person, for a total of \$20,775. After considering the existing funds, assuming registration fees have been paid, and taking into account the fact that Parent "Shepherd" costs are usually covered by the group, the remaining amount required per Youth Group Member comes to \$1,418.22 (again, this is in addition to the

\$150.00 registration fee). A combination of Parent-Pay and Fundraising will be used to cover that remaining cost. The Youth's fundraising goal was initially set at \$6,000.00, which would leave an expected \$11,681.00 (or about \$973.00 per person) for families to cover.

- To keep things fair, attendance will be kept for every fundraiser. Ideally, all NYG attendees will participate evenly, but keep in mind that funds may be divided proportional to attendance if participation is determined to be lopsided.
- The Youth have made it clear they do not enjoy selling things. They would rather do something that allows them to get to know the congregations, and even better, maybe brings in some others to join the congregation. The events below are fundraisers for the National Youth Gathering, yes, but more than that, they are the Youth's best efforts and intents to witness and help both Trinity members and others who may not yet know Christ!
- Fundraising is not only a payment option, but also an opportunity to team-build, get to know each other, and learn to function safely and effectively as a group in preparation for the National Youth Gathering experience.
- Here is a tentative plan, but any and all fundraising recommendations are welcome!

#### Summer (August)

- Picked Grapes - \$340.00
- Rally Day Breakfast - \$321.00

#### Fall (September-October)

- Restaurant Event during CNS Outage (Kids Organize, Advertise, and Execute)
- Face Painting/Bake Sale at Trunk or Treat (May require parent to help)

#### Holidays (November-December)

- Gift-wrapping/Basket orders/Christmas Bazaar (Would definitely need parent help)
- A couple Soup Suppers for Advent (Parent help appreciated)

#### Winter (January-February)

- Valentine Dinner (Spaghetti Varieties) with Wait-Staff/Babysitting & Games
- Superbowl Night Out (Popcorn and Pop)

#### Spring (March-April)

- Easter Breakfast
- Car-Wash-A-Thon
- Escape Room (Kids Organize, Advertise, and Execute)

#### Last Hoorah (May-June)

- Ice Cream Social (with VBS in June)
- Trivia Night

#### Throughout

- Puffins
- Envelope Wall/Stock in Youth

NOTE: These fundraisers are not intended to be internal to Trinity! The more outside/community involvement, the better. If you're taking charge on one (or more) please advertise! Newspaper, Chamber of Commerce, Bulletin Boards around town, Facebook, the Senior Youth Group Website, Labors of Love, and even the church bulletin are ideas. Talk to your friends and family about how excited you are for the NYG, what you hope to learn, and what you will use the experience for in the future.

17. Signatures: The signatures below indicate:

- a) The signer has read, understood, and agreed-to everything in The Covenant above.
- b) The signer has read, understood, and communicated any concerns with information contained in The Letter (dated 16SEP18).
- c) Intent and full commitment to not only attend the 2019 LCMS National Youth Gathering, but also participate throughout the next year as described above.
- d) Families agree to supplement the Youth's fundraising as necessary to fully fund their family's attendees.

As a Youth Participant of the 2019 LCMS National Youth Gathering, I promise to uphold The Covenant to the best of my ability and follow the direction of my Adult Leaders.

Youth Participant (sign & date): \_\_\_\_\_

As a parent of a Youth attending the 2019 LCMS National Youth Gathering, I promise to make sure my child understands The Covenant and upholds it to the best of their ability. I will support the Adult Leaders and whatever decisions they make for my child on this trip, and I promise to pray for them while they are gone.

Parent of Youth (sign & date): \_\_\_\_\_

As an Adult Leader for the 2019 LCMS National Youth Gathering, I promise to uphold The Covenant to the best of my ability. I will also be a good spiritual leader for these Youth and represent my congregation well. I will be in contact with parents as often as necessary, so that they know I am taking good care of their children.

Adult Leaders (sign & date): \_\_\_\_\_

As a spiritual leader of this congregation, I promise to uplift all adult leaders, parents, and Youth as they go through this journey. I will support them as best I can to make sure they uphold The Covenant and have the best experience possible with the 2019 LCMS National Youth Gathering. I will promote their experiences to the congregation and lead the congregation in praying for them.

Pastor/Elder (sign & date): \_\_\_\_\_

