



2026 WELS YOUTH RALLY

CHRIST THROUGH US

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-20



JULY 14-17, 2026

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY, BOWLING GREEN, OHIO



@WELSYOUTH RALLY

#WELSYOUTHALLY2026




2026 WELS YOUTH RALLY

CHRIST THROUGH US

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-20



   @WELSYOUTHALLY

#WELSYOUTHALLY2026

2026 WELS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH RALLY

Interactive Campus Map



WIFI

Connecting to BGSU-Guest Wireless Network

- While on BGSU campus, locate the **BGSU-Guest** wireless network under available networks on your device.
- Select to connect to **BGSU-Guest**.
- The sign-on page should open automatically. If it does not, open a browser manually and use <http://neverssl.com/> to access the sign-on page.
- The **BGSU-Guest Wireless Agreement** will display.
- Read the terms of use and check the box to accept the terms.
- Select **"log in."**
- Access is granted for the current day.
- **Guests must repeat the process any day they wish to reconnect to the BGSU-Guest network.**

*For additional assistance, please
contact Information Technology
Services at 419-372-0999.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome	4
2026 WELS International Youth Rally Schedule	5-6
Christian Conduct Covenants	7-8
Stuff You Need to Know & Remember	9-12
Where Do I Go for Help?	9
Safety, Medical Emergencies, and First Aid	9
Dining, Snacks	10-11
Residence Halls (and Checkout)	11-12
What? Where? Who?	13-17
Exhibits	13-14
Free time	15
Time to Chill	15
Rally Worship Musicians	16
Nightly Highlights	16-17
Wednesday + Thursday Small Group	
Workshop Locations	18-19
Worship	20-22
Rally Songs	20-21
Worship and Morning Devotions @ Stroh Center	22
Keynotes	23-24
Wednesday Keynote #1 @ Stroh Center	23
Thursday Keynote #2 @ Stroh Center	24
Nightly Group Reflections	25-32
Sponsors + Exhibitors	33-42
Thank You!	43
Campus Maps	46-47

List of abbreviations

BGSU – Bowling Green State University

BTSU – Bowen-Thompson Student Union

PED – personal entry devices

CFS – Christian Family Solutions

NIV – New International Version

YOUTH RALLY MISSION STATEMENT

The WELS International Youth Rally exists to ensure that the next generation knows Christ, trusts his promises, and is prepared to serve Christ's church with a clear, confident Lutheran faith.

WELCOME

WELCOME TO THE 2026 WELS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH RALLY!

You made it! I'm so thankful that you, your friends, and youth leaders have safely arrived on the beautiful campus of Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.

The youth rally experience is something special. For decades, it has brought together generations of young Christians from WELS churches across the country to strengthen faith in Christ, encourage Christian living, and impress upon you your importance as part of the holy Christian church. Now, it's your turn to be part of that rally legacy.

We gather under the theme: "We Are Christ's Ambassadors." It comes from what the apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5, "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us." I pray that through keynote presentations, breakouts, and your own group reflections together, you come:

- to understand God's earnest desire to use "ordinary" you in extraordinary ways to shape his future church. More importantly,
- to see how God has given you everything you need be ready—right now.

Over the next four days, you'll experience what it means to live as ambassadors for Christ. Best of all, you'll get to do it together: Worship! Friends! Workshops! Food! Have fun!

There will be lots of announcements—so listen up, so you know what's going on, where it's going on, and when it's going on. There is so much packed into our time together that we don't want you to miss anything.

I'm excited to be here with you! May Christ be with you as he works through you this week.

See you around in the coming days,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donn Dobberstein".

Pastor Donn Dobberstein
Director, WELS Discipleship

2026 Youth Rally Committee

Pastor Donn Dobberstein, Delaney Fenske, Pastor Joel Russow, Pastor Andy Schwartz, Nicole Westra, and Michelle Gartner (Youth Rally Coordinator)

TUESDAY, JULY 14

TIME	EVENT
Noon–6:00 p.m.	Arrival and check in, get settled, see the campus, dinner on your own
7:00–8:30 p.m.	Welcome and worship at Stroh Center. Leading worship – Joel Russow
8:30–10:30 p.m.	Welcome to BGSU party
10:30–11:00 p.m.	Church group reflection (find your group, pick a spot)
11:00–11:30 p.m.	In your room
11:30 p.m.	Lights out

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

TIME	EVENT
7:00–9:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:15–10:45 a.m.	Keynote #1: Christ through Ordinary You presented by Luke and Rachel Beilke
11:00 a.m.–12:45 p.m.	Lunch
1:00–2:00 p.m.	Small group workshops session #1
2:30–3:30 p.m.	Small group workshops session #2
4:00–5:00 p.m.	Choir/music rehearsal
5:00–6:45 p.m.	Dinner
7:00–9:30 p.m.	Outdoor and indoor activities
9:45–10:15 p.m.	Compline service – Matt Scharf
10:30–11:00 p.m.	Church group reflection
11:00–11:30 p.m.	In your room
11:30 p.m.	Lights out

