

**2016 WESTERN NORTH DAKOTA
SYNOD
LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION
GATHERING
OCTOBER 20-22, 2016
Ramada Hotel, Bismarck, ND**

**GPS
(God's Positioning System)**

***"In their hearts humans plan their course,
but the LORD establishes their steps."***

Proverbs 16:9



SPECIAL GUESTS

Tony Memmel, Thursday and Friday Evening Presenter



Tony Memmel is a songwriter and performer with unique charisma and creativity. Though he was born missing his left forearm, he taught himself to play the guitar by constructing a self-made cast out of Gorilla Tape that secures a guitar pick to his arm. Flawlessly, he picks and strums his guitar, and sings his songs with his subtle, yet powerful voice. Even in a busy room, people will pause to listen and take a photo of the man on stage.

With powerful, personal lyrics and well-crafted melodies, his music stands alone. Memmel often says, "I don't want to be a good guitarist with one hand, I want to be a great guitarist and songwriter, period." Applying this attitude to his craft earned him the 2013 WAMI Award for Singer-Songwriter of the year. He's earned write-ups in the Associated Press, CNN, Boston Globe, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and Chicago Tribune.

Between 2009-2014, Memmel independently organized and financed eleven national tours, performing in forty-four states. He works tirelessly to maintain a genuine, grassroots following, and he is a highly sought after performing musician, speaker, and clinician. Tony Memmel has a work ethic, talent, and personality that you do not see every day

A Bachelor's Degree in music, training as a classical vocalist, and his aforementioned accomplishments as a singer-songwriter have generated exciting, rare collaborative opportunities, and performances. Memmel was commissioned to compose symphonic and choral orchestrations of his music. He's also been an Artist in Residence with the Madison Youth Choirs, and performed at the Superdome in New Orleans for 35,000 people at the ELCA National Youth Gathering.

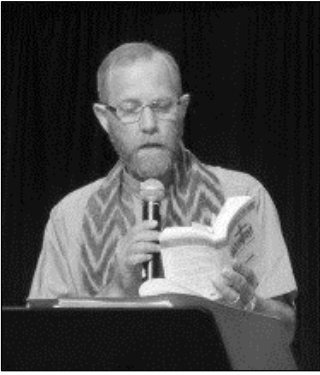
Mandy & Raychel, Friday Morning Presenters



Coach Mandy B. Anderson and Coach Raychel Chumley often present together. As best friends for over 20 years, authors, podcast co-hosts, speakers, entrepreneurs, and co-founders of Big Blue Couch Coaching in Bismarck, there is a magical thing that happens when these two powerhouse women walk on stage and speak. They have a unique ability to be vulnerable and connect with their audience in a way that is real, raw, and unforgettable.

Together they will be presenting a session on Friday morning entitled "Labels & Lies." This is a powerful interactive session that shows how we tell ourselves lies and wear labels that others have said and how that stops us from being all that God designed us to be.

Bishop Mark Narum, Synod Bishop



Rev. Mark Narum serves as Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod. He cares deeply about helping Lutherans in our synod engage in God's mission of sharing Christ's love with our communities, through service, words, and actions. Mark will preach at our opening worship.

Rev. Bob Caranicas, Chaplain



Pastor Bob is the youth pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Bismarck, where he has served for the past three years. He lives west of Mandan and has one spouse, three daughters, one son, one dog (a three

year old Pit Bull named Leia), three horses, and various woodland creatures that inhabit his property. He also have three tattoos and a '99 Victory. He loves to go on camping, canoe, backpack trips with the youth of GSLC and the friends that they bring along

The GLUE, Worship Band

Staff from our synod's four Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Sites will lead us in worship and opening music each day.



WORSHIP OFFERINGS

A cash offering will be received during the opening and closing worship services and will be equally divided between each of our synod's four Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Sites.

*IN-KIND OFFERING

We will be working with **Bismarck's** Community Action Program in collecting items for **the Backpacks for Kids program**. Backpacks for Kids was developed to address the need for food for children in need who are served breakfast and lunch while attending school during the week, but do not have adequate food over the weekends.

