



**Higher Things**  
Conferences

**Watermarked**

[www.higherthings.org](http://www.higherthings.org)  
[www.watermarked2020.org](http://www.watermarked2020.org) **2020**

**CONFERENCE  
INFORMATION**

# Watermarked

*Thank you for your interest in the 2020 Higher Things Lutheran youth conferences! This packet of information is intended to provide all the details needed to register a group to attend the 2020 Watermarked conferences this summer.*

*"Baptism now saves you." (1 Peter 1:21)*

You were born to die. You're a sinner, and sinners are marked for death. You not only inherited it, but the sins you commit daily earn you death. You won't just die and be buried. Since you're born dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1), you're marked and sentenced to die forever in hell—a child of wrath (Ephesians 2:3).

Yet your sins aren't yours anymore, neither is your death. Jesus took them as His own. "He became sin" (2 Corinthians 5:21), your sin, and "He died to sin once for all" (Romans 6:10), for you, too. He gives what is His to you—"righteousness and purity forever." You are no longer marked and sentenced and left to die. You are marked for life in Jesus.

Jesus marked you with the Water of Life in Holy Baptism. His water and Word splashed over your forehead, washing you with the rosy-red water from His spear-pierced side and clothing you with His own resurrection. In Holy Baptism Jesus re-created you to be what He has forever wanted you to be: His disciple and friend, a child of His Father and His own brother or sister, that is, "an heir, having the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:7).

At the 2020 Watermarked Conferences we rejoice in and cherish all the promises and blessings Jesus makes and delivers to each of us in Holy Baptism. You really are what He says you are: marked forever as His own.

## Contact Us 2

## Registration Information 3

- Registration Policies 3
- Housing Policies 7
- Important Dates 9

## Frequently Asked Questions 10

- General 10
- Registration 11
- Transportation 13
- Housing 14
- Worship 15
- Music 15
- Catechesis 16
- Free Time/Entertainment 16
- Conference College Volunteers 17
- Other Support 18

## Sample Conference Schedule 19

# Contact Us

## Mailing Address

Higher Things Conferences  
P.O. Box 155  
Holt, MO 64048

## Phone Number

1-888-482-6630

## Higher Things Conferences Staff

[conferences@higherthings.org](mailto:conferences@higherthings.org)

Crysten Sanchez, Conference Executive

[csanchez@higherthings.org](mailto:csanchez@higherthings.org)

Cyndy Bishop, Registrar

[registrar@higherthings.org](mailto:registrar@higherthings.org)

Tana McKenna, Logistics Assistant

[tana@higherthings.org](mailto:tana@higherthings.org)

2020 HIGHER THINGS® CONFERENCES

# Registration Policies

## 1. Age Definitions

**CHILD:** Any youth ages 0-11.

- A. All CHILDREN attending a Higher Things Conference must be registered, including infants and toddlers.
- B. A parent **MUST** accompany and room with a child up to the age of 11 and **MUST** be the same sex as the child if the child is 5 or older. Neither Higher Things nor a Conference site are responsible for providing any additional bedding, pillows, mattresses, cribs, etc.
- C. 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 same sex).
  - 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.
  - CHILD:** Ages 5 -11 at the time of the conference. Cost of Registration is full price and the child **MUST** room with same sex parent).
  - YOUTH:** Ages 12-17 at the time of the conference. One full Registration fee must be paid for every youth age 12 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 12-17 at the time of the conference), and at least one (1) female chaperone for up to every seven (7) female YOUTH (ages 12-17 at the time of the conference).

- D. CHAPERONES of the appropriate ratios 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.
- E. CHAPERONES are expected to enforce residence hall rules and regulations, as well as assist their group with check-in/check-out procedures.
- F. 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.

## 2020 Higher Things® Conferences **Registration Policies**, cont'd

There is no restriction 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](mailto: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 Conference Coordinator to prepare their group for the conference.

### 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) from a single church. 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.

Groups traveling together and/or combining any registrants should register separately, but notify the Conference Registrar ([registrar@higherthings.org](mailto:registrar@higherthings.org)) so that appropriate arrangements may be noted for housing assignments.

### 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 after the completion of the previous year's conference cycle (i.e., since last August).