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JULY 16

TIME	EVENT
7:00–9:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:15–9:45 a.m.	Devotion – Jon Bauer
9:45–10:45 a.m.	Keynote #2: Before You Were Ready presented by Jonathan Hein
11:00 a.m.–12:45 p.m.	Lunch
1:00–2:00 p.m.	Small group workshops session #3
2:30–3:30 p.m.	Small group workshops session #4
4:00–5:00 p.m.	Choir/music rehearsal
5:00–6:45 p.m.	Dinner
7:00–8:30 p.m.	Performance: Colorado Keys
8:30 p.m.	Meeting for all involved in distribution of the Lord's Supper during closing worship
8:30–10:30 p.m.	Time to chill
10:30–11:00	Church group reflection
11:00–11:30	In your room
11:30 p.m.	Lights out

FRIDAY, JULY 17

TIME	EVENT
7:00–9:00 a.m.	Breakfast, pack up, and check out of your room
9:30–10:45 a.m.	Closing worship and goodbye. Leading worship – Snowden Gene Sims, Michigan District President
11:00 a.m.	Depart for home

YOUTH PARTICIPANT CHRISTIAN CONDUCT COVENANT

In the spirit of Ephesians 5, recognizing that I am to be an “imitator of God,” desiring to let God’s Word guide my life, and striving to live a life of thanks for all God has done for me in Christ, I promise, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to . . .

- Participate positively in all the keynote presentations, small group workshops, group devotions, and worship opportunities.
- Participate positively in all recreational and social activities planned.
- Cooperate with and follow the directions of rally staff and my own group’s leader(s).
- Report inappropriate behavior to my group’s youth leader and/or to rally staff.
- Assist in whatever ways asked to help make the rally a success.
- Abide by the following rules, regulations, and requirements:
 - 1) Leave drones, fireworks, weapons, laser pointers, etc., at home.
 - 2) Wear name badge and other rally items when asked.
 - 3) Respect rally site property.
 - 4) Follow designated curfews.
 - 5) Refrain from the use of controlled substances (alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, vaping, etc.).
 - 6) Follow the “no guys in girls’ rooms; no girls in guys’ rooms” rule.
 - 7) Remain on the premises at all times unless allowed otherwise.
 - 8) Remain with my group unless allowed by youth leader(s).
 - 9) Never travel anywhere at the rally site without a partner.

I further acknowledge that my failure to abide by the above could result in my being asked to leave the rally at my own and/or my parents’ expense.

CONDUCT COVENANTS

YOUTH LEADER CHRISTIAN CONDUCT COVENANT

In the spirit of Ephesians 5, recognizing that I am to be an “imitator of God,” seeking to model Christ for those I am privileged to supervise and serve at this event, and understanding that my congregation and my group members’ parents have legally entrusted their youth to me (in loco parentis), I promise, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to . . .

- Personally participate along with my youth group members in the entire rally schedule.
- Cooperate with rally staff and assist in whatever ways asked to help make the rally a success.
- Ensure that my group’s youth are attending worship, keynote presentations, small group workshops, and group devotions, and contributing in a positive manner to them.
- Ensure that my group’s youth are accountable and participating positively in all recreational and social activities planned.
- Ensure that my group’s youth are adhering to any and all rules, regulations, and requirements, i.e., wear required name tags, respect rally site property, follow curfews, refrain from use of controlled substances, follow the no guys in girls’ rooms and no girls in guys’ rooms rule, remain on premises unless allowed otherwise, etc.
- Remain on site and responsible for my group’s youth at all times unless rally schedule or circumstances require otherwise.
- Be physically present and remain in the residence halls when my group’s youth are required to be in them for the night.
- Refrain from personal consumption of alcohol or marijuana at any time during the rally.
- Refrain from the use of tobacco or vaping products.

I further acknowledge that my failure to abide by the above could result in my being asked to leave the rally at my own expense.

TO KNOW & REMEMBER

STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW & REMEMBER

Alcohol and other drugs are not permitted.

Youth rally participants may not check out any resources or supplies from the front desks. If you are locked out of your room, a BGSU staff member will accompany you to open your room door and retrieve your room key.

The Residence Life staff conducts building walks each night to ensure the safety and security of our guests. Keep in mind, staff will also enter community bathrooms to check that there are no safety, health, or facility issues.

RALLY HELP DESK

The rally help desk will be staffed **inside of the Stroh Center**.



FAQS

I need assistance, whom do I call?

If you are experiencing an emergency, please call BGSU Police at **419-372-2346**.

WHERE DO I GO FOR HELP?

