



Forgiven

2021 Conferences

North Dakota State University
Fargo, ND
June 29-July 2, 2021

Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO
July 6-9, 2021

Calvin University
Grand Rapids, MI
July 20-23, 2021

Concordia University Texas
Austin, TX
July 27-30, 2021

Conference Information

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“If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven.” (John 20:23)

“I forgive you.” The three most powerful words in the universe. They don’t just change the universe for someone. They change someone’s eternity. They change your eternity!

From His Cross, Jesus said, “It is finished” (John 19:30). His once-for-all death is yours, made yours, and is delivered into your ears, your heart, soul, mind, and strength with those three words: “I forgive you.” His resurrection from the dead is also yours. Not just yours in your Baptism—once is never enough for Jesus—the forgiveness (justification, innocent verdict) of His resurrection is also made yours through those words: “I forgive you.” Jesus delivers through those words all the benefits of His death and resurrection to all who hear and believe them; “He who by grace the Word believes The purchase of His blood receives” (LSB 614:6).

Forgiveness of sins in His Name is everything to Jesus. He sends out pastors to deliver those three eternity-changing words all over the world. He sends your pastor to deliver them to you. If you have sins, even a specific sin, your pastor’s there to deliver Jesus’ forgiveness for it. It’s not just your pastor, either. You, too—yes, you! You were baptized and gifted all the people in your life so that “if your brother sins against you seven times a day and returns to you seven times saying, ‘I repent,’ you will forgive him” (Luke 17:4).

“I forgive you.” Powerful words. Jesus’ words. His words for you through “The minister whom Christ has sent” (LSB 614:5). Also His words for others through you. These words won’t just change your summer or transform your daily life as a baptized child of God. With these three words, Jesus changes your eternity.

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Events Policies

Registration

1. Age Definitions

All individuals attending a Higher Things event must be registered, including infants and toddlers. Neither Higher Things nor the event site are responsible for providing any additional bedding, pillows, mattresses, cribs, etc. Registration types and fees are as follows:

INFANT: Ages 0-1 at the time of the conference. Cost of registration is \$120 and the child MUST room with a parent (not necessarily of the same sex). This is a flat fee throughout the whole registration season (no early bird rate or late fee).

TODDLER: Ages 2-4 at the time of the conference. Cost of registration is \$200 and the child MUST room with a parent (not necessarily of the same sex). This is a flat fee throughout the whole registration season (no early bird rate or late fee).

CHILD: Ages 5 -10 at the time of the conference. Cost of registration is full price and the child MUST room with parent of the same sex. This is a flat fee throughout the whole registration season and will remain at the early bird rate for that year.

YOUTH: Ages 11-17 at the time of the conference. One full registration fee must be paid for every youth age 11 and over at the time of the conference.

YOUNG ADULT: Ages 18-20 at the time of the conference. Cost of registration is full price.

CHAPERONE/ADULT: Adults 21+ years old at the time of the conference, and approved by the group's pastor to serve in that role. Cost of registration is full price.

PASTOR: LCMS pastors in good standing. This is a regular adult registration but it helps us to know who the pastors at a conference are.

2. Chaperones and Group Leaders

Higher Things does not provide chaperones for the youth attending conferences. All groups must provide adequate adult supervision of their own youth. To assure adequate supervision, each group must have at least one (1) male chaperone for up to every seven (7) male youth (ages 11-17 at the time of the conference), and at least one (1) female chaperone for up to every seven (7) female youth (ages 11-17 at the time of the conference).

CHAPERONES of the appropriate ratios (7:1) must stay with the participants in the residence halls and be present on campus as long as the youth under their supervision are on campus throughout the duration of the conference. Chaperones should not be invited away from their

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duties to another facility on site during a Higher Things event that precludes their ability to supervise the youth under their care.

CHAPERONES are expected to enforce residence hall rules and regulations, as well as assist their group with check-in/check-out procedures. This requires them to refrain from drinking alcohol, smoking and vaping, and they should expect to follow any other campus rules and regulations set in place.

CHAPERONES must be prepared to assist with their youth and organize the orderly evacuation of their participants if an emergency should arise. It is recommended that each chaperone be assigned particular youth for whom they are responsible to safely evacuate in the case of an emergency situation. They should immediately report medical emergencies, building maintenance concerns, missing youth, or any other safety concerns to Higher Things staff.

Higher Things is not responsible for the direct supervision of the youth and/or children attending a Higher Things Conference. Groups must provide adequate supervision of the minors in their charge.

There is no upper limit on the number of adults or chaperones that may register with a group. If a group needs assistance in finding chaperones for the number of youth they're bringing, Higher Things can provide a list of group leaders from their area who may be contacted to ask if they would be willing to help out. Please contact the conference registrar (registrar@higherthings.org) for this assistance.