Backpacks are filled with "kid-friendly" foods such as cereal, granola/yogurt bars, fruit cups, applesauce, pudding, canned dinners, peanut butter, jelly and bread. Backpacks are delivered to the schools on Friday or the last day of each school week. The school distributes them to children in need and the children return the backpacks to the school the following week to be refilled. Community Action works together with the schools to determine who is in need of the backpacks.

Kid Friendly, Easy Open Food that does not require cooking and financial donations are accepted for this program. Donations will be gathered on Thursday evening and Friday morning and delivered to Community Action on Friday afternoon during the service project.

SERVANT EVENT

The Adult leader will receive an e-mail following the registration deadline with your Service Project Assignment. The Local Planning Team is working with agency partners to determine the exact service projects. Participants will be assigned service projects at agencies throughout the Bismarck Community on Friday afternoon. If you are traveling with another group, please be sure to indicate that on your registration so you can be assigned projects in the same vicinity. If your site assignment includes any special instructions, these will be e-mailed to the primary adult advisor for your group.

ACTION TRACKS

Participants can participate in 2 "Action Track" sessions each night of the gathering. Participation in the action tracks is expected. We'll have a great mix of activities to choose from, including informational sessions and interactive sessions that will require you to get up and MOVE! A list of Action tracks will be posted on the Gathering website shortly before the Gathering.

TALENT NIGHT & GALLERY

The LYO Board will host a Talent Night, on Friday, featuring the talented gathering participants. A limited number of spots will be available and filled in the order that forms are received at the event. All genres of entertainment are encouraged-poetry, song, dance, video, skits, music. Anyone interested in showcasing their visual art (photography, paintings, etc.) is encouraged to bring those to be displayed in the Spirit Garage.

NIGHTLIFE

THURSDAY NIGHT Options:

Rock Band Tournament, Bingo, Mixers, Photo Booth, Games & More . . .

FRIDAY NIGHT Options:

Four Square Tournament – The tradition continues! Dance, Photo Booth, Mixers, Games and More . . .

Meals

The following meals will be provided during the Gathering:

| | |
|----------|--------------------|
| Thursday | Dinner |
| Friday | Breakfast & Dinner |
| Saturday | Breakfast |

Friday and Saturday lunches will not be provided as part of the gathering.

Any other snacks or pizza that may be ordered in will be at the expense of the individual(s).

HOUSING

- During the Gathering, registrants will be housed TWO OR FOUR per hotel room. Adult advisors will be housed in rooms with other adult advisors. Female youth will stay with other female youth and male youth with other male youth. The only exception is a parent may request to stay with their child. You will be asked to provide room assignments on the registration form. If you request special accommodations such as a single room there will be an additional fee.

If you are traveling with another group, please indicate that on your registration form to assist in making housing assignments.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE:

You will find a link at:

www.wndsynod.org/LYO

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS:

- Registration should be completed by the congregation as a group.
- When you open the registration link, you will be asked to enter the primary adult advisor for your group. Please enter this information first, then you will be able to add up to 30 additional participants (youth and adult). If you need to register more than 30 participants, please submit a second registration under another adult advisor's name. **Please remember, ELCA policy requires a 7:1 ratio of youth per advisor.** One advisor is required for every 7 youth. Advisors must be at least 21 years of age or employed by the congregation whose group they are traveling with.
- You will be asked to provide room assignments on the registration form. The lodging cost is included in the cost of registration. If you request special accommodations such as a single room there will be an additional fee.
- Please include a t-shirt size for each member of your group.
- Once you have completed your registration, please **print the confirmation e-mail** and **mail it along with a check** made out to "WND Lutheran Youth Organization" to:

**WND LYO GATHERING
PO Box 370
Bismarck, ND 58502**

REGISTRATION FEE: \$150.00 per person.