If you need assistance or have a question, please stop by or call one of our **24-hour front desks**:

- Guests staying in Falcon Heights, Founders, McDonald, and Offenbauer can stop by or call the Offenbauer Front Desk at **419-372-2898**.
- Guests staying in Centennial, Conklin, or the Greek Village Townhouses can stop by or call the Centennial front desk at **419-372-4050**.

FIRST AID

- **8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.** – Rally first aid volunteers will be in the **BTSU Room 306**.
- **Overnight – 414-534-7098** – Mrs. Melissa Meyer, rally nurse
- As always, if it is a medical emergency, **call 911!**

TO KNOW & REMEMBER

DINING

Carillon Place and The Oaks Dining Center – Eat during your designated time at your designated location! Check the back of your name tag.

7:00–9:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
11:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch	Wednesday and Thursday
5:00–6:45 p.m.	Dinner	Wednesday and Thursday

DINING CENTER HOW-TOS

- BGSU dining centers are “all you care to eat” facilities. You are assigned to a dining center based on your dorm location and the capacity of each dining center.
- Your name badge serves as your entry to the dining hall, and you must have it with you to enter. You can only enter once per dining time.
- No food (including all food and snack items) or beverages should be removed or carried out of the dining facilities at any point. Personal containers for beverages are not permitted to be used as beverage containers.
- When you are finished with your meal, bring all items and trash to the dish return area.
- For any dietary questions, contact any dining staff member and they can help you.



If you are not a registered attendee but would like to purchase meals at the dining centers, you are welcome to do so. The campus is cashless, and the meal prices are listed below.

Adult Rates		
Breakfast: \$14	Lunch: \$15	Dinner: \$16
Child Rates		
Under 4: Free	Ages 4–7: \$7	Ages 8–12: \$8.50

TO KNOW & REMEMBER

SNACKS

We encourage you to **bring snacks** to keep in your room for when you get hungry! Snacks **can also be purchased** on campus at the Falcon's Nest or the Market at the BTSU. The BTSU also has a Starbucks, and Einstein Bros Bagels is near the Oaks Dining Hall. All these retail locations are **cashless**.

RESIDENCE HALLS

- No one of the opposite gender is allowed in your room during the rally.
- Take care of your room and use all the facilities properly.
- Be careful with your valuables and respect and protect other people's property.
- If room damage occurs, notify BGSU staff right away.



WHEN YOU CHECK OUT

Please vacate your room **prior to the closing service at 9:30 a.m.**

Remove all personal items from your room. Remember to check the drawers!

Room trash and recycling should be neatly placed inside the trash cans and recycling bins provided in each room.

Please leave all the linens and towels in your room.

Place all keys, PEDs, and Prox Cards back into check-in packet (envelopes) for each participant.

Turn in all participants' keys, PEDs, and Prox cards to the front desk of the residence hall in which you are staying (unless otherwise directed during check-in).



TO KNOW & REMEMBER

CHECK OUT FAQs

The front desk isn't open, but I'm ready to check out. What do I do?

A key drop box is located near the front desk of each residence hall. If you are ready to check out, and the front desk of your residence hall is not open, please put your key and PED in your check-in key envelope, and place the envelope in the drop box.

- If you lost your check-in key envelope, please use one of the key envelopes provided for you near the drop box.

I lost my room key. How much does it cost to replace it?

Lost keys for Conklin, McDonald, and Offenbauer will result in a **\$35 fee**.

Lost keys for Centennial, Falcon Heights, and Founders will result in a **\$75 fee**.

I lost my PED/Prox card. How much does it cost to replace it?

Lost PEDs will result in a **\$10 fee**. Lost Prox cards will result in a **\$20 fee**.



WHAT? WHERE? WHO?

WHAT? WHERE? WHO?

EXHIBITS – STROH CENTER LOWER LEVEL

EXHIBITS	ABOUT
Bethany Lutheran College	Students love Bethany's safe hilltop campus that's within walking distance of thriving downtown Mankato. The close campus community allows you to form lasting connections with outstanding professors and lifelong friends. Bethany offers 25 majors, from Nursing to Psychology to Business.
California Lutheran Academy	We are a private, nationally accredited Christian school serving students and families in the greater Temecula Valley area and beyond. Our K-12 programs are centered on Christ and grounded in relationships, equipping students to rise.
Christian Family Solutions	Christian Family Solutions (CFS) offers faith-based mental health care for teens, families, and schools. With online and in-person counseling and resources, we help people navigate life's challenges with healing, help, and hope.
Conquerors through Christ	Conquerors through Christ helps Christians reject and resist pornography and recover from its wreckage. It can be difficult to find someone willing to talk about this common issue. We produce resources to help those who struggle with pornography or are hurt by the porn use of another.
Friends Network	"Ordinary people. Extraordinary mission." At Friends Network we empower, equip, and mobilize everyday people for personal, relational evangelism around the world. Is God calling you to the mission field? Visit www.friendsnet.org to learn more.
Koiné	Koiné marries 1,200-year-old hymns with modern instrumentation like Les Paul guitars and Steinway pianos. Since 2003, this Milwaukee-based group has grown into a global ministry, bridging the gap between traditional worship and a contemporary sound that resonates with audiences everywhere.