Each group must identify a group leader from their registered chaperones/adults who will serve as the liaison with the Higher Things conference staff and receive email correspondence from the events staff to prepare their group for the conference.

For the safety of the youth, and to protect the reputation of everyone involved, including that of Higher Things, alcohol (outside of the sacramental wine of the Divine Service) will not be provided to adults at Higher Things Conferences. Outside of the sacramental wine of the Divine Service, adults will not consume alcohol during the conference week.

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3. Groups

All registrants attending a Higher Things Conference must be registered as part of a group. A group consists of one or more youth with one or more chaperone(s) of the appropriate sex(es). All youth and adults should know each other enough that any adult in the group can act as a chaperone for any youth in the group.

4. Background Checks

All adults and chaperones (registrants age 21+) registered to attend a Higher Things Conference must pass a national criminal and sexual predator background check by May 1 of the conference calendar year.

Sites may require additional measures to protect the safety of YOUTH at events on their campuses (online child safety training seminars, background checks for registrants 18 and over, etc.). Background checks must be conducted since the completion of the previous year's conference cycle (i.e., since last August).

Beginning in January of the conference year, Higher Things will notify the group leaders attending each conference via email regarding instructions for completing and turning in background checks and any additional site requirements, and information on how to provide confirmation that these have been completed. Higher Things will accept national criminal and sexual predator background checks completed through Protect My Ministry, Sentry Link, Trusted Employees, or another company that provides comparable national checks. Communicate with the conference registrar (registrar@higherthings.org) for more information. Higher Things staff retains the right not to accept a previously completed background check.

5. Unregistered Attendees

For the safety of the youth attending the conference, no one (youth, young adult, or adult) may attend a Higher Things Conference or portion(s) of a Higher Things Conference without registering.

6. Unnamed Registrations

All registrations in a group must be complete at the time of registration. Empty "spaces" may not be reserved for a conference by paying additional deposits or fees without a complete registration to which those deposits/fees may be applied.

7. Housing and Meals

Higher Things Conferences are all-inclusive events. Registered groups and/or individuals are not required to stay in assigned housing at the conference site. Nor are groups and/or individuals required to eat meals provided during the conference (day 1 supper through day 4 lunch).

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However, Higher Things cannot discount the registration fee if groups or individuals choose not to use the housing or meals provided with the conference. Please read the housing policies for additional details.

8. Transportation

Groups attending a Higher Things Conference are responsible for their own transportation to and from the conference site, including ground transportation to/from airports, and bus or train stations.

Higher Things does not provide housing for unregistered bus drivers, and cannot guarantee on-site overnight parking for buses or campers. Additional fees for parking passes, meters, tickets, etc. are the responsibility of the groups attending and the fees will vary depending on the site.

9. Day Passes (HTFAD)

Individuals who wish to attend a conference for a single day may purchase a Higher Things for a Day (HTFAD) pass at a daily rate. HTFAD passes include meals, conference materials, and all programming. Housing is not included. HTFAD passes are available for a maximum of two days per conference, per person. HTFAD registration opens on May 1. Due to capacity limitations, HTFAD may be limited or unavailable at any or all Higher Things Conferences. All HTFAD passes are pending approval from the conference registrar. HTFAD registrants are not required to complete background checks.

10. Additional Days

On-campus housing is available for groups to stay in their conference-assigned rooms for one additional night before and/or after the conference dates (i.e., Monday and/or Friday night).

The required ratio of chaperones (7:1) must be present on site for all additional days on campus, including situations involving combined groups sharing chaperones. If your group is being linked with another to share chaperones, those chaperones must also supervise the youth on any additional days on campus or the youth may not stay on campus for those days. Higher Things does not provide supervision for any unattended youth before, during, or after conferences.

11. Registration Fee Schedule

Registration rates are determined by the date a group's registration fees are paid in full.

- Early bird registration is open from November 1 to January 31.
- Regular registration is open from February 1 to April 30.
- Late registration is open from May 1 until the conference opens.

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Checks mailed to Higher Things will be processed according to the postmark date. Groups should take into account weekends and holidays when the post office is closed before mailing any checks. Groups should not pay for express mail as it takes longer for us to receive the checks and process the payment. Online credit card payments must be completed by midnight, Central Time, of any given deadline. Unpaid balances and new registrations on or after May 1 will be charged a late fee of \$75.00/person.

12. Non-refundable Deposits

A non-refundable deposit only guarantees that an individual has been accepted as a registrant for a conference if the location reaches capacity and creating a waitlist becomes necessary. Payment of non-refundable deposits does not lock in a group's registration rate.

Deposits will only be refunded for a cancellation if there is a waitlist for that conference at the time of the cancellation. A deposit may not be transferred out of the space that it saves. In other words, it MAY NOT be transferred toward a group's remaining balance if a cancellation occurs and there is no substitution to fill the space.