Beginning in January 2020, 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 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](mailto: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 (Tuesday supper through Friday lunch). 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. Additional fees for parking passes, meters, tickets, etc. are the responsibility of the groups attending.

## 9. **Day Passes**

Individuals who wish to attend a Conference for a single day may purchase a Higher Things for a Day (HTFAD) Registration at a reduced daily rate. HTFAD Registrations include meals only, not housing, and 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. 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 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.** 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. 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 \$25/person (\$435/person total).

## 12. **Deposits**

Non-refundable Registration deposits guarantee only that a group will be accepted as registered for a conference if the location reaches capacity and creating a waiting list becomes necessary. **PAYMENT OF DEPOSITS DOES NOT "LOCK-IN" A GROUP'S REGISTRATION RATE.**

Deposits will only be refunded for a cancellation *if there is a Waiting List 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 groups 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 \$25/person (\$435/person total).

## 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 of \$410/person, plus a Late Fee of \$25/person (\$435/person total).

## 15. Substitutions

If a group has a cancellation and substitutes one registrant with another person, they must notify the Conference Registrar ([registrar@higherthings.org](mailto: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 Registration rate of \$410/person, plus the \$25/person late fee (\$435/person total).

## 17. Transferring Between Conferences

A group may transfer from one Conference location to another, or off of a Waiting List to another location, without incurring any additional fees before May 1. Groups transferring from a Waiting List to another Conference location should also take note of the **WAITING LIST PROCEDURE**, below.

## 18. Waiting List Procedure

Occasionally, Higher Things receives Registrations and deposits in excess of a site's capacity. When this happens, a WAITING LIST will be created and maintained by the Conference Registrar.

Until June 1, the order of the Waiting List will be determined by the date (and time, if applicable) the group registered to be on the waiting list. 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 Waiting List WILL NOT be moved up to fill available spaces.

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

- A. Claim the available spaces for a portion of their group;
- B. Transfer to another Conference location; or
- C. Receive a full refund of all monies paid towards registration.

When an individual or group is placed on the Waiting List, the Registration rate is locked-in according to the date their deposit was paid. This lock-in rate only applies to those on the Waiting List. When moved off the Waiting List, the Registration must be paid in full at the locked-in rate within 30 days of admission to the Conference. After 30 days, the current Registration rate will apply.

If a group or Individual on the Waiting List chooses to transfer to another Conference location, their Registration fees must also be paid in full at the locked-in rate within 30 days of the transfer. After 30 days, the current Registration rate will apply. 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.

2020 HIGHER THINGS® CONFERENCES

# Housing Policies

*For the protection of the youth attendees, young adults, chaperones, and the Higher Things organization, the following policies will be observed and govern how Higher Things assigns housing to registrants at a Conference.*

## 1. Sex-Specific Units

- A. Participants will be housed in sex-specific units. A unit may be defined by Higher Things Conferences as a single room, suite of rooms, a wing, a floor, or a building, depending upon the facilities available.
- B. **SPOUSES MAY NOT BE HOUSED TOGETHER.** Each adult/chaperone will be housed in sex-distinctive units near the YOUTH in his/her charge.

## 2. Age-Specific Rooms

- A. Young Adults (ages 18-20) and adults/chaperones (21+) will not be assigned housing in the same room with any minors unless there is an immediate familial relationship between the youth and adult, AND both persons are of the same gender. *An immediate familial relationship is defined as a parent or legal guardian and his/her child(ren).*
- B. When apartment-style facilities are utilized, adults/chaperones may be assigned to the same unit as their group's youth (of the same sex), but adults will not be assigned to share sleeping quarters with youth unless there is an immediate familial relationship (as defined above).

## 3. Room and Roommate Assignments

- A. All double-capacity rooms must be fully occupied.
- B. Conference attendees should expect to be housed with at least one roommate, unless they request a private room by May 1, and appropriate fees are paid. Those requesting private rooms will be charged additional fees of \$40/room/night.
- C. The number of single-sex participants in a group may not correspond exactly to the capacities of the rooms available, so it may be necessary for Higher Things to assign attendees from different group to share a room, but roommates will always be from the same gender and age categories.
- D. Every effort will be made to house conference attendees with their preferred roommate. However, these preferences cannot be guaranteed. Roommate preferences must be entered into each registration by May 1.
- E. Roommates are assigned according to the specific guidelines of this Housing Policy, therefore **HIGHER THINGS CANNOT PERMIT THE REARRANGING OF ROOMMATES ON SITE** by individuals or groups without coordinating directly with the Housing Coordinator for that Conference.