WHAT? WHERE? WHO?

EXHIBITS	ABOUT
Martin Luther College	Martin Luther College—more than a degree. More than “finding your purpose.” More than just a Christian community. It is being Knighted for Ministry. Teachers. Pastors. Staff Ministers.
Thai Village, Inc.	Thai Village provides training and handicraft jobs for people in Thailand who are in need of income and establishes Christian relationships with them. We exist to meet physical and spiritual needs in the community by connecting people to income generation, community programs, and the local church.
Time of Grace Ministry	Time of Grace points people to what matters most: Jesus. We tackle topics Christians need to talk about but often don’t. We use a variety of media (television, YouTube, books, and social media) to encourage people to love everyone God made and everything God wrote in the Bible.
WELS Campus Ministry	WELS Campus Ministry connects college students with local congregations and campus pastors who offer spiritual support, community, and encouragement. Campus Ministry can help you stay rooted in your faith in Jesus Christ and share it with others.
WELS Ministry to the Military	WELS Ministry to the Military works to make God’s Word and Sacrament available to actively serving military members and their families.
WELS Mission Journeys	WELS Mission Journeys provides an opportunity for all WELS members to walk together in the Great Commission. Through service opportunities in WELS mission fields at home and abroad, members can engage in Christian service through mission trips.
Wisconsin Lutheran College	Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee offers 65+ innovative academic pathways, 21 varsity sports, fine arts, and student life experiences in a Christ-centered community that equips students to grow in faith and serve with purpose. WLC prepares graduates for lives of Christian leadership.

WHAT? WHERE? WHO?

FREE TIME: 4:00–6:45 P.M.

- Exhibitors and Thai Village Store in the Stroh Center
- Choir rehearsal 4:15–5:00 p.m. in the Stroh Center
- Art – Work on your project with Abby in BTSU Room 315 (4:00–5:45 p.m.)
- Outdoor spaces University Lawn/BTSU Quadrangle, BTSU Oval (where the BGSU Letters are), Bell-Tower Lawn/Carillon Park, Intramural Fields
- **Don't forget to eat supper at your scheduled time and location!**

EVENING FREE TIME

Tuesday 8:30–10:30 p.m.

- Welcome to BGSU at the Doyt L. Perry Stadium – food and activities

Wednesday 7:00–9:30 p.m.

- One Sock concert – University Lawn
- Outdoor spaces University Lawn/BTSU Quadrangle, BTSU Oval (where the BGSU Letters are), Bell-Tower Lawn/Carillon Park, Intramural Fields
- Work on your art project with Abby in BTSU Room 315
- Student Recreation Center pool – available times are through the sign up – check with your Contact Youth Leader for your scheduled time in the pool!
- Perry Field House and outdoor Student Green Field Turf

Thursday 8:30–10:30 p.m.

- University Lawn – inflatables
- Outdoor spaces BTSU Quadrangle, BTSU Oval (where the BGSU Letters are), Bell-Tower Lawn/Carillon Park, Intramural Fields
- Work on your art project with Abby in BTSU Room 315
- Student Recreation Center pool – these times are through the sign up – check with your Contact Youth Leader for your scheduled time in the pool!
- Perry Field House and outdoor Student Green Field Turf

WHAT? WHERE? WHO?

RALLY WORSHIP MUSICIANS

Koiné

It's nothing new in Christian music for traditional songs to be re-shaped by the influences of culture and time. But perhaps it's the way Koiné is combining century-old hymns with a modern accompaniment that is causing people everywhere to take notice of what some in Milwaukee have known for years. Imagine a 1,200-year-old text and a 600-year-old melody, married with a Les Paul, Steinway piano, drums, and electric bass. With their arrangements, Koiné strives to find a unique balance between the familiarity of the classic hymn melodies and the raw instrumentation of the new arrangements.



Originally formed in 2003 as a worship band, Koiné quickly began to gain a grassroots following as requests for appearances and sales of their first album, *Koiné (Self-Titled)*, started to roll in.

Local events turned into regional tours. Regional tours turned into trips overseas. Part-time hobby turned into full-time ministry in 2008. Much of their music has a welcome home in traditional worship, but with a modern sound that anyone can identify with.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT HIGHLIGHTS

One Sock Concert

University Lawn – inflatables will also be available – 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Compline Service

Stroh Center – 9:45–10:15 p.m.



WHAT? WHERE? WHO?

WHAT? WHERE? WHO?

