



HOW TO STAY CONNECTED TO AND THANK YOUR CONGREGATION

All the congregations who come to the LCMS Youth Gathering are supported by a whole community of people from the pastors, leaders, and members of your congregation. Whether they've supported you with their time, their money, or their encouragement, the congregation is excited about your group and they want to be a part of your experience.

This connection can foster greater support for youth beyond the youth ministry. Below we've listed a few ways to stay connected with your congregation while at the Gathering and beyond!

Watch the Livestream

Encourage members to gather together to watch the livestream! Viewers can praise, learn, and pray along with your group. This is a great way for them to dig into the theme In All Things and have themes they can discuss with youth when they return.

Prayer Partners

Recruit church members of all ages to serve as prayer partners for each of your students. Encourage them to be in prayer before, during, and after the Gathering. You could even encourage prayer partners to send letters or small gifts to students.

Go Live

While you're at the Gathering, take some time to go live on social media and share what you're doing. Whether you're walking through the streets of Houston, sharing something you learned in a break-out session, or giving a tour of the convention center, invite your church's social media followers to experience a piece of the Gathering with you. You will need to get permissions to go live on your congregation's social media and monitor what youth share. Be sure not to share any personal information or information like where your students are staying. If you can't go live, you can also record participants in short videos that you can share and post later.

Social Media take-over

Consider allowing a trustworthy student or two to do Social Media take-overs during the Gathering. Have them post throughout the day, sharing what they are doing and learning. Be sure to promote which day(s) you're going to have a student take over so that others know to follow along!



Once your time at the *In All Things* Youth Gathering comes to an end, be sure to thank your congregation! Every congregation is different, but here are some ideas for thanking them:

Thank-you in announcements/newsletter

Write a thank-you that tells some of your congregation's Gathering story and publish it wherever is appropriate for your congregation. Try to go beyond a simple "thank you for your support" and share some of the impact that the Gathering had on your group.

Share what you've learned

Ask students to prepare to share a little bit about what they learned during their time at the Gathering. Arrange to present this information to your congregation during worship, an education hour, or at a special event.

Serve as a group in the Congregation

Consider tangibly thanking your congregation through service. As a team building exercise either before or after the Gathering, come together as a group to get things done in your congregation. Whether it's serving in a ministry, working on the landscaping, or putting on a fresh coat of paint, you can work together to show your appreciation.