## 4. Additional Charges

Charges incurred by Higher Things due to the conduct of an individual registrant or group at a conference will be billed to the group represented by said individual or group.

Such expenses may include, but are not limited to: replacement of lost keys, replacement of lost meal cards, vandalism, other damages, and fees involved with setting off a fire/emergency alarm, etc. The Registrar will contact group leaders regarding these additional charges upon receipt of notification from the campus following the Conference.

**5. Quiet Hours/Visitation Hours**

Common areas are available in all residence halls for fellowship, conversation, and recreation. No one should be in the sleeping quarters of the opposite sex at any time. Quiet and visitation hours as posted by residence hall and/or Higher Things must be enforced by the chaperones staying in that resident hall.

**6. Child Protection Policies**

Higher Things accepts no responsibility for the enforcement of individual congregational child protection policies. It is the responsibility of the group leader to know and enforce his/her specific congregational child protection policies if there are additional restrictions not addressed by the Higher Things Housing Policy.

All adults/chaperones registered to attend a Higher Things conference must also pass a national criminal and sexual predator background check **by May 1 of the Conference calendar year**. See **REGISTRATION POLICIES** for additional information regarding background checks.

# Important Dates

<b>DATE</b>	<b>REGISTRATION EVENT</b>
<b>November 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Early-bird discounted Registration opens (\$385/person).</li><li>• CCV application process opens.</li><li>• Conference scholarship application process opens.</li></ul>
<b>February 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Registration rate increases to regular Registration rate (\$410/person).</li></ul>
<b>February 29</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CCV application process closes.</li><li>• Conference scholarship application process closes.</li></ul>
<b>March 15</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CCVs notified regarding acceptance.</li><li>• Scholarship recipients notified.</li></ul>
<b>April 30</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final balances due (including day before/after and private rooms).</li><li>• All cancellations must be made by this date or groups will be responsible for the full registration fee plus late fee (\$435/person).</li></ul>
<b>May 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Registrations made or paid on or after this date are considered LATE and will be charged an additional late fee (\$435/person total).</li><li>• All substitutions made on or after this date will incur a change fee.</li><li>• NO REFUNDS OR CANCELLATIONS made on or after this date.</li><li>• Background checks for adult/chaperone registrants must be completed.</li></ul>
<b>June 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Waiting list procedure changes (if applicable).</li></ul>

# 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 46 Lutheran youth Conferences! In 2020, 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 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 2020 conference theme, “Watermarked,” mean?

*“Baptism now saves you.” (1 Peter 1:21)*

You were born to die. You're a sinner, and sinners are marked for death. You not only inherited it, but the sins you commit daily earn you death. You won't just die and be buried. Since you're born dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1), you're marked and sentenced to die forever in hell—a child of wrath (Ephesians 2:3).

Yet your sins aren't yours anymore, neither is your death. Jesus took them as His own. “He became sin” (2 Corinthians 5:21), your sin, and “He died to sin once for all” (Romans 6:10), for you, too. He gives what is His to you—“righteousness and purity forever.” You are no longer marked and sentenced and left to die. You are marked for life in Jesus.

Jesus marked you with the Water of Life in Holy Baptism. His water and Word splashed over your forehead, washing you with the rosy-red water from His spear-pierced side and clothing you with His own resurrection. In Holy Baptism Jesus re-created you to be what He has forever wanted you to be: His disciple and friend, a child of His Father and His own brother or sister, that is, “an heir, having the hope of eternal life” (Titus 3:7).

At the 2020 Watermarked Conferences we rejoice in and cherish all the promises and blessings Jesus makes and delivers to each of us in Holy Baptism. You really are what He says you are: marked forever as His own.

### 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.

## 2020 Higher Things® Conferences **Frequently Asked Questions, cont'd**

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, 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-age 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.

