

THE 2020 VIRGINIA SYNOD YOUTH ASSEMBLY - INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS,
PASTORS, PARENTS, AND YOUTH WORKERS

**What is
Youth
Assembly?**

The Virginia Synod Youth Assembly is the annual meeting of the *Virginia Synod Lutheran Youth Organization*, to which all Lutheran Youth in Virginia automatically belong. The Virginia Synod LYO is also the group in Virginia that relates to the ELCA Youth Core Leadership Team. Normally, the Youth Assembly meets at the same time as the Synod Main Assembly each year on the Roanoke College Campus. This year, however, with the Assembly being canceled, the in-person Youth Assembly is also canceled and being replaced with a "Virtual Youth Assembly"

This Year's Event is: Saturday, June 13, 2020, 1:00-3:30pm via Zoom Webinar

The Purpose of the Youth Assembly is :

- to give glory to God, celebrate the good news of the gospel, and nurture faith in the synod's young leaders.
- to conduct the business of the Synodical Lutheran Youth Organization, including election of the LYO Board.
- to hear and explore the story of the church's work beyond the congregations of the youth delegates and equip them to share and interpret those stories in their home contexts.
- to give voice to and encourage leadership among youth in the church.

This year's Virginia Synod Youth Assembly theme will be "Peace Be With You," based on Jesus' words to his disciples in John 20:19

Here is the schedule for June 13, 2020:

1:00 – Youth Assembly Activities (songs, worship, reports, presentations, Q&A, chat rooms)

3:00 – A Virtual Baccalaureate service to honor the graduating seniors of the Synod

3:15 – Youth Assembly Business (only the congregation's designated voting delegates to the Youth Assembly)

3:30 – Conclude

**Who Attends
the Youth
Assembly?**

Normally, each congregation of the Synod is entitled to send *two or three delegates* to the Youth Assembly. This year, however, we are opening the Youth Assembly to all 7th-12th graders who are members of our congregations across the Virginia Synod. There is no registration fee this year.

We will have a brief business section of our event toward the end of our Youth Assembly, and congregations are asked to **designate up to four of their youth in attendance as voting members** for that business section of the event.

No adult advisors from the congregation are required to attend.

**What is the
Lutheran Youth
Organization
(LYO) Board?**

The Virginia Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Board consists of seven youth members – one each in grades 9-12 elected by the Youth Assembly, an 8th grader appointed by the Board, a multi-cultural representative appointed by the Board, a definitely-abled representative appointed by the Board – and three adults appointed by the Synod's Youth Ministry Committee, all of whom serve for one-year terms between annual assemblies. *The youth members of the Board* are elected at each youth assembly for one-year terms from candidates nominated by their home pastors or congregation presidents, **using the**

nomination form that is available on the synod website. The 12th grade Board member becomes the president of the Board (which entails some additional responsibilities, such as representing Virginia to the annual ELCA Youth Leadership Summit, reporting to the Main Assembly, and being present where possible at the other youth events throughout the year), and the 11th grade Board member becomes the vice-president. The basic commitment of Board members is to attend Board meetings over the course of the year (no more than four) and to attend the next year's

assembly. **This expectation should be made clear to candidates before they are nominated.** Use the "Nomination Form" ONLY if a youth from your congregation is being nominated for the LYO Board for the upcoming school year. Nominees will be sent or may download the additional information form which they must complete and return to the Synod Office so that it can be made available to Youth Assembly Delegates. It includes a section that must be reviewed with the nominee. In addition to the nomination form itself, please notice that there is a reference form to be filled out by a congregational leader.

**Other Information
About the Youth
Assembly.**

- Only registered youth in grades 7-12 and adult invitees will be allowed to attend the Youth Assembly.
 - After registering using the online form, participants will receive additional information via email about how to log onto the event, including an access code.
 - Participants will be invited to complete a survey form regarding participation in the "Chat Room" discussions that are part of the event.
- Since we are not meeting in-person, many of our usual expectations do not apply, but we will still require participants to adhere to our general expectations for respectful interaction, which does not allow any abusive or inappropriate language.

**Need More
Information?**

If you have additional questions about the Youth Assembly or about the Virginia Synod LYO Board, please contact:
The Rev. Dave Delaney
Virginia Synod, ELCA, PO Box 70, Salem VA 24153 delaney@vasynod.org
(540) 389-1000 (office); (540) 529-6893 (cell)

John 20:
~~COVID~~19
"PEACE BE WITH YOU"