

Pre-Event
GUIDE

General Event Information

Adult Leaders should read this entire section.

Still have a question? Ask a Gathering Ambassador or call the 24-hour Gathering HelpLine: 713-853-8403 beginning July 8, 2022.

Adult Leader Orientation

GRB 310 & 320 Full Orientation

July 8 | 1:00 – 5:00 pm

July 9 | 8:00 am-6:00 pm

During registration at the George R. Brown Convention Center (GRB), one adult leader from each congregational group should attend one of the Adult Leader Orientation sessions. The Full Orientation session starts every 30 minutes and is recommended for adult leaders who have 0-1 Gathering experiences or desire an in-depth orientation. The 15-minute Fast Track Orientation session will focus on information new to this Gathering and is recommended for adult leaders who have 2+ Gathering experiences. It is not necessary to go through registration prior to attending one of the orientation sessions.

Communion Ware

Communion ware for the Worship Service was commissioned from and created by The Center for Liturgical Art at Concordia University Nebraska. These limited-edition three-piece sets must be reserved online through the Gathering Store located in the George R. Brown Convention Center Hall A. They are available for a cost of \$150 including packaging and shipping costs.

District Events

Connect with other people from your district and explore more of Houston at these district-sponsored events. Some events require pre-registration.

California-Nevada-Hawaii District

July 13 | 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm | George Ranch Historical Park

Central Illinois District

July 11 | 11:00 am – 2:00 pm or 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm | Truck Yard

Eastern District

July 10 | 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm | Minute Maid Park - Gallagher Club

English District

July 11 | All Day | Camp Lone Star

Florida-Georgia District

July 11 | 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm | Hilton Americas

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Indiana District

July 9 | 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm | Minute Maid Park - Union Station

Iowa East District

July 10 | 11:00 am – 2:00 pm | Stampede Houston

Iowa West District

July 11 | 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm | The Rustic

Kansas District

July 9 | 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm | Stampede Houston

Michigan District

July 10 | 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm | George R. Brown – Hall A

Mid-South District

July 11 | 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm | Minute Maid Park – Union Station

Minnesota North District

July 12 | 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm | Minute Maid Park – Union Station

Minnesota South District

July 9 | 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm | Stampede Houston

Missouri District

July 9 | 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm | Stampede Houston

Nebraska District

July 10 | 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm | The Rustic

New England District

July 11 | 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm | Downtown Aquarium

North Wisconsin District

July 8 | 9:00 pm – 11:00 pm | Downtown Aquarium

Northern Illinois District

July 11 | 11:00 am – 2:00 pm or 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm | Truck Yard

Northwest District

July 13 | 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm | George Ranch Historical Park

Ohio District

July 12 | 10:30 pm – 12:00 am | Shirley Acres

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Oklahoma District

July 10 | 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm | George R. Brown – Hall A

Pacific Southwest District

July 13 | 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm | George Ranch Historical Park

Rocky Mountain District

July 10 | 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm | The Rustic

South Dakota District

July 9 | 11:00 am – 1:00 pm | Downtown Aquarium

South Wisconsin District

July 8 | 9:00 pm – 11:00 pm | Downtown Aquarium

Southeastern District

July 10 | 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm | Minute Maid Park – Union Station

Southern District

July 10 | 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm | George R. Brown – Hall A

Southern Illinois District

July 11 | 11:00 am – 2:00 pm or 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm | Truck Yard

Texas District

July 10 | 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm | Stampede Houston

Donation Drop-Off

Bring donation items to the George R. Brown Convention Center during registration and place them in the marked containers in Lobby C. Once the Interactive Center is open (starting Sunday), please bring them to the back of Hall C of the George R. Brown Convention Center. Please **DO NOT** bring donated items to Minute Maid Park. For a list of items to donate (canned food, etc.), please see the Gathering website. Remember to buy local in Houston!

Items being accepted:

- Canned Fruits and Vegetables
- Canned Meat, Poultry, or Fish
- Cereal
- Dry Beans
- Peanut Butter
- Rice
- Soups and Stews
- Whole Grain Pasta

Evaluation

We want your feedback! The evaluation process for the LCMS Youth Gathering is very important to the future planning of the event. A number of changes and improvements to the Gathering schedule and program have come directly from feedback from Gathering participants. From evaluating speakers to hotels, LCMS Youth Ministry wants your feedback as to how best the Gathering can serve your congregational youth ministry. **Both youth and adults** will be asked for their feedback via the Gathering App (speaker and general Gathering evaluation).