13. Final Payment Deadline

All balances (regardless of the conference a group is attending) must be paid in full on or before April 30. Groups paying all or portions of their balance after this date (regardless of the date their group registered and/or paid deposits) will be considered late and will be charged a late fee of \$75/person.

14. Late/Walk-up Registrations

Individuals and/or groups registering for a conference on or after May 1 will be charged the regular registration rate, plus a late fee of \$75/person.

15. Substitutions

If a group has a cancellation and substitutes one registrant with another person, they must notify the events staff (registrar@higherthings.org) to officially make the change to the group's registration so that Higher Things and the conference site have an accurate record of everyone attending the conference. Substitutions made on or after May 1 will result in a \$25 change fee.

16. Cancellations

Because the materials needed for the conferences must be ordered based on registration counts prior to the first conference, refunds will not be issued for cancellations made on or after May 1. Groups with unpaid cancellations that occur on or after May 1 — including no-shows at conference check-in — will be responsible for the outstanding regular registration rate, plus the \$75/person late fee.

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Before May 1, refunds will be processed automatically for no more than five individuals. If six or more individuals cancel at one time, refunds will be processed manually through the registrar.

17. Transferring Between Conferences

A group may transfer from one conference location to another, or off a waitlist to another location, without incurring any additional fees before May 1. Groups transferring from a waitlist to another conference location should also take note of the waitlist procedure, below.

18. Waitlist

Occasionally, Higher Things receives registrations in excess of a site's capacity. When this happens, a waitlist will be created and maintained by the events staff.

Until June 1, the order of the waitlist will be determined by the date (and time, if applicable) that each individual in your group is registered to be on the waitlist.

Registrants will be admitted to the conference by groups or as individuals in the order of the list, as spots become available. A smaller group or individual further down the waitlist will not be moved up to fill available spaces.

On June 1, the waitlist prioritization will change to fill all of the available spaces. The first group or individual on the list will be given the following options:

1. Claim the available spaces for a portion of their group;
2. Transfer to another conference location (including a virtual conference if available); or
3. If an act of God, a government mandate, or a medical pandemic cancels the conference at that conference site, regardless of date, the conference site cancellation policy will take effect and the waitlist will no longer be applicable.

When an individual or group is placed on the waitlist, the registration rate is locked in according to the date they registered onto the waitlist. This locked-in rate only applies to those on the waitlist. When moved off the waitlist, a \$100.00/person non-refundable deposit is required within three business days or the spot(s) will be forfeited to the next group on the waitlist. Then the remaining registration must be paid in full at the locked-in rate within 30 days of being transferred from the waitlist and to a regular registration for the conference. After 30 days, the current registration rate will apply.

If a group or individual on the waitlist chooses to transfer to another conference location, a \$100.00/person non-refundable deposit is required within three business days. Then the remaining registration fees must be paid in full at the locked-in rate within 30 days of the transfer. After 30 days, the current registration rate will apply.

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If admitted to a conference after June 1 (either by transfer, or as a full or partial group), registration fees must be paid in full according to the locked-in rate by conference check-in.

If an act of God, a government mandate, or medical pandemic cancels the conference at that conference site, regardless of the date, the conference site cancellation policy will take effect.

19. Conference Site Cancellation

If a conference site cancels due to an act of God, a government mandate, or medical pandemic, the group may transfer to another conference site with no financial repercussions.

If a site cancellation takes place, Higher Things will provide their registrants with a virtual conference. An individual's non-refundable deposit automatically becomes their registration fee for a virtual conference and that individual is then considered registered for the virtual conference. If they are on a waitlist for the conference that cancels they will be automatically transferred to the virtual conference. The following options will be offered for all registration monies minus the non-refundable deposits:

1. Group may donate the remaining balance, fully or partially.
2. Group may defer the remaining balance, fully or partially.
3. The balance will be transferred dollar for dollar (not person for person or rate level for rate level).
 - a. The monies must be used for the next year's conference season registration.
 - b. The conference which the group will attend must be decided by December 1st of the year before the conference takes place. Group may receive a refund of the remaining balance.
 - c. Group may receive a refund of the remaining balance, fully or partially.
4. The group may also decide to use a combination of the above options.

20. Virtual Conference

If a conference site cancels due to an act of God, a government mandate, or medical pandemic, Higher Things will provide their registrants with a virtual conference. An individual's non-refundable deposit automatically becomes their registration fee for the virtual conference and that individual is then considered registered for the virtual conference.

All registrants for the virtual conference must have a unique email address associated with their registration.