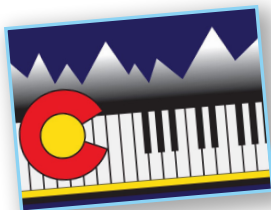


THURSDAY NIGHT HIGHLIGHTS

Colorado Keys Dueling Pianos

Dueling pianos is a unique and interactive musical performance where two exceptionally talented pianists engage with the crowd while playing a wide range of music genres spanning from classic rock and pop hits to beloved sing-alongs and chart-topping favorites.

With each note, the excitement builds as the pianists feed off the energy of the crowd, taking song requests, cracking jokes, and delivering electrifying performances that will have you dancing, singing, and cheering along all night long. Our dynamic duo takes center stage, captivating audiences with their impressive musical prowess, quick wit, and boundless energy.



WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Check your name badge to see which small group workshops you are registered to attend.

Youth Small Group Workshops

#	WORKSHOP TITLE	PRESENTER	LOCATION
Y1	Seasons of waiting – What is ahead of me? What will I be?	Mark Schroeder	Olscamp 101
Y2	NAP TIME: Rest in Jesus and take a nap.	Nate Wordell	Olscamp 101
Y3	It's Ok to Feel: Big Emotions. Better Conversations. Healthier Minds.	Greg Lyon	Union 202A
Y4	A Day in the Life of a Home Missionary	Jacob and Grace Ungemach	Olscamp 221
Y5	Who are you when nobody's watching?	Julius Buelow	Union 228
Y6	Truth and Lies	Phil Bischoff	Union 202B
Y7	Our Need for a Greater Story	Sam Jeske	Olscamp 111
Y8	Becoming Men After God's Own Heart, for young men	Paul Koester	Olscamp 113
Y9	Strong Without Apology, for young women	Megan Herkstroeter	Union 206
Y10	Starting a Spiritual Conversation	Dave Scharf	Union 202A
Y11	Three Kinds of Relationships, One Kind of Love	Karen Fischer	Education 115
Y12	Tasting the Fruits of World Missions	Ben Felgenhauer and Elise Ulman	Olscamp 115
Y13	The Backstage Pass: Gear, Grooves, and the Power of Music	Koiné	Stroh Center

WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Youth Leader Small Group Workshops

#	WORKSHOP TITLE	PRESENTER	LOCATION
L1	Why Youth Leaders Matter More Than Ever	Donn Dobberstein	Union 207
L2	Wonderfully Made, Fully Known: Where LGBTQ Matters Meet Jesus	Ben Dose	McLeod 210
L3	Passing the Baton – We run this relay race together!	Dan Lindner	McLeod 220
L4	Illustrations that Impact	Jon Enter	Olscamp 225
L5	Encouraging the Encouragers	Mary Heckendorf	Union 201
L6	The Backstage Pass: Gear, Grooves, and the Power of Music	Koiné	Stroh Center



RALLY SONGS

"CHRIST THROUGH US"

*Words and Music by Autumn, Tracy and Micah Fedke
Arranged by Koiné*

You made me before I ever knew your name
A perfect world you meant it to be
But I chose sin and then I needed rescuing
You chose your Son for me

Lost, alone and separated from your grace
Despite my sin, you came for me
At the cross, you reconciled me to yourself
You bought me back, you set me free

Refrain:

In all that we think, in all that we say
In all that we do to proclaim your name
Till we see your face and you call us home, let it be
Christ through us...

Give me power to show your truth and speak your name
So the world can clearly see
Make me an ambassador for you
So all see Christ in me

Refrain:

In all that we think, in all that we say
In all that we do to proclaim your name
Till we see your face and you call us home, let it be
Christ through us...

(Repeat)

Take my life and let it be...



"THE CALL GOES ON"

Words by Atticus Lawrenz, Benj Lawrenz, and Brian Davison

Music by Atticus Lawrenz

Arranged by Koiné

To the borderlines and the castaways
Where the sinners walk and the wicked play
The call goes on and on and on and on

In the rocky paths with the troubled souls
I am awakened

The call goes on and on and on

Hostile are the places we are sent

I'm "out of mind," convinced that One

The call goes on and on and on

Has died for all, that all might run

The call goes on and on and on

The flesh has been undone—new life has begun

Refrain:

Let them see, Christ in me

He carries me, I'll carry you

The old is gone, the new has come

Heaven's open wide for everyone

The call goes on and on and on

Through belief in Christ, we are reconciled

The Spirit awakens!

The call goes on and on and on

The flesh has been undone—new life has begun

Refrain:

Let them see, Christ in me

He carries me, I'll carry you

(Repeat)

The call goes on and on and on

(Repeat)

God made him who had no sin to be sin,

So that in him we might live

Christ in, Christ through, from me to you, made new,

So that in him all might live

WORSHIP

TUESDAY OPENING WORSHIP*

Christ Through Us: Reconciled

Worship Leader: Pastor Joel Russow,
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis.;
youth rally planning committee member

WEDNESDAY COMPLINE*

Christ Through Us: Courage

Worship Leader: Pastor Matthew Scharf,
Grace Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, Wis.