Also, look for Young Adult Volunteers who will be asking specific questions about parts of the Gathering program experience.

Gathering Store

Visit the Gathering store to find the greatest variety of Gathering apparel and products. You will find soft style tees, sweatpants, socks, hoodies, hats, mugs, and more with the Gathering logo as well as a collection of limited-edition shirts. The store is located inside the main entrance into Hall A of the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Food Options

Visit the Gathering App or website to check out the different food options. Houston offers many great food options in the downtown area or near outlying hotels.

Top Food Tips:

- Be patient and a good witness to staff and other customers.
- Plan ahead by making reservations.
- Look for special food options your hotel may be offering.
- Consider the George R. Brown Convention Center and Minute Maid Park concession stands.
- Explore the food trucks around the city and at Discovery Green before Mass Events.
- Find snacks, sandwiches and other options at area grocery and convenience stores.
- Remember restaurants are not designed to feed large groups of hungry students quickly.

Food Trucks

Food trucks will be available in the front of the George R. Brown Convention Center Saturday, 3:30-7:30 pm and Sunday-Tuesday, 11:00 am-7:30 pm. Food truck options are, but not limited to, the following:

- No Mi Street
- Foreign Policy
- El Guajillo
- Happy Endings
- Tu-Go Kitchen
- Wokker
- Waffle Bus
- Gumbo Express
- Saucy Nosh
- Seoul Side Wings

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- Sizzles
- Black Market Birria
- Southern Taste
- Good Times/Homies
- Dlish Curbside
- Mooseum Ice Cream
- Uncle Louie G
- Berry's Ice
- Friojana

HelpLine: 713-853-8403

The HelpLine is available 24 hours a day from 12 pm on July 7 until 12 pm on July 14. The HelpLine provides immediate information about events, program times, or other needs participants may have at the Gathering. For program information, please first consider consulting the Gathering App.

Hotels

Gathering Ambassador

Your hotel will have a Hotel Gathering Ambassador available in the morning and evening. Please check the Gathering sign in your hotel lobby for location. The Ambassador is there to connect with Adult Leaders and provide a time of devotion and prayer. Gathering updates will also be available as needed. The Ambassador will do their best to answer questions you may have. Please note, all important updates will be pushed through the Gathering App. We encourage you take the opportunity to connect with your hotel Ambassador and the other Adult Leaders in your hotel.

Hotel Expectations

Please observe hotel policies, be respectful of evening hours and elevators (do not push all the buttons for every floor or security will act accordingly). Hotel staff are hard-working, courteous, and serving many guests. Be respectful of the work they do and reach out to them with a positive example. Due to limited staffing, groups should not expect to receive daily service to their rooms. Tipping your hotel cleaning service is appropriate and encouraged.

Info Booths

Gathering Ambassadors staff Info Booths and are ready to answer questions about program, schedules, and lost and found items. Info Booths can be found at the George R. Brown Convention Center and Minute Maid Park.

Convention Center

Main Entrance Lobby C in Visitor Information Center
Hall B (Level One)

Minute Maid Park

Main Concourse at Stadium Accommodations near sections 111 and 112

**Artist merchandise will be available for sale on Monday on the Main Concourse near Union Station (behind sections 107-109).*

WiFi/Internet Access/Charging Stations – George R. Brown Convention Center (GRB)

Complimentary WiFi is available at the George R. Brown Convention Center in all first level lobbies. Charging stations are available in various rest areas including the Adult Relaxation Area in the McKinney Balcony (GRB Level 2).

Lost Cell Phones

Participants are encouraged to add the term “AL” as a contact in their cell phone that dials their Adult Leader’s phone. If a cell phone is lost, the Adult Leader contact will be dialed and the phone can be returned. Lost items are always deposited at Lost and Found.

LCEF Visa Card Services

LCEF will be available to assist you during the Gathering. Visit LCEF to ask questions about your LCEF account, LCEF debit cards, and check your account balance. Cash withdrawals are not available through LCEF. Prepaid debit cards can be picked up during registration on Friday and Saturday. LCEF is located in the Lobby adjacent to registration (Friday and Saturday) and Hall B (Sunday-Tuesday) of the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Hours of Operation:

Friday, July 8	1 pm to 5 pm GRB Lobby @ Registration
Saturday, July 9	8 am to 6 pm GRB Lobby @ Registration
Sunday, July 10	10 am to 6 pm
Monday, July 11	10 am to 6 pm
Tuesday, July 12	10 am to 6 pm

Lost and Found

All lost and found items will be gathered and secured in Show Office Lobby D. Lost and Found hours are Sunday-Tuesday 9:00 am – 6:00 pm. Check also at the Info Booth on the Main Concourse at Stadium Accommodations near sections 111 and 112 in Minute Maid Park at Wednesday’s Worship service.