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21. Images

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Registration Timeline

Date	Registration Event
November 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early-bird discounted registration opens.• CCV application process opens.
February 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registration rate increases to regular registration rate.
February 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CCV application closes.
March 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CCVs notified regarding acceptance.
April 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final balances due (including day before/after and private rooms).• All cancellations must be made by this date or groups will be responsible for the full registration fee.
May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registrations made or paid on or after this date are considered late and will be charged an additional late fee.• All substitutions made on or after this date will incur a change fee.• No refunds given on or after this date.
June 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waitlist procedure changes (if applicable).

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Frequently Asked Questions

General

Why Higher Things conferences?

The mission of Higher Things is to assist parents, pastors, and congregations in cultivating a distinctively Lutheran identity among their youth and young adults. The most direct way we do this is through our annual youth conferences. Since the year 2000, Higher Things has held a total of 47 Lutheran youth conferences and one virtual conference! In 2021, we will add four more to that list. We hold multiple conferences each year, in different areas of the country. While the HT conferences are essentially the same in schedule, programming, and worship services, each has its own unique “personality” and dynamics.

We do all this because we are convinced that youth need solid teaching and experiences that will nurture lasting Christian faith. Rather than treating youth as an adolescent subculture and confusing them with once-in-a-lifetime “mountaintop” experiences that cannot be replicated outside of the conference events, Higher Things believes in challenging youth to learn the pure doctrine of the Christian faith. By teaching them the same message that they are already hearing at home and at church, youth grow in the fullness of the Christian faith as they come to appreciate historic liturgical practice and its unique focus on God’s gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation for us delivered in Word and Sacrament.

What does the 2021 conference theme, “Forgiven,” mean?

“If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven” (John 20:23).

“I forgive you.” The three most powerful words in the universe. They don’t just change the universe for someone. They change someone’s eternity. They change your eternity!

From His Cross, Jesus said, “It is finished” (John 19:30). His once-for-all death is yours, made yours, delivered into your ears, your heart, soul, mind, and strength with those three words: “I forgive you.” His resurrection from the dead is also yours. Not just yours in your Baptism—once is never enough for Jesus—the forgiveness (justification, innocent verdict) of His resurrection is also made yours through those words: “I forgive you.” Jesus delivers through those Spirit-filled words all the benefits of His death and resurrection to all who hear them; “He who by grace the Word believes The purchase of His blood receives” (“As Surely as I Live,’ God Said” LSB 614, st.6).

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Forgiveness of sins in His Name is everything to Jesus. He sends out pastors to deliver those three eternity-changing words all over the world. He sent your pastor to deliver them to you. If you have sins, even a specific sin, your pastor's there to deliver Jesus' forgiveness for it. It's not just your pastor, either. You, too—yes, you! You were baptized and gifted all the people in your life so that “if your brother sins against you seven times a day and returns to you seven times saying, “I repent,” you will forgive him (Luke 17:4).

“I forgive you.” Powerful words. Jesus' words. His words for you through “The minister whom Christ has sent” (“As Surely as I Live, God Said” LSB 614, st.5). Also His words for others through you. These words won't just change your summer or transform your daily life as a baptized child of God. With these three words, Jesus changes your eternity.

What should I expect at a Higher Things conference?

You should expect to spend four days immersed in the Gospel. You'll hear about Jesus, and what He's done for you. A lot. You'll do this by participating in the many worship services in which we join our voices with those of the historic Christian Church through liturgy and hymns, and hear the Gospel preached in its purity.

You'll learn, in much greater depth, about our faith, not just what we believe, but why we believe it and why it's important. All this will equip you to talk about your faith to others. And you'll do plenty of that as you get to know hundreds of other Lutheran youth just like you throughout the worship and catechesis sessions, and especially during the free time activities each evening. Higher Things Conferences are held every summer, so you'll really have an opportunity to build life-long friendships, as you worship, learn, and have fun together, especially if you're able to attend year after year!

What age restrictions are there?

Higher Things is very flexible on who may attend the conferences. Our conferences are generally planned for high school-aged youth, but we recommend that registrants be confirmed before the date of the conference. The recommendation that youth be confirmed before attending the conference is not to set strict age limits, but because the catechesis at HT Conferences presumes that the audience has a basic familiarity with Lutheran doctrine and practice, which most people receive in confirmation instruction.

We recognize that ages for confirmation may vary from congregation to congregation. So we simply ask that if a group is bringing youth who are not yet in high school, the group's chaperones be prepared to provide the additional supervision that younger youth require. College-aged young adults and other adults are also welcome to attend on their own or with a group. Please see the Registration Policies for details regarding costs and requirements of specific age groups.

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May I bring a non-Lutheran friend?

Of course! Non-LCMS youth and adults may register for a conference with the approval of your group's pastor and group leader. Spouses, personal assistants, care providers, interpreters, and other adults cannot be accommodated as unregistered conference participants.

What if I have special needs?

