



@WELSYOUTH RALLY

#WELSYOUTH RALLY2026



2026 WELS YOUTH RALLY

CHRIST THROUGH US

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-20

JULY 14-17, 2026

BOWLING GREEN UNIVERSITY, BOWLING GREEN, OHIO



WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

WELSYOUTH RALLY.NET

RALLY BASICS



2026 WELS YOUTH RALLY

CHRIST THROUGH US

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-20



IN 2026

JOIN US

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#WELSYOUTHRALLY2026

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.

WELSYOUTHRALLY.NET

View and download this and additional resources: group sign-up worksheet, Christian conduct covenants, medical release worksheet, and consent forms. Workshop descriptions will be available after February 1. If you have questions, contact the rally coordinator at youthrally@wels.net.

Online registration is organized
and run by Conference
and Event Services
Bowling Green State University

Anna Johnston
Registration Coordinator
wels2026registration@bgsu.edu

*All communication with BGSU will be
via the e-mail address above.*

REGISTRATION RUNS MARCH 9—MAY 29

Contact Youth Leaders must preregister their group members starting March 9. Once preregistered, group members may register starting March 21 until May 29.

**\$450 — EARLY-BIRD FULL PAYMENT RATE
UNTIL APRIL 30**

\$475 — MAY 1-29

RALLY HIGHLIGHTS

CHRIST THROUGH US

The theme of the rally comes from 2 Corinthians 5:18–20: “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. 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.”

God through Christ and Christ through us. In gratitude for the gracious gift of Christ’s righteousness, the believers of WELS joyfully take up this “Christ through us” calling.

RECONCILED IN CHRIST COURAGE COMMITTED CONTENTMENT

- ▶ Worship music by **Koiné**
- ▶ Opportunities to learn about different ministry and service options
- ▶ Workshops with a biblical perspective on timely teen topics
- ▶ Professional nightly entertainment on large and small stages
- ▶ No excursions at the Ohio rally—but lots of great adventures on campus!
- ▶ Time for fun and excellent BGSU dining with many yummy options!

A LETTER FROM WELS COMMISSION ON DISCIPLESHIP

The Lord’s Supper will be celebrated at the closing service of the youth rally. **This is a valuable opportunity to impress on young WELS members that the Lord’s Supper is a vital part of their spiritual lives, connecting them to God and strengthening their unity with one another.**

The vast majority of rally attendees are WELS teens, though some non-WELS youth also attend. This mirrors the reality in many WELS congregations on any given weekend—we expect and welcome non-WELS guests in worship. The celebration of the Lord’s Supper, combined with our doctrine of fellowship, naturally invites education and conversations with these guests. The rally is no different; it provides an additional opportunity to teach young WELS members how to speak about the Lord’s Supper with their non-WELS friends. For the WELS majority, it is also a unique chance to receive the Sacrament with a large group of peers sharing a similar age and stage of life.

We recognize that dynamics within youth groups vary. We encourage all groups to have early, open conversations about the Lord’s Supper at the rally—among pastors, youth leaders, parents,

WELS teens, and non-WELS teens. These discussions are especially important for groups that include non-WELS youth, groups that combine with others and may not have established relationships between teens and their surrogate leaders, and groups whose rally chaperones are not regularly active in the youth ministry. May these conversations be Christ-centered, gospel-focused, and blessed by the Spirit.

I pray that these conversations bear fruit. Please feel free to contact me for support as you prepare. We look forward to seeing you at the rally, growing together in grace, and uniting around God’s Word and sacrament.



PASTOR DONN DOBBERSTEIN

Director, WELS Commission on Discipleship
donn.dobberstein@wels.net

HOW REGISTRATION WORKS

WHO AM I?

CONTACT YOUTH LEADER (CYL)

The main point of contact between your church's group and the youth rally office, the CYL must attend the rally and be the first point of contact on site in case of emergency, discipline, or communication for all members of your group.

YOUTH LEADER (YL)

Age 20 or over with a passion for encouraging youth in their faith and a commitment to supervising youth entrusted to you.

YOUTH (Y)

As of the spring of 2026:

- ▶ Confirmed and completing eighth grade
- ▶ Graduating senior from high school
- ▶ Anywhere in between

Note: Adult/youth ratio must be 1 adult to 6 youth of the same gender at all times during the rally.

THE TIMELINE

STARTING MARCH 9: CONTACT YOUTH LEADERS (CYL)

Visit welsyouthrally.net/register. You will be directed to BGSU's registration site. CYLs start the registration process by fully registering themselves and saving spots for the total number of group members (Y and YL) attending the rally. It is best if you can do this between March 9–18.

STARTING MARCH 21: YOUTH (Y) AND YOUTH LEADERS (YL)

Once your CYL preregisters, it "opens the door" for group members to complete their registrations. Starting March 21, Y and YL go to welsyouthrally.net/register. You will be directed to BGSU's Conference & Event Services' registration site. Begin your registration by selecting your CYL from a list. Enter your personal and medical information (find a medical worksheet online to gather applicable details), choose workshops, and pay the full rally fee (\$450 until April 30, \$475 May 1–29). After successful registration, you will receive a confirmation e-mail.