Items may be turned into ANY Info Booth or the Lost and Found room. To report a lost item, participants can call the HelpLine or stop by any Info Booth. Lost items (Saturday-Wednesday) at Minute Maid Park will be taken to the Lost and Found room at the George R. Brown Convention Center. All youth coming to Lost and Found must be accompanied by an adult.

MOSAIC Initiative

The MOSAIC Initiative exists to celebrate, uplift, and affirm the diversity within the Body of Christ. The leaders of the MOSAIC Initiative hope that through conversation, education, and relationship building, the youth will have a desire to pursue multi-ethnic and diverse ministry relationships in their local communities to unite the Body of Christ. We hope that as these relationships grow, churches will begin or continue to reflect the diversity in their communities and emphasize the mosaic nature of the Body of Christ, which acknowledges we are created in the image of God, which is Christ in the flesh.

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The MOASIC team will host a pre-Gathering event (invite only) to welcome and bring together some of the multi-ethnic and diverse congregations within our church body. An interaction session, as well as a booth on the Thematic Floor for youth to explore, highlight the multi-ethnic history of the LCMS and opportunities to grow and reflect the diversity in the Body of Christ will be available for all participants.

Offering

As part of Wednesday’s Worship service, participants will have the opportunity to present their monetary gifts to the glory of God. Gathering offerings will be used in service to ministry across The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and throughout the world.

The offering can also be submitted online at lcmsgathering.com (click “Give Online”) or mailed to the LCMS Youth Ministry office. This Gathering’s offering is designated to assist these ministries:

Gathering Servant Events	Up to \$50,000.00
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Of the remaining amount, the funds will be designated this way:

Texas District/Local LCMS Project	Up to \$10,000
YouthESource and Resource Support	Up to \$50,000

Remaining funds will be split between YouthLead and LCMS Youth Ministry Special Projects.

Wristband Replacement

All participants will receive a Gathering wristband. The wristband is the participant’s ticket into all Gathering activities and events. Participants must wear their wristband at all times.

If a wristband is damaged, Primary Adult Leaders can exchange it for a new wristband at the Gathering Office (GRB 340A). Both the participant and the Primary Adult Leader must visit the Gathering Office. The damaged wristband will be collected and a new wristband will be given to the participant. Additional wristbands will not be provided without exchanging your damaged wristband. Lost wristbands will **NOT** be replaced.

Youth and Adult Poll

From the very first LCMS Youth Gathering, we have gathered information to gauge attitudes, issues and concerns from teens, young adults, and adult leaders. You can take the Youth or Adult Poll on the app, or using the technology in the Youth Booth in Hall A. If you bring a screenshot showing you took the poll or take the poll in the Youth Booth, we have a special gift for you. We are so grateful to share your thoughts and opinions. We use this information to help us decide what resources to develop and to help the church better care for young people.

Special Needs

Participants needing to rent a wheelchair, crutches or other healthcare aid are encouraged to contact one of the following medical supply. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Gathering HelpLine (713-853-8403).

1. Scoot Around
www.scootaround.com
204-982-0657
888-441-7575
info@scootaround.com
2. Texas Medical Supply
<https://www.texasmedicalsupply.com/services/rental-equipment/>
832-210-3281

Transportation

Shuttle Bus Service

- Shuttle bus service will be provided between select hotels, the convention center, and Minute Maid Park.
- Some shuttling hotels will need to walk to a nearby hotel for shuttle service.
- Refer to the Gathering App for shuttle services hours of operation.
- In general, shuttles will make multiple trips between hotels and facilities. Participants should plan on riding earlier buses to meet scheduled event start times. **Long wait times are possible if everyone tries to ride the later shuttle.**
- Look for signs posted at your hotel, refer to the Gathering App or contact your hotel Gathering Ambassadors for shuttling details.
- Shuttling services ONLY run during the morning and evening. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to their hotel if needed during the day.
- Additional details or links such as routes, maps and the latest shuttling information can be found on the Gathering App.