- (All adult advisors are required to pay the registration fee.)
- A **late fee of \$20/person** should be included with registrations entered after **September 30 2016.**
- The Final Registration Deadline is October 7, 2016.**

*Phone registrations will **NOT** be accepted. If you need assistance, please contact Beth Anderson at 701-223-5312 or beth@wndsynod.org.*

NECESSARY FORMS:

The following forms must be brought by the advisor to the Gathering:

Code of Conduct Form

- Complete 1 form per participant.
- Please read and discuss this with your LYO Gathering group. **Each participant, adult and youth, must sign the Code of Conduct and bring it to the Gathering.**
- **BREAKING THE CODE OF CONDUCT AT THE GATHERING CAN RESULT IN BEING SENT HOME, AT PARENTAL OR INDIVIDUAL EXPENSE.**

Medical Form

- Complete 1 form per participant
- **ADULT ADVISORS – PLEASE KEEP THESE WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES.**

POLICIES OF THE WND LYO GATHERING

- Age:** Participants must be in ninth (9th) – twelfth (12th) grade in the current school year.
- 7:1 Groups:** All participants must register as part of a 7:1 group. For every 7 youth there must be one Adult Advisor, an individual who is at least 21 years of age or employed by the congregation whose youth they are supervising.
- All Gathering participants will wear a Gathering Identification Wristband throughout the duration of the Gathering.** Entrance to all Gathering events is gained by wearing the wristband.
- Refunds:** \$100 of the \$150 registration will be refunded if requested by September 30, if the request is made in writing to the registrar. (\$50 is non-refundable.) **NO REFUNDS AFTER September 30.**
- Substitutions:** Participant names may be substituted, if done so in writing and submitted to the registrar by October 15th.
- Hotel Services:** Phone calls and room service or other hotel service charges are not included in Gathering registration costs and therefore are the responsibility of the occupants of the rooms, and must be paid before checking out. **NOTE:** Our covenant includes that all Gathering participants will interact with hotel staff in a positive and polite manner, as well as with all other hotel guests.
- Adult Leaders:** Please plan to participate in the Gathering schedule. Adult Leaders are expected to assist Gathering staff and planners, as well as hotel staff, in keeping our youth involved in the scheduled activities of the Gathering, and interacting with their group in a leadership capacity.
- Male and female youth** cannot be in a hotel room with doors closed without an adult advisor chaperoning them.

WND LYO SYNOD CONVENTION AND VOTING MEMBERS

The WND Synod LYO holds its conference elections and annual synod convention during the annual Youth Gathering. Each congregation is asked to designate two youth as voting members, one male and one female.

ELECTIONS:

- **There is no campaigning of any kind.**
- Each congregation is asked to select 2 representatives to serve as voting members. These two voting members may participate in the election of conference representatives and board officers. Each congregation will receive 2 wristbands at registration to designate their voting members.
- If a youth is interested in any of the offices, please have them fill out the nomination form and bring it to the gathering. These elections are open to youth members of ELCA congregations of the Western North Dakota Synod who are in the 9th, 10th, and 11th grades **ONLY**. Candidates must commit to attending four meetings per year for two years.

CONFERENCE ELECTIONS:

Gathering participants break out in smaller groups on Friday morning in order to convene their Conference Election. Each Conference has a youth representative on the WND Synod LYO Board. That person is the convener of the Conference Election. Each conference also has an adult advisor to the WND LYO Board; that person is elected at the fall gathering of their respective conference. Conference representatives may serve one 2-year term, and the position is open to youth between the ages of 14-18 and/or in grades 9-11 who are members of ELCA congregations in your respective conferences. **This year, elections will be held for representatives from the Badlands, Heart River, Turtle Mountain and Upper Missouri Conferences.**

SYNOD LYO OFFICER ELECTIONS:

Elections will be held for vice president and Secretary on Friday. Voting members from each congregation may cast ballots for the vice president and secretary at the times noted on the schedule. Members must have their wristbands to cast their ballot.