Higher Things will make our best efforts to make our 2021 Conferences inclusive events, developing support for those with disabilities as needed. Additional fees may need to be assessed for equipment rental, interpretive staff, on-campus transportation assistance, and parking, etc.

This year the HT Conference in Texas will be deaf-friendly. American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be provided for the worship and catechesis portions of the conference and we will have a chaplain for the deaf to serve our deaf and hard of hearing registrants. We also provide a sensory-friendly room at all of the conferences for registrants who may suffer from sensory overload, anxiety, or just need a quiet place to rest and regroup.

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Registration

When does registration open?

Registration opens on November 1, 2020 and closes as conference locations reach capacity. As long as there is room at a conference site, registration will remain open! However, the cost of registering increases as the conference dates get closer.

What does registration cost?

We work very diligently to keep costs as low as possible while providing the best conferences we can, each and every summer.

	Early Bird Rate November 1, 2020 - January 31, 2021	Regular Rate February 1 - April 30 2021	Late Registration On or after May 1, 2021
North Dakota State University Fargo, ND June 29 - July 2, 2021	\$400.00	\$425.00	\$500.00
Colorado State University Fort Collins, CO July 6-9, 2021			
Calvin University Grand Rapids, MI July 20-23, 2021			
Concordia University Texas Austin, TX July 27-30, 2021			

A non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 only guarantees that an individual has been accepted as a registrant for a conference if the location reaches capacity and creating a waitlist becomes necessary. Payment of non-refundable deposits does not lock in a group's registration rate.

Deposits will only be refunded for a cancellation if there is a waitlist for that conference at the time of the cancellation and someone from the waitlist is able to fill the spot forfeited by the cancellation. A deposit may not be transferred out of the space that it saves. In other words, it MAY NOT be transferred toward a group's remaining balance if a cancellation occurs and there is no substitution to fill the space.



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Non-refundable deposit policies do not apply to infant, toddler, and child registrations as those are flat fees.

What does the Registration Fee include?

Your Registration Fee covers:

- Conference Programming
 - Planning and preparations
 - Catechesis (4 Plenary Sessions; 6 breakaway Sessions; Panel; Fireside Chats)
 - Worship (2 Divine Services, 11 Prayer Offices)
 - Entertainment activities
- Three (3) nights of on-campus housing, including linens
- Nine (9) meals (Day 1 dinner through Day 4 lunch)
- Printed Conference Handbook
- Printed Daily Services Booklet
- Conference T-shirt

Can I register online?

Actually, that's the only way you can register for a Higher Things conference! Visit the link on our website at <https://www.higherthings.org/2021-forgiven>

Are scholarships available?

Yes, we do have a limited amount of funding available for full or partial individual or group scholarships. Please contact Patrick Sturdivant, Marketing and Development Executive (development@higherthings.org) for more information on applying for conference scholarships. You can also find the application on the conference website, <https://www.higherthings.org/2021-forgiven>

How many chaperones are allowed per youth?

Higher Things requires that each group must provide at least one (1) male adult for every seven (7) male youth (11-17 years of age at the time of the conference) and/or at least one (1) female adult for every seven (7) female youth (11-17 years of age at the time of the conference) in the group. Chaperones must be at least 21 years old at the time of the conference and approved by the group's pastor for their role. All chaperones and any other adults attending the conference must also complete the registration and any required background check process. See registration policies for additional information about chaperones and other adult registrants.

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What if I can't find enough chaperones from my church?

If you are unable to recruit the necessary number of chaperones for your group to attend a conference, Higher Things will be happy to help you contact groups from your area who might be willing to share their chaperones with you. Please contact the conference registrar (registrar@higherthings.org) for assistance.

My church doesn't sponsor youth to go to HT conferences.

You can still come! Because you will be coming from one congregation, that'll be your group, even if your group is only a single youth with a parent.

When should we plan to arrive and depart?

The opening Divine Service starts at 2:00 pm on Day 1 of the conference week (registration check-in will run from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm) and the closing Divine Service will end at about 3:00 pm on Day 4. Please schedule your travel so your group doesn't miss the opening or closing Divine Services!

Groups may also stay on campus for one extra night before and/or after the conference for an additional fee of \$50 per person, per night (additional meals not included). Check-in on the day before the conference will be between 5:00 and 10:00 pm, and those staying an extra day after the conference should plan to check out by 11:00 am the day after the conference closes. Additional fees will be incurred by groups arriving/departing outside of those hours.

What is the capacity of each conference?

The conferences in North Dakota and Colorado have capacities of 1000. Michigan can hold 900, and Texas will be a very limited number of 250. If you want to go there, register fast!

Transportation

How do we get to the conference?

Groups are responsible for obtaining their own transportation to and from the conference sites. If traveling by airplane, bus, or train, groups will also need to make arrangements for ground transportation to and from the campus, as well as for your group's private use during the week if you want to go sight-seeing on your own.