METRORail Transit System (Light Rail)

- The Houston metropolitan has an excellent mass transit system to assist you in seeing the city of Houston. Although not necessary for attending Gathering events, METRORail connects participants to restaurants, museums, and other attractions.
- In partnership with METRO, youth participants will be able to ride the METRO for free July 7-14. Youth Participants must be wearing their Gathering wristband to receive free rides.
- Adult leaders are encouraged to purchase Adult Day Passes for \$3.00 which will give them flexibility to ride the METRO all day. Passes can be ordered online or purchased in Houston.
- General information, schedules and travel tools are available at: www.ridemetro.org.

Private Transportation: Motor Coach/Automobile

- Once downtown, all facilities and hotels are considered within walking distance. **It is highly recommended to not use private transportation such as motor coaches or automobiles during the days of the Gathering while downtown.**
- Private vehicles (motor coaches, automobiles, etc.) will not receive access to vehicle drop-off points at the convention center or stadium. This is for the safety of pedestrian traffic. Refer to the Gathering App for recommendations of off site parking options.

Parking

If necessary, public parking lots are available at the city for a fee. Consult information on the web, including: www.downtownhouston.org/parking.

Wednesday Morning

- To expedite your departure from the Gathering on Wednesday, it is suggested that groups return to and depart from their assigned hotels following the conclusion of the Stadium Event.
- Groups are **NOT** allowed to bring luggage into the seating area of Minute Maid Park at any time. Confirm your hotel's check-out time and policy. Hotels with an earlier check-out time may provide a luggage holding room for your convenience. If you have questions, contact your Hotel Gathering Ambassador.
- Groups who are leaving directly from Minute Maid Park should refer to the Gathering App for pick-up locations. Please consider having the bus arrive after 10:00 am when rush hour has decreased.
- Pickups in areas immediately adjacent to the Stadium are for Gathering Shuttling only. Personal vehicles will **NOT** be allowed in these areas. **DO NOT** plan to be picked up in these areas.

Health, Safety and Security

Curfew

The City of Houston and Harris County have a curfew for minors. It is very important our young people understand the need to stay with an Adult Leader late in the evening. The curfew is for all people under 18 years of age. The hours for curfew are as follows: *midnight to 6:00 am, seven days a week*. During the later hours, minors must be with a parent/guardian or under the watch of an Adult Leader. If out in the city late in the evening, we recommend youth be chaperoned by an Adult Leader.

General Safety

1. As you travel around the city, please maintain groups of at least three or four, with an Adult Leader. Never travel alone!
2. Follow suggested walking routes and know where you are headed before you leave. Refer to your hotel Gathering Ambassador for routes. Do not wander into areas or void of people. Unfolding a map or consulting a map app in public can be an invitation for help – wanted or unwanted.
3. Proper footwear should be worn by all participants. Flip flops or other open-toed footwear is not recommended for the service experiences, walking around the city or inside program facilities.

4. Walk confidently; be courteous and respectful to people you meet on the street. If you feel uncomfortable, trust your instincts, and move to a safer area.
5. Carry your purse close to your body and your wallet in your front pocket. Make sure pockets on backpacks are closed or zipped.
6. Hydration (drinking water), light-colored clothing, a balanced diet, and sleep are the best prevention for heat exhaustion and dehydration while in Houston.
7. Watch out for each other, care for each other, and have the servant heart and mind of Jesus when it comes to how you treat all people.
8. If you see something, say something! Be on the lookout for people doing things out of the ordinary such as entering prohibited areas or creating conflicts. Report any suspicious activity right away to the nearest security staff, law enforcement, or call 911.
9. Try to leave all valuable possessions at home if possible. Secure valuable possessions or money when leaving the hotel room. Only bring necessities with you and avoid wearing and carrying expensive items. Do not leave any valuables or backpacks unattended. When you do have to take out your wallet or purse, try to keep it discreet and do not let people see any cash. Be cautious when using an outdoor ATM.
10. Be aware at all times and keep your eyes up and off your phone.

What to Carry with You (or not)

1. Each Gathering participant should bring photo identification and a completed Gathering Medical Release and Liability Waiver. Each participant should always carry a photo ID and a copy of these forms. A designated Adult Leader should also carry a copy of each group member's forms.
2. The backpack provided by the Gathering is the primary bag participants should use for transporting personal items into the George R. Brown Convention Center and Minute Maid Park. The Gathering backpack will be less likely to be searched by security personnel.
3. Each participant should place his/her name on the **inside** of the backpack. DO NOT put personal information on the outside.
4. Keep your belongings in front of you and close to your body. Be sure your backpack is fully zipped. Keep a list of all credit, debit, ID cards, and cash you bring and never carry any PINS or passwords with you.
5. Random searches of all backpacks, bags, containers, purses, etc., may take place at entry areas and other designated areas in the George R. Brown Convention Center and Minute Maid Park. Security personnel reserve the right to question and search participants and their personal effects when suspicious activity is observed.
6. Any items left unattended in the George R. Brown Convention Center and Minute Maid Park will be confiscated for participant safety.
7. Designate one Adult Leader who will carry a basic first aid kit.
8. Lasers, fireworks, and weapons of any type are not permitted at Gathering activities and will be confiscated. Do not joke about weapons, violent acts, or terrorism.