### **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. Talk to your pastor and Group Leader about how your friend can get registered and join in with your group!

### **What if I have special needs?**

Higher Things will make our best efforts to make our 2020 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 Missouri will be deaf-friendly. American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be provided for the worship and catechesis portions of the conference. 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.

## **Registration**

### **When does registration open?**

Registration opens on November 1, 2019 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.

### **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 [Watermarked2020.org](http://Watermarked2020.org).

### **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.

## 2020 Higher Things® Conferences Frequently Asked Questions, cont'd

	<b>EARLY BIRD!</b> Nov. 1, 2019 through Jan. 31, 2020	<b>REGULAR</b> Feb. 1, 2020 through April 30, 2020	<b>LATE</b> (on or after May 1, 2020)
<b>Colorado State University - Fort Collins, CO</b> (June 29-July 2, 2020) *Monday-Thursday	<b>\$385</b>	<b>\$410</b>	<b>\$435</b>
<b>Northwest Missouri State - Maryville, MO</b> (July 7-10, 2020)			
<b>University of Tennessee - Knoxville, TN</b> (July 14-18, 2020)			
<b>Calvin University, Grand Rapids, MI</b> (July 21-24, 2020)			

We require a deposit of 25% of your group's balance to ensure your admission to a conference should it reach capacity. However, the **PER-PERSON RATES ABOVE ARE BASED ON THE DATE YOUR GROUP'S REGISTRATION FEES ARE PAID IN FULL**. Checks received by mail will be processed according to the *postmark date*, not the date it is received. Please do not send checks via express mail as this actually slows down the process to get your Group approved! Remember to take into account weekends and holidays when the Post Office is closed before mailing any checks.

Partial payments (including non-refundable deposits) do not "lock-in" your registration rates. You must pay in full to receive any given registration rate. An additional Change Fee of \$25/change will apply for substitutions made after May 1, 2020 (See [REGISTRATION POLICIES](#) for details.). Unpaid balances and new registrations on or after May 1, 2020 will be charged a Late Fee of \$25/person (\$435/person total). All payments must be made in U.S. funds.

### What does the Registration Fee include?

Your Registration Fee covers:

- Conference Programming
  - Planning and preparations
  - Catechesis (4 plenary sessions, 6 breakout sessions, 2 panel discussions)
  - 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

### 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](mailto:development@higherthings.org)) for more information on applying for conference scholarships. You can also find the application on the righthand side of the conference website, [watermarked2020.org](http://watermarked2020.org).

### 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 (12-17 years of age at the time of the conference) and/or at least one (1) female adult for every seven (7) female youth (12-17 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.

### **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](mailto:registrar@higherthings.org)) for assistance.

### **My church doesn't sponsor youth to go to HT conferences. Can we still attend?**

Of course! 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 2020 conferences in Missouri, Tennessee, and Michigan all have a capacity of 900. The conference in Colorado has a capacity of 1000.

## **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.

### **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](mailto: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 sight-seeing 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's air conditioning status.

### **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 for an extra night before and/or after the conference?**

Yes! You may spend an additional night on campus — in the same room(s) you'll use for the rest of the week — for just \$50/person/night. Since many groups use this option to do area sightseeing, 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.

## **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 nights, 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 breakout 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 2020 Watermarked conferences is "Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying" (LSB #597). 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!

### **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 Higher Things' leadership. 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 Conference Executive ([conferences@higherthings.org](mailto:conferences@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.

## 2020 Higher Things® Conferences **Frequently Asked Questions**, cont'd

However, due to copyright restrictions, those interested in singing the choir will need to register in advance to do so by June 1. Photocopies of music will not be available for the choir, but members may purchase their own music for \$10/person, which 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](mailto:registrar@higherthings.org)).

## **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 on October 15, 2019. Watch for more information then!

### **When can we get a list of breakaways?**

Not until June 2020. 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 2020.

### **Do we need to sign up for sectionals in advance?**

No. Breakaways 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 sectional.

### **Are we expected to attend a certain number of sessions?**

Yes. You may attend at least one sectional during each breakaway session! Sectional 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 breakout in each session that interests you. Most of the time, attendees have trouble choosing between multiple breakouts!