BY APRIL 30: In order to take advantage of the early bird rate you must complete your full payment prior to April 30. If you select to "pay by check," your mailed envelope (with your check and the printed invoice from your registration) must be postmarked on or before April 30.

MAY 29: Registration closes, payment is due, no additions, no refunds after May 29. Substitutions are allowed of the same gender, attendee type (Y or YL), and anticipated lodging assignment at no charge until June 3. Contact BGSU directly for any substitution requests. Note: If you are requesting a substitution, payment will not be refunded to the original attendee. Payment for any increase in fees as a result of substitutions is due immediately. Payment must be received by BGSU's Conference & Event Services before check-in will be available for the rally.

JUNE 3: NO MORE SUBSTITUTIONS.

Cancellation Policy: Refunds will be provided less a \$100 cancellation fee March 9–May 29. Unfortunately, no refunds after May 29.

Find the group sign-up sheet, Christian conduct covenants, medical release worksheet, and consent forms online at welsyouthrally.net/register. After February 1, you will also find a list of small group workshops.



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JULY 14–17, 2026

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY BOWLING GREEN, OHIO

- ▶ Connect with peers from **all over the country.**
- ▶ Discover ways to **lead and serve** at your church and in your community.
- ▶ Raise your hearts and voices **worshipping with thousands.**
- ▶ **Attend workshops** with a biblical perspective on timely topics.
- ▶ Learn strategies to **share the saving gospel** with those around you.
- ▶ Explore what Christ can **do through you!**

REGISTRATION RUNS MARCH–MAY
\$450 EARLY–BIRD RATE UNTIL APRIL 30
\$475 MAY 1–29



WELSYOUTHALLY.NET

REGISTRATION FAQs

HOW DO WE GET A GROUP ORGANIZED?

CAN BE FOUND AT
WELSYOUTHALLY.NET

1. Gather interested Y and YL for a meeting. Explain the rally deadlines and make your own deadline dates so you can get organized. Direct potential rallygoers to **welsyouthally.net** for all the information in this book and so much more.
2. Choose a CYL who will be the main point of contact prior to and during the rally for your group.
3. Ask potential rallygoers to commit by your deadline date. Gather names, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers using our group sign-up template so you can communicate efficiently with them.
4. Starting March 9, the CYL can go online and preregister you and your group. Ideally, if your group is ready, please do this before March 18. You're off and running!
5. Starting on March 21, remind Y and YL to complete their registrations after the CYL has saved spots for them. It would be helpful to direct them to the medical release worksheet and small group workshops to help make their process more efficient.
6. Once rallygoers register, they will receive a confirmation e-mail.
7. Continue to communicate with rallygoers and parents to make sure they finish their registrations.
8. Plan your transportation to and from the rally. Check out our social media sites to see what other groups are doing. Meet prior to the rally to go through the Christian conduct covenants. Ask rallygoers and parents to sign these and return them to you. These are for you to keep and reference during the rally.

FOR ALL ATTENDEES

WHAT DO RALLYGOERS NEED TO KNOW TO COMPLETE REGISTRATION?

1. Explore **welsyouthally.net**, especially the "Register" tab to find forms listed below.
2. Y, use the medical release worksheet to gather necessary information.
3. Read the consent forms.
4. Research the workshops you would like to attend (after February 1).
5. Y and YL pay the same rally registration fee.
6. All CYL and YL must pass a background check.

WHAT AGES CAN ATTEND THE RALLY?

The rally is intended for teens finishing up eighth grade through graduating high school seniors, a five-year span. Some youth groups have younger and older kids involved. Please consider those cases individually. Contact the youth rally coordinator with questions: **youthrally@wels.net**.

CAN I BRING NON-WELS FRIENDS?

While the rally is more of a nurturing event and less of an outreach event, if you have non-WELS teens who are interested, talk to your pastor and the teen's parents. Would the teen benefit spiritually from attending? If yes, please bring them! Please note that we will celebrate the Lord's Supper during Friday's closing worship.

HOW MUCH IS IT? DO CYL, YL, AND Y PAY THE SAME RATE?

The registration fee for all rally attendees will be \$450 for early-bird registration (until April 30) and \$475 from May 1–29. This covers lodging from Tuesday night through Friday morning, seven meals, snacks, and all rally activities.

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Each group is responsible for its own transportation to and from Ohio. Connect with other youth leaders (**facebook.com/groups/welsyouthally**) to share your transportation needs or opportunities. If you are organizing busing and would like to offer it to the group, please pass along information to **youthrally@wels.net** for posting online at **welsyouthally.net**.

REGISTRATION FAQs

ARE THERE OFF-SITE EXCURSIONS?

No. There are no planned excursions this year.

WHAT ABOUT PIGGYBACKING?