Safety During Programming

1. Before entering any Gathering event, have a realistic plan of where your group will sit. Designate a pre-arranged meeting spot for members in case someone becomes separated from your group. To avoid injuries, refrain from running when the doors open for any Gathering event.
2. To prevent being separated from your group, establish a meeting place to reconnect in both the George R. Brown Convention Center and Minute Maid Park. In an emergency, call the Gathering HelpLine (713-853-8403).
3. Board buses as a group to avoid losing people.
4. Maintain a physical list of cell phone numbers for the members of the group. Program an Adult Leader's cell phone number and the Gathering HelpLine number (713-853-8403) on all cell phones. Remind participants to be courteous to others when using cell phones. Please silence cell phones during Bible Studies, Mass Events, Worship, and Sessions.
5. Within the Gathering Complex and Minute Maid Park, always let Adult Leaders know where you are going. Designate a pre-arranged meeting spot for your group in the event someone becomes separated.

Safety in Traveling

1. The tunnel system can connect you to a number of food options, but they do not connect to George R. Brown Convention Center or Minute Maid Park. Be courteous as many locals use the tunnels as part of their daily routine. Make sure to always create a path for people to pass you that are walking faster.
2. Do not become complacent when traveling or while at events.
3. Within any venue you enter, make sure to make a mental note of emergency exits. It is important to know a solid route to an exit if you need to leave quickly.
4. Be especially aware when utilizing public transportation. Know your directions and plan your route ahead of time. Be aware of areas that do not look safe and if lost, find the nearest official to guide you back to the Gathering events.
5. It is a good idea to budget your time before and after each event. You will not need to worry about beating the crowd then or being late to anything.
6. METRORail/Buses
 - Wait in well-lit areas and near other customers when waiting for a bus or a light rail.
 - While riding on the bus or light rail, sit near the bus driver or train conductor and keep your valuables close and in front of you. Be alert to pickpockets.
 - If someone harasses you or you see something out of the ordinary, call 911 or notify the bus driver or train conductor. Transit Police can also be contacted at 713-224-2677.

Emergency Medical Response

If you or someone you are with has a medical emergency, call 911 immediately or report it to the nearest safety and security representative. Refer to the medical emergency procedures for the George R. Brown Convention Center and Minute Maid Park.

The St. Joseph Medical Center is the closest hospital to downtown for any medical emergencies.

George R. Brown Convention Center

If inside or immediately outside the convention center, please communicate by calling Convention Center Security Dispatch at 713-853-8087 or find a uniformed patrol office at security podiums located in convention center lobbies.

In an emergency situation be prepared to provide:

1. Your Name
2. Your Location
3. Your contact information (if cell phone is available)
4. A description of the situation: Is the person breathing? Is the person responsive? How did the injury occur (if known)? What is the person's complaint?

Notify a Gathering staff member by calling the HelpLine (713-853-8403) as quickly as the situation allows. Provide information on the location of the incident, nature of injuries, the extent of any damage, and the age(s) of those involved.

Minute Maid Park

In case of an emergency, contact a Gathering staff member (Gathering Ambassador or usher) or Minute Maid Park staff member. Minute Maid Park Ballpark Security can be reached at 713-259-8928.

Hotels

Your Gathering Ambassador and hotel staff are key resources in case of emergency. When you check into your hotel, familiarize yourself with your hotel's phone system for emergency response. Again, please call the Gathering HelpLine (713-853-8403) as quickly as the situation allows.

Location Specific Notes

Minute Maid Park

- Be prepared that each participant will go through a security process with backpacks possibly being inspected. All Non-Gathering backpacks and bags will be searched upon entry to Minute Maid Park. Gathering backpacks may not be searched based on the process being used at the park entrance (Metal Detector, etc.) Please help expedite the entrance process by having your bag opened allowing the security personnel to check your bags and backpacks. Each group may want to consider consolidating backpacks for evening programming to speed up the process.
- If you have a medical problem at Minute Maid Park, contact Stadium ushers or a Mass Event volunteer usher. They will call medical assistance or direct you to the nearest first aid station. Minute Maid Park First Aid Stations are located in section 150/151 and 250/251.
- Be aware of the crowds and know your exits.
- Make sure to know what you can and cannot bring to the stadium.