THURSDAY DEVOTION*

Christ Through Us: Committed

Worship Leader: Pastor Jonathan Bauer,
Good News Lutheran Church, Mount Horeb, Wis.

FRIDAY CLOSING WORSHIP*

Christ Through Us: Contentment

Worship Leader: Pastor Andrew Schwartz,
Christ the King Lutheran Church, Bremerton, Wash.;
youth rally planning committee member

Preacher: Pastor Snowden Gene Sims,
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio;
WELS Michigan district president

*at the Stroh Center



GROUP REFLECTION: TUESDAY, JULY 14

CHRIST THROUGH US: RECONCILED

God bless your reflection time as you encourage one another and are encouraged by God's Word! You may choose to spend more time on some questions than others or pursue conversations that arise from these questions or from the messages or workshops of the day. The important thing is that you spend time reflecting on God's Word, connect with each other, and close your day together in prayer.

Reflecting on the Day Together

- Go around the group and have each person share one highlight and one obstacle/challenge from your day. *Make sure only one person is talking at a time. Be loving and respectful while sharing and listening.*

Connecting God's Word to Our Lives

The rally theme, "Christ through Us," is based on the message of 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. Tonight's reflection walks through those verses.

- **2 Corinthians 5:14** – For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** – God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Choose one of the following to answer as you think about those verses:

- ◇ What would you say if a friend asked, "Why does Jesus' death actually matter?" Answer in one or two sentences.
- ◇ What would you say if a friend asked, "What's so great about being a Christian?" Answer in one or two sentences.

GROUP REFLECTIONS

- **2 Corinthians 5:15,16** – And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.
 - ◊ Think of someone you judged quickly. What did you think about them? What is something Jesus would want you to think about them?
 - ◊ Where do you spend most of your time? (school, work, online, etc.) What are ways you could live for Jesus in that place?
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
 - ◊ Christ's love not only compels us to look at others differently, but it also compels us look at ourselves differently. What is one negative thought you have had about yourself?
 - ◊ How does God describe you because of what Jesus has done? List as many descriptors as you can. (Reconciled, ...) Which descriptor is your favorite and why?
- **2 Corinthians 5:18,19** – All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

Jesus changed our status before God through his life, death, and resurrection. We are reconciled to God, and God does not count our sins against us. We receive God's forgiveness through the faith he created in our hearts by his Word. Respond to one of the following:

1. If a friend said, "I don't feel forgiven," what would you say first? What Bible verse or story would you share?
2. God's forgiveness is powerful! Think of a sin that bothers you. (You don't need to share it but just think about it.) Now, turn to someone next to you and assure them, "God does not count that sin against you. As Jesus' ambassador, I forgive you."

GROUP REFLECTIONS

Make sure that person does the same for you. Was it harder to say the words of forgiveness or to believe them when you heard them? Why do you think that is?

- **2 Corinthians 5:20** – We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.
 - ◊ As Christ’s ambassadors, we represent Jesus. Who is one person you could show Jesus to this week? What would you say or do to show them Jesus?

Closing with Prayer

Ask for any prayer requests and then close with a prayer. If there are no prayer requests, or if you would like the group to pray together, join in praying Martin Luther’s Evening Prayer below.

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.



GROUP REFLECTIONS

GROUP REFLECTION: WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

CHRIST THROUGH US: COURAGE

Reflecting on the Day Together

- Share one highlight and one obstacle/challenge from your day.
You might consider sharing a takeaway from a devotion, keynote, or workshop as your day's highlight. For example, what was an insight you gained or a favorite workshop you attended?

Connecting God's Word to Our Lives

Following Jesus and serving as his ambassadors is an amazing privilege! At the same time, following Jesus can be incredibly tough, especially when we face hardships for our faith. But we find comfort knowing Jesus is with us and that he supplies the courage we need to be his bold witnesses.

- We heard about the courageous faith of the three believers in the evening devotion on Daniel 3. (If you would like to refresh the details, read Daniel 3:13–25.) Why do you think they were willing to risk everything rather than compromise their faith? Why would or wouldn't that have been hard for you to do?
- Choose at least one of the following questions to discuss:
 1. What are some modern-day idols (anything that might compete with God for our attention, identity, or loyalty) that teens feel pressure to follow? How can you tell when something has become an idol in your life?
 2. Describe a real situation where it is hard to be a Christian. What would taking the easy way out look like? What would living with courageous faith look like?
 3. Why do you think it can be easier to care more about what people think than what God thinks? Where does that challenge show up in your life?
- Daniel 3:17 – The three men confessed to the king, “The God we serve is able to deliver us from [the blazing furnace], and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand.”

GROUP REFLECTIONS

God certainly delivered them! Nebuchadnezzar looked into the fiery furnace and said, "I see four men...unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods" (Daniel 3:25).