2016 NOMINATION FORM
(See Position Descriptions on Back)

Elections will be held for vice-president and secretary of the WND Lutheran Youth Organization. Conference elections will also be held for representatives from the Badlands, Heart River, Turtle Mountain and Upper Missouri Conferences. If a youth is interested in any of the offices, please have them fill out this nomination form and return it with your registration form to the registrar or bring it to the gathering. These elections are open to youth members of ELCA churches in the Western North Dakota Synod who are in the 9th, 10th, and 11th grades ONLY. **Candidates must commit to attending four meetings per year for two years.**

NOMINATIONS FOR WND Synod LYO Board

MARK ONE: ____ VICE PRESIDENT (2 year-term – 1 year as vice president,
then 2nd year as President of the LYO Board)
____ SECRETARY (2 years)
____ CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE (2 years)

NAME: _____ CHURCH/CITY: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CONFERENCE: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

YEAR IN SCHOOL: _____

NAME OF PARENT(S): _____

PARENT EMAIL: _____ PARENT PHONE: _____

1. Describe your Congregation/Ministry Involvement: _____

2. Describe your involvement in school/community activities: _____

3. Briefly explain why you would like to serve in this way: _____

COMMITMENT CLAUSE: I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS POSITION IS FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM BEGINNING IN October 2016 and ending in October 2018. I understand that part of my commitment to this LYO board includes a willingness to invest my time. Serving in this position involves attending four meetings a year. I hereby make a commitment to be present at all these meetings and carry out my responsibilities as a member of this board.

Signature _____ Date _____

NO CAMPAIGNING OF ANY KIND ALLOWED

| |
|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">POSITION DESCRIPTIONS FOR LYO BOARD OFFICERS & CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES</p> |
|---|

VICE PRESIDENT

The synod LYO vice president is elected to a two-year term on the WND Synod LYO Board, serving the first year as vice president then transitioning into a second year serving as president of the Western North Dakota Synod LYO Board.

Expectations of the Vice President:

- Encourage all youth of the synod to grow in their faith and participate in the life of the congregation, synod, and wider church
- Encourage and support all LYO Board members
- Acts in the absence of the president, assuming the responsibilities of the president
- Supports the president by accepting duties and responsibilities assigned.
- Assist in the planning and promotion of the annual WND Synod LYO Gathering.
- Attend all meetings of the LYO Board (usually 3 times per year, and the fall gathering)

Expectations of the President:

- Encourage all youth of the synod to grow in their faith and participate in the life of the congregation, synod, and wider church
- Encourage and support all LYO Board members
- Preside over all meetings of the WND Synod LYO Board and business meetings of the gathering
- Work with Board advisor to prepare agendas for all meetings of the LYO Board
- Represent the WND Synod LYO Board at functions of the synod and the ELCA, such as the Western North Dakota Synod Assembly, synod council meetings, and national gatherings of synod youth organization presidents.
- Submit reports to the WND Synod Assembly and the WND Synod Council.
- Attend all meetings of the LYO Board (usually 3 times per year, and the fall gathering)

SECRETARY

The synod LYO secretary is elected to a two-year term on the WND Synod LYO Board.

Expectations of the Secretary

- Encourage all youth of the synod to grow in their faith and participate in the life of the congregation, synod, and wider church
- Encourage and support all LYO Board members
- Keep accurate minutes of all board meetings and record all actions of the annual gathering.
- Send Advance notices reminding all board members of upcoming meetings.
- Handle correspondence, as needed, for the organization
- Assist in the planning and promotion of the annual WND Synod LYO Gathering.
- Attend all meetings of the LYO Board (usually 3 times per year, and the fall gathering)

CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE

Conference Representatives are elected to a two-year term on the WND Synod LYO Board.