Permitted Items

Guests are welcome to carry in the following items into Minute Maid Park:

- Still-photography cameras with a lens that is 6" or less in length
- Hand-carried jackets or blankets which will be searched upon entry
- Empty reusable water bottles
- One factory-sealed (unopened) water bottle
- Mascots on poles, signs, and selfie sticks are allowed

Prohibited Items

- Any bag larger than 12" x 6" x 12"
- Hard-sided containers or coolers, briefcases, fanny packs, cinch bags, luggage of any kind, computer bags, camera bags and large traditional seat cushions that have pockets*
- Glass, cans, aluminum bottles or thermoses of any kind*
- Laser pens/pointers
- Video cameras or mono/tripods (no spectator cameras with lenses over six inches long will be permitted)
- Laptop computers
- Umbrellas**
- Firearms, knives or weapons of any kind
- Illegal drugs or substances
- Alcoholic beverages
- Televisions
- Animals (except service animals to aid persons with disabilities)
- Air horns, whistles, cowbells or other distracting noisemakers
- Any devices that may interfere with and/or distract any sports or event participant, other guests, audio or audio/visual telecast or recording of the game or event, or any technology-related service provided in the stadium
- Projectiles (i.e., Frisbees, beach balls, footballs, etc.)
- Aerosol cans (i.e., mace, pepper spray, hairspray, etc.)
- Fireworks, Confetti, or glitter
- Obscene or indecent clothing
- Balloons
- Use of wheeled footwear, skateboards, hover boards and Segways*
- Strollers
- Outside food and beverage*

**Exceptions will be made for those with medical requirements and/or special needs. Small individually wrapped snack items will be allowed in. One factory-sealed water bottle will be allowed for each participant.*

***Small umbrellas that can be folded and placed under the seat will be permitted.*

George R. Brown Convention Center

- If you have a non-emergency medical need, go to a first aid station or contact a Gathering Ambassador or Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) and they will call medical assistance or direct you to a first aid station.
 - GRB First Aid Station – Located in Stage Office Lobby E and Stage Office Lobby A.
 - GRB First Aid/Medical Services Satellite Location – Located in Hall D
- This is a public building, be aware of the public and the potential homeless population and feel free to politely decline if they ask for money or food.

Downtown

- Walk in well-lit areas and make sure to keep possessions in front of you and close to your body.
- Abide by all traffic rules and pedestrian signals. Stay on sidewalks and in tunnels
- Be aware of the homeless population and feel free to politely decline if they ask for money.
- Call 911 if someone harasses you or you see something suspicious
- Participants in need of medical treatment for injury or illness while at a hotel should contact their Adult Leader, hotel Gathering Ambassador, or hotel staff to determine the location of the nearest medical facility. Participants are reminded to carry a copy of their medical release form at all times.

Severe Weather

The weather will be continuously monitored, and announcements will be made if there are any imminent threats. Move to the lower level of the nearest building to a room without windows if severe weather announcements have been made.

Fire/Evacuation

- In the event of a fire or a necessary evacuation, exit the building as quickly as possible. Utilize the stairs rather than elevators and alert all patrons who may not already be aware of the evacuation.
- Call 911 or notify the nearest safety and security representative if you notice a threat that might require an evacuation.

Staying Safe in the Summer Sun

Houston July Weather:

- The average high temperature is 91° F.
- The average low temperature is 76° F.
- The average precipitation is 4 inches.

Extreme heat can cause many health issues, even death. Below are safety tips that will help you stay safe during your time in the hot, humid, summer climate of Houston.

1. Drink plenty of water. Your body needs water to keep cool. You should drink at least eight, eight-ounce glasses of water (64 oz.) each day to avoid dehydration. More may be necessary depending upon whether you are used to the heat, are sick, or have special medical conditions. Sports drinks (such as Gatorade) are okay in moderation in addition to your daily water intake.
2. Dress for summer. Lightweight, light-colored clothing reflects heat and sunlight, and helps your body remain cool.
3. Slow down/spend as much time as possible in air conditioning. Plan ahead to allow yourself plenty

of time for each day's activities. If you are feeling the effects of the heat, seek the coolest locations possible (this may not necessarily be indoors) and rest.