Imagine you were in the furnace with the three men and God rescued you. How do you think that moment would impact your trust in God? What would you want others to understand about God after that experience?

- **Complete the following statements.**
 - ◊ I could use more courage, especially when it comes to...
(Complete the statement by identifying a fear, pressure, or specific situation.)
 - ◊ I can be strong and courageous because God has promised me...
(Complete the statement by identifying a specific promise or truth from God's Word. If you are stuck, consider Joshua 1:9, Psalm 27:1, Romans 8:25–39, and 1 John 4:4).
- **Choose at least one of the following questions to discuss:**
 1. How does knowing God's promises and that God is with you change what you say or do in difficult moments?
 2. If someone looked at your life, what would they say about your faith? In what areas of your life might it be harder to notice your faith?
 3. Think of one specific situation in your life where it might take courage to follow Jesus. What could that look like in action?

Closing with Prayer

Ask for any prayer requests and then close with a prayer. If you would like the group to pray together, join in the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

GROUP REFLECTIONS

GROUP REFLECTION: THURSDAY, JULY 16

CHRIST THROUGH US: COMMITTED

Reflecting on the Day Together

- Share a best and weirdest from your rally experience.

Best: What was the best thing about your time at the rally?

Weirdest: What was something weird or odd that happened during your time at the rally?

Connecting God's Word to Our Lives

Believers are a committed family of faith. Society is filled with isolation, division, and fractured relationships, but God's people are united by Christ's reconciling love. They love, support, and encourage one another.

- **Read Acts 2:42–47.**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- Imagine you belonged to the early Christian church described in Acts 2 and someone asked you, "What is it like to belong to that church?" What would you say?
- Being a part of a church community that is devoted to God's Word and to loving each other is a wonderful blessing. Choose two of the following questions to answer:
 1. What's one part of the early Christian church in Acts 2 that you wish showed up more in your life or in your church? What is a small step you can take towards that?

GROUP REFLECTIONS

2. How can our church youth move from just “hanging out together” to really encouraging each other in faith?
 3. The rally provided opportunities to devote yourself to God’s Word. What is one specific Bible truth or message from the rally you don’t want to forget?
- Choose one of the verses below. Then use one of the options that follow to respond to the verse you selected.
 - ◊ **Romans 12:10** – Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.
 - ◊ **Galatians 6:2** – Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
 - ◊ **Ephesians 4:32** – Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
 - ◊ **I Thessalonians 5:11** – Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.
 - ◊ **Hebrews 10:24,25** – And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Option 1: What would this look like with a real person in your life? (You could even use these words as you respond: here’s what this looks like in action...)

Option 2: Share a specific time when you showed or someone showed you the kind of love the passage talks about. Why do those moments stick with us?

- As you think back to the rally overall, choose at least one of the following questions to answer:
 1. What is one thing from the rally you’re especially thankful for—and why does it matter to you personally?

GROUP REFLECTIONS

2. Who or what is on your prayer list as you leave the rally?
Be specific.
3. What surprised you or encouraged you about worshiping with and connecting with other Christian teens at the rally?

Closing with Prayer

Build a prayer of thanksgiving. The chaperone will begin the prayer, and then each person is encouraged to share one reason to give thanks to God. You could use the words below:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the messages we heard of “Christ for Us” and “Christ through Us” at this rally. Continue to strengthen us in faith and help us to treasure your great love for us in Christ. Help us seize opportunities and use our abilities to serve as your courageous ambassadors. Finally, we give you our thanks and praise. I personally would like to thank you for _____ in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

New International Version

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

PLATINUM SPONSORS



WISCONSIN
LUTHERAN COLLEGE

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

GOLD

TIME OF GRACE® 

SILVER

Bethany
LUTHERAN COLLEGE

BRONZE



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

TIME OF GRACE ▶▶

NOT TALKING IS NOT HELPING



Are you struggling with or do you have questions about something you're too embarrassed to talk about or feel God can't forgive? What does God say about "taboo" issues?

That is why Time of Grace exists—to dive in to those tough topics with an open Bible and show you how Jesus fulfills your greatest needs.

Visit our booth here at the WELS Youth Rally!



Follow Pastor Mike on **Instagram** and **TikTok** (@pastormikenovotny) and watch his *Taboo Questions* series on **YouTube**.

Being Knighted for Ministry is...



More than a degree.

More than “finding your purpose.”

More than just a Christian community.

Because you can find those anywhere.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

MLC is different.

BEING KNIGHTED FOR MINISTRY AT MLC IS...

- ▶ The moment a chapel full of voices shakes the room:
"He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!"
- ▶ Friends who are all-in, right beside you, mission-driven.
- ▶ Professors who know ministry, know you, and inspire you to bring your best.
- ▶ The rush of Call Day, when "someday" becomes right now.
- ▶ The humbling truth: God is sending you.