### **How are breakout 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.** Breakout 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 sight-seeing around the Conference cities, you should probably plan for an extra day in town to do that. 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, 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, break-down of the information table after the end of the conference, etc.
- **SPEAKER CARE:** CCVs are assigned to a sectional speaker to hand out materials in the sectionals, 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, crowd control, assist with 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 to offset the expenses for the CCV program. You'll just need to get yourself to the Conference and back home again.

## Would 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 [Watermarked2020.org](http://Watermarked2020.org) between November 1, 2019 and February 29, 2020. Look for the link on the righthand side of the page. Applicants will be notified by March 15, 2020 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 who 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, 2020.

### **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 Conference Executive reserves the right to adjust these numbers if we determine that fewer or more CCVs are actually needed to help with the Conference.

## **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](mailto: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 2020, we will be having our fifth annual deaf friendly conference in Missouri. 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 Erica Jacoby at [development@higherthings.org](mailto: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.

# SAMPLE Conference Schedule

## Day 1

TIME	FUNCTION
9:00 am - 1:45 pm	Registration/Check-In
12:00 pm	Lunch On Your Own
1:00 - 1:45 pm	Leaders' Meeting
2:00 - 3:30 pm	Opening Divine Service
3:45 - 4:15 pm	Announcements
4:15-5:00 pm	Plenary Session 1
5:00 - 6:45 pm	Dinner
7:00 - 7:30 pm	Evening Prayer
7:30 - 7:45 pm	Individual Confession & Absolution
8:00 - 8:45 pm	Breakaway Session A
9:00 - 11:00 pm	Free Time
11:00 - 11:30 pm	Prayer at the Close of the Day
12:00 am	Lights Out

## Day 3

TIME	FUNCTION
7:00 - 8:45 am	Breakfast
8:00 - 8:45 am	Leaders' Meeting
8:00 - 8:45 am	Choir Rehearsal
9:00 - 9:30 am	Matins
9:45 - 10:15 am	Announcements
10:15 - 11:00 am	Plenary Session 3
11:00 - 12:45 pm	Lunch
1:00 - 1:30 pm	Vespers
1:45 - 2:30 pm	Breakaway Session E
2:45 - 3:45 pm	Panel Discussion
4:00 - 4:45 pm	Breakaway Session F
5:00 - 6:45 pm	Dinner
7:00 - 7:30 pm	Evening Prayer
7:30 - 7:45 pm	Individual Confession & Absolution
8:00 - 9:00 pm	Panel Discussion (Optional)
8:00 - 11:00 pm	Free Time
11:00 - 11:30 pm	Prayer at the Close of the Day
12:00 am	Lights Out

## Day 2

TIME	FUNCTION
7:00 - 8:45 am	Breakfast
8:00 - 8:45 am	Leaders' Meeting
8:00 - 8:45 am	Choir Rehearsal
9:00 - 9:30 am	Matins
9:45 - 10:15 am	Announcements
10:15 - 11:00 am	Plenary Session 2
11:00 - 12:45 pm	Lunch
1:00 - 1:30 pm	Vespers
1:45 - 2:30 pm	Breakaway Session B
2:30 - 3:45 pm	Free Time
2:30 - 3:45 pm	Adult Thank You Reception
4:00 - 4:45 pm	Breakaway Session C
5:00 - 6:45 pm	Dinner
7:00 - 7:30 pm	Evening Prayer
7:30 - 7:45 pm	Individual Confession & Absolution
8:00 - 8:45 pm	Breakaway Session D
9:00 - 11:00 pm	Free Time
11:00 - 11:30 pm	Prayer at the Close of the Day
12:00 am	Lights Out

## Day 4

TIME	FUNCTION
7:00 - 8:45 am	Breakfast
8:00 - 8:45 am	Leaders' Meeting
8:00 - 8:45 am	Choir Rehearsal
9:00 - 9:30 am	Matins
9:45 - 10:15 am	Announcements
10:15 - 11:00 am	Plenary Session 4
11:00 - 12:45 pm	Lunch
1:00 - 2:30 pm	Closing Divine Service
2:30 pm	Check-Out