4. Don't get too much sun. Sunburn makes the job of heat dissipation more difficult for your body. Wear sunscreen (reapplying frequently and liberally), hats, and other coverings during the day.
5. Don't over-eat. The more food (protein) you place in your body, the more heat energy the human body will create during the digestive process.

Heat Illness Symptoms

SUNBURN: Redness and pain. In severe cases swelling of skin, blisters, fever, headaches. First Aid: Ointments for mild cases if blisters appear and do not break. If breaking occurs, apply dry sterile dressing. Serious, extensive cases should be seen by a physician.

HEAT CRAMPS: Painful spasms usually in muscles of legs and abdomen possible. Heavy sweating. First Aid: Firm pressure on cramping muscles, or gentle massage to relieve spasm. Give sips of water. If nausea occurs, discontinue use.

HEAT EXHAUSTION: Heavy sweating, weakness, skin cold, pale, and clammy. Pulse thready. Normal temperature possible. Fainting and vomiting. First Aid: Get victim out of sun. Lay down and loosen clothing. Apply cool, wet cloths. Fan or move victim to air-conditioned room. Sips of water. If nausea occurs, discontinue use. If vomiting continues, seek immediate medical attention.

HEAT STROKE (or sunstroke): High body temperature (106° F or higher). Hot dry skin. Rapid and strong pulse. Possible unconsciousness. First Aid: **HEAT STROKE IS A SEVERE MEDICAL EMERGENCY. SUMMON EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE OR GET THE VICTIM TO A HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY. DELAY CAN BE FATAL.** Move the victim to a cooler environment. Reduce body temperature with cold water or sponging. Use extreme caution. Use fans and air conditioners. If temperature rises again, repeat process. Do not give fluids. People on salt restrictive diets should consult a physician before increasing their salt intake.

Care Teams

Two Teams serve adult leaders and all Gathering participants throughout the event. These crews can be accessed through the HelpLine (713-853-8403), an Ambassador or may be found in spots such as the Adult Relaxation Area, the Interactive Area, near Sessions which are addressing sensitive topics and at the Mass Events.

The **Care Team** are Ambassadors ready to provide high quality spiritual, social, and emotional care and assistance for adult leaders and youth as needs arise during the Gathering (i.e., group struggles, less-significant emotional struggles, weary adult leaders, etc.). This team will also provide follow-up care in a crisis moment as directed from the Crisis Team.

The **Crisis Team** consists of trained professionals who deescalate and stabilize situations (i.e., notification of death in the family, legal issues, substance abuse, depression, or suicidal feelings). Crisis team members are obligated to report incidents in accordance with mandatory reporting laws and will provide referrals as appropriate while maintaining confidentiality.

Secondary Insurance Information

Registrants are covered by a very limited accident and medical insurance policy that provides reimbursement up to a minimal dollar amount for emergency medical expenses incurred as a result of purely accidental injuries sustained while at the Gathering. This coverage is secondary to all other personal insurance coverage available to the participant and will make payment only if such other insurance is not adequate to cover the medical expenses resulting from an accidental injury sustained while at the Gathering.

Adult Leader Relaxation Area

McKinney Balcony (GRB Level 2) | Open 10:00 am-5:00 pm

For Adult Leaders Only

Sponsored by **Concordia Plan Services** the Adult Relaxation Zone is a place designed for adult leaders to take a break apart from their students. You will be welcomed by Concordia Plan Services staff along with members of the Adult Leader team and Gathering Ambassadors. Visit the zone when you need a place for to refresh, relax and renew your heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30).

Gathering Volunteers

Ambassadors

Gathering Ambassadors serve Gathering participants. They are Gathering volunteers, super servants, aged 25 and older. Ambassadors are carefully selected and trained prior to the Gathering and serve in key roles throughout the city, George R. Brown Convention Center, Minute Maid Park and participant hotels. They aim to answer questions, ensure participant safety and assist with traffic flow. At your hotel, an Ambassador is available to pray with Adult Leaders and provide information or event updates as needed.

Their blue shirts, blue backpacks, and yellow swag make Gathering Ambassadors easy to identify. Please do not hesitate to ask any Ambassador your questions—they're all there to help! While they are unable to serve as emergency personnel, they are trained to contact the needed help and are able to walk alongside leaders in uncertain situations.

There are some important things Gathering Ambassadors *cannot* do for Gathering Adult Leaders.

