WINTERFEST

Building Authentic Christian Community

REGISTRATION PACKET CONTENTS:

- Flyer, suitable for physical posting
- Social Media image & language that can be saved for use on Facebook/Instagram
- Bulletin inserts that you can reproduce for congregational use
- All other registration materials you'll need for registration can be found on the synod website at https://www.lss-elca.org/winterfest/. Those include:
  - Group Housing form
  - Event Covenants and NEW Medical Forms *(can be filled out online)*

WHAT IS WINTERFEST?

January 8-10, 2027, at the Wyndham Resort in Lancaster. Winterfest is the Lower Susquehanna Synod-wide retreat for high school youth in grades 9-12, and college-aged young adults. Participants attend large group gatherings with singing and engaging speakers, and interactive activities as well as learning sessions guided through thematic material led by trained staff. Along with the various learning opportunities, we build community through a variety of social events, at meals, and lots of time for meeting and making new friends. Participants come away with some great memories, friends, and faith moments.

DO ADULTS ATTEND AS CONGREGATIONAL ADVISORS?

We'd prefer one adult for every seven youth, minimum. **You may send more than that.** However, we do have congregations that can send only one adult, and we will NOT exclude a group from registering if they have only one adult advisor. Adult advisors are critical in helping youth unpack and discuss what they are learning and experiencing. **We prefer advisors to be 21 years of age or older.** It will assist us greatly in 2027, if you have same-gendered adults or married adult couples attending as advisors, since we can then room you together in one room, to save space. If you do attend alone, you may be housed with a same-gendered adult from another congregation. **However, you may opt for a single room for a $80 upcharge.** *(we do try to honor special housing requests for adults, and will work with cisgendered and transgendered adults, to create a sense of hospitality and welcome for all)*

WHAT'S IT COST?

Cost for the event is $249.00. This price includes overnight stays on Friday & Saturday evening, Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner as well as Sunday breakfast. A $50, per person non-refundable deposit is due at the time your congregation. registers. You may register online at: https://www.lss-elca.org/events/winterfest2027/. You'll want the participant's name, email address, phone number, and shirt size at the time you register. You'll also need to decide if you are paying online, whether you will be paying just the deposit, or if you are paying in full at the time of registration. There are both options for registering with the 'deposit only,' or registering with the 'pay in full' option. Be sure to choose the correct option for youth, adult advisors, and young adult registrants.

You may register your participants online, and opt to be 'Invoiced,' and mail us a deposit check.

You may pay the deposit electronically at the time of registration, or send a deposit check for your group to the synod office at:
Lower Susquehanna Synod
Office for Children, Youth & Family Ministry
1959 Market Street
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Once you have registered, please download and fill out the **Group Housing Form,** found on the website. Be sure to include congregation name and city, and lead adult advisor's name, email and phone contact information on your list. You may scan and email this list, or mail to Office for Children, Youth and Family Ministry, 1959 Market Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011. You may include your deposit check with this form if you have opted to be 'invoiced' for your deposit payment at the time you registered.

Your congregation's registration is not complete, until we have received your deposit

You must submit a medical form and covenants, plus the new waiver required by the Wyndham Resort for ALL who are attending, at the time of event check-in **ON-SITE, on January 8**. Again, these forms do not need to accompany the deposit mailing but can now be printed off the synod website: https://www.lss-elca.org/winterfest/, and brought along to the event registration at the Wyndham.

Please NOTE: **Our Medical Form is NEW!** There is a link to a fillable document on the website. We suggest that congregation leaders share the link with parents. Encourage them to go to the link, fill out the form online and then email it to you. Collect the digital forms and when you have all your group forms, post those to our new Google forms file at: https://forms.gle/AnonvaEGSv8ScBXw9. Any forms not loaded to this Google file in advance must be printed and brought to the event. PLEASE, DO NOT ask parents to load their child's individual forms to the Google site. Instead, collect the forms and load your group's forms together. You can load up to 10 forms at one time.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

1. Simply collect the names, email addresses, phone numbers, and shirt sizes of the young people and adults who wish to participate. Register in the online portal: https://www.lss-elca.org/events/winterfest2027/.
2. Fill out the Group Housing Form. Scan and email to croberts@lss-elca.org, or mail those forms to the Lower Susquehanna Synod, Office for Children, Youth and Family Ministry at 1959 Market Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011
3. Send parents the link to the new Medical Form to fill out online.
4. Then, print out the event covenants, child abuse disclosure forms, and hotel waiver form, distribute them and get them filled out before the event.

HOW WILL I KNOW OUR REGISTRATION IS OFFICIAL?

Once we receive online registration, deposit, and Group Housing List, we'll send a confirmation email to the lead advisor for the group.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Monday, December 7, 2026.

Registrations accepted on a first-come, first-served basis!