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How much walking is involved?

A lot. Seriously. A LOT. We try our best to keep all conference activities as close together on the sites as possible. But, because of the nature of college campuses, you will get your exercise! If someone attending with your group is unable to walk long distances or will need assistance

getting around at the conference, please note this as a special need with their registration and contact the Conference Registrar (registrar@higherthings.org). We are happy to accommodate anyone with special needs to the best of our ability, but need your help to plan in advance. Additional fees may be assessed.

How do I get to area attractions during the conference?

Any off-site transportation for scheduled conference activities will be provided by Higher Things and is included in your registration fee. If groups choose to take their own vehicles to scheduled off-site activities, they will be responsible for any additional charges to do so (parking, tolls, etc.). Groups are responsible for arranging their own transportation for any sightseeing not included as part of the conference.

Is parking available on campus?

Detailed information regarding parking (including fees and obtaining parking passes, if applicable) will be provided to group leaders prior to the conference.

Housing

What kind of housing can we expect?

Since Higher Things Conferences are held at college campuses, all registrants will be staying in residence halls. Sometimes this means a suite of two (2) double-capacity rooms with a shared bathroom between the rooms. Or some residence halls will have standard double rooms with common (single-sex) lavatories with private toilet and shower stalls. Not all residence halls on campuses have air conditioning. If you are assigned to buildings without air conditioning, we will do our best to notify you in advance so you may bring small fans. You are free to follow up with us close to the conference date to check on your group's dorm air conditioning status.

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How many people will be assigned per room?

Groups should plan for two (2) occupants per room. You may request roommates from within your own group. Private rooms are available by request for an additional fee of \$40 per room, per night (\$120 total for 3 nights). If your group does not fully occupy the available rooms or suites, roommates and/or suite-mates (of the same sex and age category) may be assigned from another group. Please see the housing policy for details about roommate assignments.

Will groups be housed together?

Sort of. Wherever possible, male and female rooms will be separated by floor, wing, or building. We will do our best to assign group members' rooms near one another. Adults will not be housed in the same room as a youth unless there is a direct familial relationship AND both adult and youth are of the same sex. Please see the housing policy for details.

Can spouses be housed together?

Unfortunately, no. We assign rooms with male and female rooms appropriately separated by floor, wing, or building. Chaperones must be housed with the youth of their groups.

Are linens provided?

Yes, pillows, bed linens (including blankets), and towels are usually provided for each registrant. However, most campuses do not provide mattress pads or fitted sheets. If any of the above linens are not provided by the campus, group leaders will be notified well in advance to bring them. Registrants may bring additional linens on their own.

Do we have to stay on campus?

No, but Higher Things cannot reimburse or discount your registration fee if you choose to stay off-campus. Besides, staying in dorms allows youth to get a glimpse of college life and allows youth to get to know other youth at the conference and form lasting friendships.

Can we stay on campus before and/or after the conference?

Yes! You may spend one additional night on campus before and/or after the conference — in the same room(s) you'll use for the rest of the week — for just \$50/person/night. Meals are not provided. Groups must notify the registrar that they will need an extra night no later than May 1. Those arriving early may check in on campus between 5:00-10:00 pm the evening before the conference begins and must check out by 11:00 am the day following the conference.

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Worship

How many services can we attend each day?

At least three, often four. It sounds daunting, but each year most youth report that worship is the best part of the conference week and that they miss it once they return home. Every day, youth and adults start their day with the service of Matins or Morning Prayer, followed by Vespers in the mid-afternoon, and end the day together with Evening Prayer. Time for Individual Confession and Absolution is also offered following Evening Prayer, and small groups are encouraged to gather for Compline before lights-out.

Thirteen services in four days? Why so many?

At Higher Things, our mission is to cultivate, encourage, and promote a Lutheran identity among youth. At HT Conferences, this happens intensively, through catechesis and frequent (though brief) worship services. Most services only last about 30 minutes, but they form a rhythm to each day that reinforces and puts into practice what is being learned in plenary and breakaway sessions. We will open and close with the Divine Service and the Lord's Supper.

I've never heard of most of those services! Are they even Lutheran?

Yes! And they're all taken from the *Lutheran Service Book*, which most of you use in your own churches. It is a long-standing tradition in the Christian Church to conduct brief prayer services throughout the day. These services provide a great way to keep our days focused on Christ and His gifts for us.

At Higher Things Conferences, we want to teach youth about the richness of our confession and introduce them to some of the ways Lutherans have historically practiced their faith. Information will be provided following the close of registration to help youth leaders teach their groups about these services and the traditions that are often practiced (chanting, kneeling, crossing oneself, incense, etc.) so that youth are prepared to encounter them at the conference.