- Ambassadors are not behavior monitors but are available to help you as you work with your youth.
- Ambassadors are not empowered to serve as a liaison between hotel management and Gathering groups unless an arbitrator is required. They are unable to assist with room assignments, billing, rooms, or hotel damages.
- Ambassadors have no authority to commit The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in issues that demand the expenditure of money to hotels or to Gathering participants.

Team Flex

Another area of the Blue Crew of Gathering Volunteers is Team Flex. These volunteers are decked out in blue shirts and blue swag. They have generously signed up to serve in a flexible capacity from before the Gathering begins until after the wrap up of Worship. They come from all over the country as well as from right here in Houston. They serve in specific areas and are able to help with questions and needs in those areas. You'll find them smiling in nearly every area of the Gathering Complex.

When you need assistance, THINK BLUE! “Blue Shirts” are here to serve!

Young Adult Volunteers –Orange Nation

Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) can be identified by their orange shirts and extreme enthusiasm. YAVs play a huge role in making the Gathering a successful and memorable experience. They serve as role models while working in specific areas of the Gathering in the George R. Brown Convention Center, Minute Maid Park, Gathering hotels, and Off-Site Servant Events.

Not only is the Gathering the largest gathering of LCMS high school youth, it is also the largest gathering of young adults between the ages of 18-25.

Think you have what it takes? If you’ll be 18-25 in 2025, we would love to have you serve at the 2025 Gathering!

The Gathering App

Download the official app of the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering. Bookmark your favorite speakers, learn more about sessions and stay connected with the happenings at #LCMSYG. The Gathering app is available for download in your iTunes or Google Play store under “LCMS Youth Gathering”.

Post-Gathering Bible Study

After the Gathering, you can download a Post-Gathering Bible study from the Gathering website and view through the Gathering app. Both the leader and participant versions will be found at <https://lcmsgathering.com/resources/>.

Guide for Effective Community Group Time

The Gathering is only a catalyst for ongoing growth in the Christian faith for young people and adults. Community Groups provide the intimate setting necessary for the Gathering to have a lasting impact in the lives of participants. Seeing thousands of people together is exciting and perhaps even inspirational, but Community Group time provides youth the opportunity to talk things through and make new discoveries about life in Christ and life in the Church.

In addition to other benefits, Community Groups at the Gathering help participants:

- Grow closer in relationships with one another
- Review, debrief, and talk about experiences of the day
- Reflect on spiritual topics and daily Gathering themes
- Plan and organize each day

Community Group time will happen at different times throughout the day, morning to night. Specifically, Gathering planners suggest you find time to recap each day. Devotions have been provided to guide your study and discussion throughout the day. Community Group resources, including daily reflection questions and orders of prayer are found in your Gathering Guidebook, starting at page 16. Additional information on the following pages provides good starting points and encourages continued growth in your Community Groups:

How

Engaging with a group naturally is not as intimidating as it might seem. Here are some key things to remember as you engage your students in a small group:

1. Respect for yourself and others; no put downs.
2. Listening; each person has value and should be heard.
3. Honesty, trust, and love; God tells us to “speak the truth in love.”

When

Community Group time may need to be adapted to meet the needs of your group. Discussing a few items thoroughly and providing a safe place to talk honestly about faith is better than rushing through all the material.

Where

Adult Leaders are encouraged to think through locations for Community Group time. Be courteous to other Gathering groups, guests of the hotel, and citizens of Houston. These times might happen in a huge ballroom, at a district event, in a restaurant, in a convention center lobby, or a hotel room—anywhere!

Morning and Evening Discussion Time

We strongly encourage Community Groups to begin and end their day in prayer and discussion together. While you can use these questions anytime during the day, you are encouraged to end each day with a Community Group connection time. Some hotels will have a Gathering Ambassador available to help facilitate this time. Consider using the Morning and Evening Prayer found on pages 17-18.

Friends and Family Facebook Bible Study

Friends and family at home can take part in Gathering Bible Studies! On Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday of the event, Gathering Bible Study leaders will be leading an online audience. Those back home are encouraged to tune in at 10 am (CDT) on Sunday, July 10 and 12 pm (CDT) on Monday and Tuesday, July 11 and 12 on the LCMS Youth Gathering Facebook page to dive into the book of Colossians and participate online! These studies will give friends and family the opportunity to connect deeply with Gathering content and prepare them for meaningful discussion with their youth.

Bible Studies

Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday at the Gathering will offer pre-assigned Bible Studies. There are three locations assigned by your hotel location. Please attend your assigned location. Location information is provided in your final communication or can be acquired from your hotel Gathering Ambassador or information board in your hotel lobby. See more information on pages 20-22.