Expectations of Conference Representatives:

- Encourage all youth of the synod to grow in their faith and participate in the life of the congregation, synod, and wider church.
- Encourage and support all LYO Board members.
- Assist in the planning and promotion of the annual WND Synod LYO Gathering.
- Communicate with the congregations of their respective conference,
 - Encourage congregations in their support of youth in ministry in their communities.
 - Encourage congregations to participate in synod and national youth events.
 - Promote the annual gathering within their conference.
- Attend all meetings of the LYO Board (usually 3 times per year, and the fall gathering)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**WND LYO GATHERING
OCTOBER 20-22, 2016– Bismarck, ND**

Participant's name _____

Congregation, City _____

Grade __9 __10 __11 __12 __Adult Leader **Gender** __Male __Female **T-shirt Size** _____

Please Note Any Dietary Restrictions or Special Accommodations necessary: _____

CODE OF CONDUCT

As a participant of the Western North Dakota Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Gathering, I agree to:

- **exhibit the conduct and behavior** of one who follows Jesus Christ.
- **Participate** in all scheduled events.
- **Abide by curfew** times and respect others' rights to quiet at stated quiet times.
- **Show respect** for myself and all other participants of this event as well as the facility we use, the people who work there, and the community that is hosting us.
- **NOT to bring or use alcohol or other non-prescribed drugs** including tobacco products.
- **Not to bring any weapons of any kind** to the event.
- **Not to use offensive language.**
- **Not to engage in sexual activity.**
- **No boys in girls' room and no girls in boys' rooms** without an Adult Advisor present. Please meet up in public spaces.
- **Keep my cell phone on silent** during all activities of the event.
- **Have Fun!**

A warning will be given for breaking the covenant about:

Respecting others Curfew Participation in the event Language

The participant will be sent home and/or suspended from future synodical events for repeatedly breaking the covenant items above or the following:

Illegal Drugs, alcohol or tobacco products Sexual activity Leaving the property without adult permission

Western North Dakota Lutheran Youth Organization Board and Adult Advisors have the final say in the interpretation and enforcement of the Code of Conduct. If a participant is to be sent home, he or she will be financially responsible for any costs incurred.

I recognize that I am joining the Christian Family and Community. I agree to abide by this Code of Conduct Covenant while I am a member of this community. I understand that if I break this covenant, I may be sent home at my parents' expense.

Participant's signature _____

Parental/Guardian signature (if participant is registered as a youth participant):

Turn this form in at registration. Please keep a copy for yourself and your youth.

**WESTERN NORTH DAKOTA SYNOD LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION GATHERING
OCTOBER 20-22, 2016 – Ramada Hotel, Bismarck, ND**

This completed form (one for each participant) must be with the adult advisor at all times.

Participant's Name _____

As parent/guardian of the above named minor, I hereby grant permission for my son/daughter to participate in the **2015 Western North Dakota Synod LYO Gathering**, in **Bismarck, ND** held **October 20-22, 2016**.

Photo Release

I hereby give permission to WND Synod LYO to take photographs and/or videos of me or my child. I consent to the use of such materials for promotional purposes by WND Synod LYO.

Medical Release

While every attempt is made to make the Western North Dakota Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Gathering a safe and fun experience, there is always the chance that participants will need medical care. Accidents can and do happen.

I grant permission for any adult chaperone with our group or event coordinators to take whatever steps may be necessary to obtain emergency care as warranted for the wellbeing of my son/daughter. These steps may include but are not limited to the following:

- Attempts to contact a parent or guardian
- Attempts to contact youth's physician
- Seek medical examination/ treatment for injuries/ condition by medical professional

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ Zip _____

Home (____) _____ Cell (____) _____ Work (____) _____

Emergency Contact Person: _____

(This person will be notified if parent/guardian is unavailable.)

Home (____) _____ Cell (____) _____ Work (____) _____

Medical Insurance Company Number _____

Medical Insurance Policy Number _____ Group Number (if applicable) _____

Name of Policy Holder _____ Policy Holder's Date of Birth _____

Medications being taken/dosage/frequency:

List ALL Allergies (food/meds/pets/etc.):

Date of last Tetanus shot _____

List any special dietary needs

Please state any additional health, emotional or other conditions of which we should be aware

My signature below indicates that I understand and agree to the policy and terms listed above and agree that any expenses incurred in necessary emergency or other medical treatment will be borne solely by the youth's medical coverage and/or family. I will not hold any leader or organization liable for any injury or accident.

Participant Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature (if participant is under 18)

Date