Is there a conference hymn again this year?

The conference hymn for the 2021 Forgiven conferences is "As Surely As I Live, God Said" (LSB 614). Note that we will be using the alternate tune ERHALT UNS, HERR, instead of ST. LUKE at the conference. Please make use of this hymn in your congregations in the weeks and months leading up to the conference. It's a wonderful hymn that we're sure everyone will enjoy singing together!

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2021 Higher Things Conferences

How are the preachers chosen for the conference worship services?

There are very limited spots available for preaching, but more available for assisting in the services.

Priority is given to the pastors attending the conference who volunteer in the leadership of Higher Things. Other preachers and assistants are selected from LCMS pastors registered to attend the conferences. If you would like to be considered to preach or assist, please contact the events executive (events@higherthings.org).

Music

Can I sing in the choir?

YES! Participating in the conference choir is one of the best ways for youth (and adults) from all over the country to get to know each other. Everyone is welcome to sing in the choir, regardless of experience! Choir usually rehearses days 2-4 of the conference week at 8:00 am before the morning service, and possibly at other times during the week as well. Rehearsal times will be included in the week's schedule.

However, due to copyright restrictions, those interested in singing the choir will need to register to do so by June 1. Photocopies of music will not be available for the choir, but members may purchase their own music for a small fee per person, and music may be taken home following the conference. If you do not choose to purchase music, you may look on and share with someone else.

May I play my instrument at the conference?

Because it is so difficult to accommodate and select music pieces for the wide variety of instruments people volunteer to play at the conference, instrumentalists will be selected by the worship and music staff from those registered for each site. Depending on the number of volunteers and the space available for an orchestra, this process may include an audition. If you'd like to volunteer to play during the conference, notify your group leader to indicate so on your registration and/or contact the conference registrar (registrar@higherthings.org).

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Catechesis

Who will be the Plenary Teachers?

We are very excited about our plenary speakers this year! They will be announced on our website and via social media before registration opens. Watch for more information then!

When can we get a list of breakaways?

Not until June 2021. Breakaways are taught by pastors and other adults attending the conference with their youth groups so we won't even begin to plan those until around April 2021.

Do we need to sign up for breakaways in advance?

No. Breakaway seating is on a first-come, first-seated basis. While we try to make sure everyone will have chairs, it's impossible to predict how many people will attend any one breakaway.

Are we expected to attend a certain number of sessions?

Yes. You may attend at least one breakaway during each breakaway session! Breakaway topics are chosen with youth in mind, and they cover a wide variety of topics to help you learn more about your faith. You should have no problem finding at least one breakaway in each session that interests you. Most of the time, attendees have trouble choosing between multiple breakaways!

How are breakaway teachers chosen?

First, they must be registered to attend the conference. We believe that the best people to teach youth are the very pastors, parents, and other adults the Lord has put in their lives to do just that. Breakaway teachers are chosen from the pastors and lay members of LCMS congregations in good standing who are already registered for that conference. All teachers must also be comfortable communicating with youth, and they should try to prepare their sessions in such a way that will help teenagers faithfully live out the vocations unique to their stations in life.

Free Time/Entertainment

How much free time will there be?

We always plan for a few hours of scheduled entertainment events and/or free time each evening of the conference week. However, if your group wants to do some more extensive sightseeing around the conference cities, you should probably plan for an extra day in town to do that.

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For your convenience, groups can reserve an extra night (Monday and/or Friday) in their rooms on campus at the time of registration for \$50/person/night.

What will we be doing for fun?

We're working on planning some really great activities that we'll be able to tell you about very soon! In the meantime, Google the conference cities to see if you can guess what some of the options might be! You can also check out photos of past conferences to see what's been done before.

College Conference Volunteers

What are College Conference Volunteers (CCVs)?

College Conference Volunteers play an integral role on the conference staff. They are college-aged young adults who volunteer to help manage the conferences on the ground. They work hard and play even harder. They are often seasoned Higher Things Conference-goers, but some newbies get their first HT experience as a CCV. Application to be a CCV is a very competitive process, as we often receive 2-3 times more applicants than needed.

What kinds of things do CCVs do at the conferences?

- Registration: Directing groups through the registration check-in, helping to prepare and distribute materials, directing people to dorms and parking areas, helping to break down the information table after the end of the conference, etc.
- Speaker Care: CCVs are assigned to a breakaway speaker to hand out materials in the breakaways, make sure speakers have any needed food and/or beverages, run AV, remind attendees to text in evaluations, etc.
- Worship: Help setup and breakdown the conference chapel, assist with crowd control and altar guild duties.
- Merchandise: Help set up and break down as needed.
- General: Help supervise activities, give directions, run errands, answer questions, put up signs, etc.
- Photography: Take pictures of everyone having a great time.
- AV: Assist our media staff with audio/video recording.

