

Fall Youth Retreat | Oct 24-26, 2025

Theme: "Peace Like A River"

Lutherdale Retreat Center | N7891 US-12, Elkhorn, WI 53121

ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN: Friday Oct 24 between 3:30-5:15 PM. *Plan to arrive early enough to unload and stow your group's gear before dinner at 5:30 PM.*

CONCLUSION & DEPARTURE: Sunday Oct 26 by Noon



WHAT IS FALL YOUTH RETREAT? A weekend-long, youth-led, experience for middle schoolers, high schoolers and adult youth leaders. In this welcoming and accepting space, participants grow spiritually, socialize, & build new and meaningful friendships. The time together includes large and small group activities and discussion, team building, crafts, free-time, singing, meditation, dancing, prayer, fun and fellowship. There are separate activities for youth and adults to build connections with their own age groups, as well as full-group activities. Come on retreat and return transformed!

WHO CAN ATTEND?

Youth

- 1) Uniteens must be at least 11 years old and in 6th grade, 7th or 8th grades on the 1st day of the Unitreat.
- **2) Youth of Unity (Y.O.U)** at least 13 years old and in 9th grade in the Fall of 2025 and no older than 19 and still in high school. *All youth must:*
 - a) be associated with a local Unity or new thought church/ministry
 - b) have ministerial endorsement to attend, and
 - c) attend with their adult leader(s).

Adults

- **3) Junior Sponsors:** young adults who are no longer in high school and are between 21-24 years old currently active in NGU and/or their church/new thought center's youth program.
- **4) Unity/New Thought Youth leaders** who are currently active in (or rebuilding) a youth ministry, and experienced sponsors/ event leaders who have a desire to support the Great Lakes Regional Youth events! Adults must be at least 25 years old to be the lead chaperone for a group of youth and/or drive youth to/from the event. **For sacred safety, ALL adults must have a background check on file with home ministry conducted within the past 3 years.**

All participants must be able to honor heart agreements, function in a group setting and MUST attend the entire weekend from check-in on Friday through the Sunday closing ceremony.

COST \$250 per person Region-set price includes T-shirt, program materials, housing, and 5 meals, from Friday dinner to Sunday breakfast. Plan to bring additional funds to cover any restaurant stops while traveling. Your local chapter may charge a different rate (e.g. higher to help cover transportation costs, lower if there are funds raised for this purpose, etc.)

WHERE Lutherdale Retreat Center in Elkhorn, WI. Participants will stay in heated cabins with indoor plumbing with youth and adult leaders of the same gender/gender identity. Linens are NOT provided.

TRANSPORTATION Chapters must provide their own transportation to/from the event. Drivers must be at least 25 years old with a valid driver's license and good driving record. It is the church's responsibility to check the driving record of adult drivers, which can be obtained with a background check.

YOUTH ATTENDANCE/SERVICE REQUIREMENT While the Regional attendance and service requirement is currently waived, some chapters require youth to attend a certain number of Sunday services and/or volunteer service hours to be eligible to attend the Regional Retreats. Please check with your local Unity or New Thought chapter about service and/or attendance requirements.

YOUTH MEDICATION REQUIREMENTS All medications, prescription or otherwise (except for inhalers & epi-pens) must be secured by an Adult leader or the Wellness Team for the entire weekend. ALL medications must be listed on the medical release form and transported in a clear zip lock bag, clearly labeled with the youth's name, church, type of medication, dosage and when needed. Youth are responsible for going to their Leader or the Wellness Team for their medication.

HOW TO REGISTER

Youth & Parents/Guardians: contact the person in charge of the registration process at your church/chapter and follow their process to confirm your attendance. AFTER they've confirmed you, work together as youth/adult to fill out the registration form linked below.

Youth Director and/or Designee in charge of registration: Please follow these steps to assist your adults and youth in registering

STEP 0: The YFM Director, Adult Youth Leader or Designee will identify who from their chapter/ministry is planning to attend the retreat, and get their commitment (verbal, written, deposit, etc.).

STEP 1: YFM Director or designees fills out the Youth Event Group Registration Form https://glr.breezechms.com/form/ab28d82235

(you will need a total count of youth/adults so be sure to get that before filling out the group registration).

STEP 2: Send out the individual registration link to your adults/teens who plan to attend the event (you'll receive the link upon completion of the group registration).

- STEP 3: Collect Registration Payment from Families and Submit ONE Payment To Region Submit ONE payment for your entire chapter either:
- **1. By Check** a. Make it out to: Unity Worldwide Ministries Great Lakes Region; and list Fall Retreat in the Memo, b. Mail checks to: N1886 Municipal Drive, #162, Greenville, WI 54942
- **2. Online** a. go to greatlakesunity.com and click donate. b. Select 'youth event registration' and input credit card information.

Regardless of how you pay the Region, please <u>first</u> collect payment from families and submit one payment to GLUR for everyone attending.

Your group's payment is expected by the date registration closes, so please plan accordingly. If your payment will not be in by that date, please contact Cassidy as soon as possible.

Good news! Limited funds for partial youth registration scholarships are available from the Great Lakes Region. Applicants are eligible for one scholarship or tuition award per calendar year.

Applications are due 6 weeks before the event. Learn more and apply on behalf of your chapter's youth. (this link will open a PDF file)

Registration Deadline: Thursday September 25th, 2025.

Written or emailed cancellation requests received by Oct 8th will be refunded minus a \$30 processing fee.

No refunds after Oct 8th, 2024. This is the date we have to have a final count into the retreat center.

QUESTIONS? Contact **Cassidy Meeks**, Great Lakes Regional YFM Coordinator at **(406) 490 4459** or yfmcoordinator@greatlakesunity.com.