Piggybacking (having a Y from another congregation join your group) is allowed. If at all possible, it's best to have YL and Y from the same congregation. However, we do realize that in some cases this is prohibitive for Y from smaller congregations. If your group has a piggybacker, simply register the Y with your church group. Please get to know each other. You will be responsible for this Y.

I HAVE SOMEONE WHO IS OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL BUT NOT 20. CAN THEY ATTEND?

Talk to your CYL and pastor to decide if this person should attend as a Y or if he/she can take the responsibility of a YL.

HOW DO WE HANDLE ROOMMATES?

The CYL will assign roommates. Rallygoers will be separated by gender. YL will be housed near but not in the same room with their Y. YL will stay with leaders from other churches. Married couples will not be allowed to room together. Any singles "left over" will be paired with those from another church. The residence hall rooms have single, twin beds. Most rooms house two. Bedding, pillow, and towels will be provided. BGSU will provide the CYL with a template to complete roommate assignments that must be returned to them.

CAN I ADD RALLYGOERS?

You may prior to May 29. Before you add rallygoers, consider if you have the proper ratio of one adult per six youth of the same gender. CYL, please e-mail wels2026registration@bgsu.edu with your name and the new total number you are bringing. It is helpful to know how many will be in your group total (CYL, YL, and L). Additions cannot be accommodated after May 29.

CAN I MAKE SUBSTITUTIONS?

Yes, substitutions of the same gender and type can be made until June 3. Please contact BGSU directly.

AS THE CYL, HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY GROUP MEMBERS ARE COMPLETING THEIR ONLINE REGISTRATIONS?

Ask them and encourage them to do so in a timely manner.

WHAT IF I AM HAVING PROBLEMS REGISTERING?

Contact Anna Johnston
Registration Coordinator

wels2026registration@bgsu.edu

All communication with BGSU will be via the e-mail address above.

IS THERE ONSITE REGISTRATION?

No, you must register online before May 29.

I REGISTERED, BUT NOW I CANNOT GO. CAN I GET A REFUND?

Refunds will be allowed (less a \$100 cancellation fee that covers BGSU's administrative fee) prior to May 29. No refunds for any reason after May 29.

WHAT IF I HAVE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?

You will have an opportunity to indicate your special dietary needs during registration. BGSU dining commonly accommodates many different needs. If you have additional concerns, connect with BGSU; they can connect you to the dietitian.

WHY ARE THERE BACKGROUND CHECKS?

WELS and BGSU have the utmost concern for the safety of all minors attending the rally. WELS has partnered with a trusted third-party vendor to perform background checks on all adults wishing to attend this event. Shortly after registration, prospective CYL and YL will be provided with additional information regarding the mandatory background check that will be performed. Adults who do not submit their information for a background check or do not pass the background check will not be able to attend the rally. The safety of your personal information is also of utmost concern to us. Results of background checks will only be available to the WELS Director of Human Resources and HR Generalist.

SCHEDULE

Tuesday check-in and Friday wrap-up times are locked in so you can plan your transportation accordingly. Daily schedules may be slightly adjusted.

TUESDAY, JULY 14

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 arena
8:30–10:30 p.m. Welcome to BGSU party
10:30–11:00 p.m. Church group reflection
11:00–11:30 p.m. In your room
11:30 p.m. Lights out

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

7:00–9:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:15–10:45 a.m. Keynote #1
11:00–12:45 p.m. Lunch
1:00–2:00 p.m. Small group workshops session #1/Recreational activities
2:30–3:30 p.m. Small group workshops session #2/Recreational activities
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
10:30–11:00 p.m. Church group reflection
11:00–11:30 p.m. In your room
11:30 p.m. Lights out

THURSDAY, JULY 16

7:00–9:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:15–9:45 a.m. Devotion
9:45–10:45 a.m. Keynote #2
11:00–12:45 p.m. Lunch
1:00–2:00 p.m. Small group workshops session #3/Group activities
2:30–3:30 p.m. Small group workshops session #4/Group activities
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 p.m. Church group reflection
11:00–11:30 p.m. In your room
11:30 p.m. Lights out

FRIDAY, JULY 17

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
11:00 a.m. Depart for home

#WELSYOUTHRALLY2026

CHECKLIST

YOUTH

- ☐ Youth Christian conduct covenant
- ☐ Medical release worksheet
- ☐ 2026 WELS International Youth Rally consent forms Youth

YOUTH LEADERS

- ☐ Youth leader Christian conduct covenant
- ☐ 2026 WELS International Youth Rally consent forms Youth leader

CONTACT YOUTH LEADERS

- ☐ Communicate with Youth Leaders
- ☐ Group sign-up sheet

EVERYONE (AFTER FEBRUARY 1)

- ☐ Small Group Workshops



**LEARN
PLAY
WORSHIP**



2026 WELS YOUTH RALLY

**CHRIST
THROUGH US**

All forms are available at welsyouthrally.net.
Questions? Contact our rally coordinator at youthrally@wels.net.