You're not just choosing a college.

AT MLC - YOU'RE BEING

Knights For Ministry



**MARTIN
LUTHER
COLLEGE**

mlc.wels.edu



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



WISCONSIN
LUTHERAN COLLEGE



The right college is where you can *discover all of you!*

It's a place to explore your purpose and passions, and to uncover your path. A place to grow in your faith. It's where you'll find your people - a connected, Christ-centered community that will embrace, encourage, and empower you now and stand by your side long after graduation.

Now see for yourself.



Scan the code above to unlock your custom WLC experience.
Tell us what you're into, and we'll send you an insider's look
at your major, your interests, and how you'll thrive here.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



ONE OF
Midwest's
TOP 20
REGIONAL COLLEGES
U.S. News & World Report, 2026

45+ *majors*

15 DUAL-DEGREE
PROGRAMS

#1 *residence*
halls IN
WISCONSIN
Niche.com, 2026

our students
COME FROM **30** STATES
& **4** FOREIGN COUNTRIES

10+
Weekly Worship
OPPORTUNITIES

21 VARSITY SPORTS
& **19** NCAA DIVISION
III SPORTS



WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
wlc.edu

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



The Place for Creative Christians

Bethany
LUTHERAN COLLEGE

bhc.edu

700 Luther Drive
Mankato, MN 56001



Celebrating 100 years
of excellence



Estelle Vlieger

Director of Admissions
evlieger@bhc.edu
Call or Text:
507-344-7722

 **CHRISTIAN FAMILY
SOLUTIONS**
Counseling Care & Services

REAL HELP. REAL HOPE.

When life feels overwhelming,
there's someone to talk to.

- Faith-based counseling
- Online or in-person
- Help for anxiety, stress, and more

Scan to get help
or learn more



ChristianFamilySolutions.org | 800-438-1772

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

FREE DEVOTIONAL

THE FIRST 40 DAYS



SCAN TO DOWNLOAD

CONQUERORS THROUGH CHRIST

&

Visit our booth to enter to WIN...

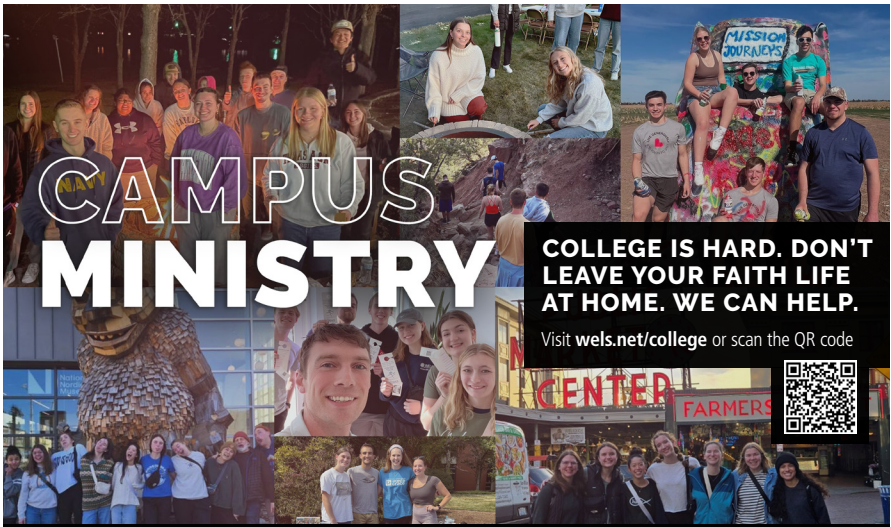


conquerorsthroughchrist.net

CAMPUS MINISTRY

COLLEGE IS HARD. DON'T LEAVE YOUR FAITH LIFE AT HOME. WE CAN HELP.

Visit wels.net/college or scan the QR code



wels.net/college

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Welcome To Campus!

Get **\$10** off
Your purchase of
\$50 or more



THANK YOU!

- Members of the 2026 rally planning committee
- Our extended rally committee: Kate, Russell, Joey, Noah, Nate and the Hope Team
- Michael, Anna, Abby, and the entire BGSU team
- Koiné, for leading us in worship
- Colorado Keys and One Sock, for their amazing concerts
- The Adams Group, for their AV innovations
- All our presenters and worship leaders
- Bethany Lutheran College, Martin Luther College, and Wisconsin Lutheran College for their sponsorship, staff, and collaboration
- All our sponsors and exhibitors for their presence and support of the rally
- Our designers Briana Lambrecht, Carolyn Barsch, and Joey Dovnik for their beautiful designs
- Everyone who helped make this rally possible
- And you, rally attendees, who make this event worthwhile!



CAMPUS MAP





@WELSYOUTHALLY



2026 WELS YOUTH RALLY

CHRIST THROUGH US



LEARN PLAY WORSHIP



WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive · Waukesha, WI 53188