

Iowa Youth Gathering

November 19-21, 2010
Embassy Suites
Des Moines, Iowa



Welcome to “The Text” our 2010 Iowa Youth Gathering. Psalm 119 celebrates God’s Word. The Gathering will especially focus on “The Text” of verse 103, *“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth.”* The Psalmist takes God’s law and counts it as a blessing; and then he takes us to the gospel and counts it too as a freely given and sweet spiritual blessing.

In a world in which the text of the Word of God is under attack (illegal in over 50 nations and derided even by fellow Christians), the Psalmist might be maxed out in frustration. But still this little verse cries out to the world, “You have it wrong!” The wonderful soothing taste of God’s Word is like the sweetness of honey dripping on our tongues. The mere anticipation of God’s Word enlivens our souls. God’s Word unites the true church and lead us to cry out, “THE TEXT IS TRUE!” I pray that the Lord leads you and many others to attend this great gathering for the glory of Jesus Christ, for the strengthening of your faith, and for the celebration of youth ministry in your congregation and the District.

The gathering is a week earlier than previous years. Since groups will be arriving after a school day, the Friday registration time and Friday evening schedule will be adapted. We hope this change creates greater opportunities for participation.

This earlier date may provide challenges to a few youth that may be blessed to participate in all-state music events or state football championships that weekend. We encourage all youth to register in advance. If a youth is chosen to participate in a state high school event, the gathering will refund the registration for those youth.

This is an IOWA Lutheran youth event. We treasure our friendship in Christ with congregations and youth from Iowa District East and have included some of their youth ministry professionals on the gathering committee. Since the registration invitation is being shared with a bigger audience, we encourage prompt registration to assure a place at the gathering.

In anticipation of the November 2011 Youth Gathering in partnership with the Nebraska District, we have also shared an invitation to “The Text” with some of our youth ministry partners to the west.

Included in this mailing is all the information you will need to get prepared for the 27th annual Iowa gathering. We welcome groups who have come for decades. We welcome groups who are joining us for the first time. The information is also available at www.idwlcms.org and www.idwyg.org. Registrations must be sent to DCE Amy Schmidt and post-marked by October 4.

May each of us be blessed by the text of God’s Word in our personal lives and in our congregation worship and study. May we be blessed as we gather with “The Text” at the 2010 Youth Gathering.

Rev. David Dahlke, Gathering Dean (515-225-1623 or david@sotv-wdm.org)

Rev. Bob Riggert, Executive Assistant (515-576-7666 or bob.riggert@idwlcms.org)

Rev. Steve Hayden, Youth Services Chairman (515-961-4321 or revhayden@hughes.net)