How much is my registration if I am selected as a CCV?

CCV registration is FREE! The offerings collected during the opening and closing Divine Services go directly towards offsetting the expenses for the CCV program. You'll just need to get yourself to the conference and back home again.

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Will I have to arrive early and/or stay late at the conference?

Yes, CCVs must arrive by noon the day before the conference begins for orientation/set-up, and should not plan to leave before 5:00 pm on the last day so they can help pack up after the conference.

Will I have special privileges as a volunteer?

Yes, CCVs will have staff (i.e., “backstage”) access to all areas of the conference and a special staff T-shirt. In fact, you will receive multiple T-shirts, because CCVs need to be easily identifiable throughout the week!

How old do I have to be to be a CCV?

You must be at least 18 years old and have completed your high school studies at the time of the conference.

How do I apply to be a CCV?

You will be able to apply online at <https://www.higherthings.org/2021-forgiven> between November 1, 2020 and February 28, 2021. Look for the link on the conference website. Applicants will be notified by March 15, 2021 if they have been selected to serve as a CCV.

Should I still register with my church’s group?

If your church is sending a group to the conference, you should register with your group as well as complete the CCV application so that you are certain to get into the conference, should it fill. If you are selected as a CCV, your registration will then be processed separately from your group. You will also be assigned housing in a separate staff area.

Those who are accepted as CCVs but are not registered with a group for a conference should register as an individual and pay any corresponding registration fees. If selected, Higher Things will reimburse the balance paid as of March 15, 2021.

How many CCVs will be accepted at each of the conferences?

The number of CCVs is determined by the number of registrants attending each conference. The events executive reserves the right to adjust these numbers if we determine that fewer or more CCVs are actually needed to help with the conference.

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Other Conference Support

How else can I support the conferences?

We have a number of specific conference expenses that may be supported by one or multiple donors:

- **CCV scholarships:** CCV registrations are paid as a conference expense so that these volunteers don't have to pay registration fees. These young adults work very hard at the conferences and provide invaluable help for the staff and participants. All contributions received in the offerings during the opening and closing Divine Services will go toward this expense.
- **Registrant scholarships:** Full and partial conference registration scholarships are now available to registrants and groups with financial needs.
- **Conference T-shirts:** These shirts are a great way for participants to take home a souvenir of their week, and provide unique opportunities for them to confess their faith and what they learned when they wear them at home! Contact exhibitors@higherthings.org for more information about sponsorship opportunities. We will be happy to include your company or organization's logo on the shirts for a donation of \$5,000 or more.
- **Special needs funding:** In 2021, we will be having our sixth annual deaf friendly conference in Texas. HT Conferences also make accommodations for attendees with other special needs. If you would like to make a donation toward funding these efforts, please contact Patrick Sturdivant at development@higherthings.org.
- **Regular gifts to Higher Things:** All of the yearly operations of the larger organization are supported by conference revenues. Donations to Higher Things will reduce the need to rely on conference income and will eventually result in a reduction to registration fees.

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2021 Higher Things Conferences

SAMPLE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Day 1

2:00 pm Opening Divine Service
3:45 pm Announcements
4:15 pm Plenary Session 1
5:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Evening Prayer
7:30 pm Individ. Confession & Absolution
8:00 pm Breakaway Session A
9:00 pm Free Time/Entertainment
11:00 pm Compline
12:00 am Lights Out

Day 2

7:00 am Breakfast
8:00 am Leaders' Meeting
8:00 am Choir Rehearsal
9:00 am Matins
9:45 am Announcements
10:15 am Plenary Session 2
11:00 am Lunch
1:00 pm Vespers
1:45 pm Breakaway Session B
2:30 pm Free Time/Thank You Reception
4:00 pm Breakaway Session C
5:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Evening Prayer
7:30 pm Individ. Confession & Absolution
8:00 pm Breakaway Session D
9:00 pm Free Time/Entertainment
11:00 pm Compline
12:00 am Lights Out

Day 3

7:00 am Breakfast
8:00 am Leaders' Meeting
8:00 am Choir Rehearsal
9:00 am Matins
9:45 am Announcements
10:15 am Plenary Session 3
11:00 am Lunch
1:00 pm Vespers
1:45 pm Breakaway Session E
2:45 pm Panel Discussion
4:00 pm Breakaway Session F
5:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Evening Prayer
7:30 pm Individ. Confession & Absolution
8:00 pm Fireside Chats
8:00 pm Free Time/Entertainment
11:00 pm Compline
12:00 am Lights Out

Day 4

7:00 am Breakfast
8:00 am Leaders' Meeting
8:00 am Choir Rehearsal
9:00 am Matins
9:45 am Announcements
10:15 am Plenary Session 4
11:00 am Lunch
1:00 pm Closing Divine Service

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