

VIRGINIA SYNOD ELCA - YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Early  
registration  
discount ends  
Dec. 15

# Winter Celebration

OUR WEEKEND EVENT FOR 9<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

Eagle Eyrie Retreat Center, Lynchburg, VA

**Jan. 23-25, 2026**

## **ABOUT WINTER CELEBRATION:**

*Winter Celebration is a gathering of several hundred youth and adults for Large Group and Small Group experiences with lots of worship, singing, and faith sharing. There is also a big chunk of free time on Saturday when we have our "Open Mic / Talent Show" and time late in the evening to relax and talk with the other youth and adults from your congregation.*

*The Winter Celebration schedule:*

### **FRIDAY**

6:30 - check-in opens  
8:00 - Large Group and Small Group 1  
  
10:30 - Good Night Gathering  
10:45 - Cabin Conversations and lights  
out

### **SATURDAY**

7:30 - Breakfast  
9:00 - Large Group and Small Group 2  
12:00 - Lunch  
1:00 - Large Group and Small Group 3  
3:00 - Free time / open mic  
6:00 - Dinner  
7:00 - Large Group and Small Group 4  
9:30 - Holy Communion  
  
11:00 - Cabin Conversations and lights  
out

### **SUNDAY**

7:30 - Breakfast  
9:00 - Large Group and Small Group 5  
11:30 - Closing Large Group and depart

If you have questions about Winter Celebration or the registration process,  
Contact the Virginia Synod Office and speak to Dave Delaney  
([delaney@vasynod.org](mailto:delaney@vasynod.org)). cell: 540-529-6893

*For answers to frequently asked questions, see information at our website – [www.vasynod.org](http://www.vasynod.org)*

# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- **WHO ATTENDS:** Winter Celebration is open to all youth who are in 9th-12th grades and their adult advisors. Each youth must register as a member of a congregation, and for each five youth there must be one adult attending who will be responsible for those youth (1-5 youth - one adult; 6-10 youth - two adults; etc.). Your non-Lutheran friends are welcome to attend as your guests; they must also register as part of your congregation group.

- **REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT:**

For **online registration** ([www.vasynod.org](http://www.vasynod.org), click on “Youth Ministry,” and scroll down) payment must be made at the time of registration. Online registration will be available starting in September.

For **paper registration** (using this form) full payment should be included, or form of payment should be indicated under “Notes for Event Registrar.” MAIL CHECKS AND REGISTRATION FORMS TO: **Winter Celebration Registrar, PO Box 70, Salem VA 24153. If you would prefer to pay online rather than by check**, payment may be made at the “Give” tab on the website. **Checks** should be made out to “Virginia Synod ELCA” with “Winter Celebration” in the memo line. Checks for multiple participants must include a list of names and what portion of the check applies to each person.

**Youth Participant Registration Fee:** \$160 per person (*Early Registration Discount if registration submitted by Dec. 15 - \$150 per person*). Congregations are encouraged to provide scholarship assistance!

**Adult Participant Registration Fee: SMALL GROUP LEADERS, CO-LEADERS, or ASSISTANT SMALL GROUP LEADERS** should only pay **\$50**. Adults who are NOT serving in small group leadership roles should pay the **full registration fee** and will participate in an adult small group. Adults serving as group leaders must agree to a background check.

## REGISTRATION TIMELINE:

1. **Sept. 15, 2025:** Online and mail-in registration for Winter Celebration 2026 becomes available. Links to forms will be included in the Synod's "Weekly Update" email and also available at the synod website - [www.vasynod.org](http://www.vasynod.org).
2. **Dec. 15, 2025:** The last day to register and still receive the early discount.
3. **Jan. 12, 2026:** The last day to register without contacting the Synod Office first! Starting Saturday, Jan. 13, please contact Dave Delaney at [delaney@vasynod.org](mailto:delaney@vasynod.org) or 540-529-6893 (cell) for instructions before registering.
4. Prior to the event you will receive a Confirmation Letter, Map of Eagle Eyrie, and List of “Things To Bring” via email. *If you have not received this by Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>, please contact Dave Delaney (c: 540-529-6893 / [delaney@vasynod.org](mailto:delaney@vasynod.org))*
5. **Jan. 23, 2026:** Winter Celebration begins on Friday evening with check-in at Eagle Eyrie starting at 6:30pm. Our synod policy in case of bad weather is at our website - [www.vasynod.org](http://www.vasynod.org). Following check-in, the first event activity is Large Group at 8:15pm.

## EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS AT WINTER CELEBRATION:

- Registrants will participate fully in all activities and events of Winter Celebration, including meals and Cabin Conversations at night. Our behavior will reflect the faith we share in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **All participants will attend the FULL EVENT**, from 8:00 pm on Friday to noon on Sunday, and remain on the grounds of Eagle Eyrie through the event.
- No drugs (except prescribed or other required medications), alcohol, tobacco and vaping products, or weapons will be brought to the event.
- DO NOT BRING electronic media devices to the event. *If you have recorded music for the Talent Show, leave it with your congregational advisor until Saturday afternoon!* **CELL PHONES** must be left in your room/cottage and may only be used during free time, unless special permission has been obtained from the event director. Adults should carry cell phones in case of emergency.
- Cabin Conversation / Curfew / Lights Out will be conscientiously observed. **ALL EVENT PARTICIPANTS MUST BE IN THEIR ASSIGNED COTTAGES FOLLOWING THE END OF THE EVENING'S ACTIVITIES!**
- In the WC Community we believe that all persons are made in the image of God, so we treat everyone with respect and dignity and show care for the facility and its staff.
- Youth or adults who are not able to meet these expectations may be asked to leave the event.

# REGISTRATION FORM FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

## VIRGINIA SYNOD WINTER CELEBRATION – JAN. 23-25, 2026

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$160 (\$150 if postmarked on or before Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>)**

*Starting Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> please call Dave Delaney in the Synod Office before sending in a registration form.*

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY – ALL INFO ON **BOTH SIDES** OF THIS FORM MUST BE PROVIDED!

**1** **Check one:** \_\_\_\_\_ Youth participant \_\_\_\_\_ Adult

**2** **Check one for housing:** \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female

**3** **PARTICIPANT'S NAME** (and pronouns (optional)): \_\_\_\_\_

**4** **ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5** **PHONE:** (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**6** **EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**7** **CONGREGATION NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**8** **CONGREGATION LOCATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**9** **PASTOR'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**10** \_\_\_\_\_ **← YOUTH PARTICIPANTS: WHAT GRADE ARE YOU IN SCHOOL THIS YEAR?**

**11** **SHIRT SIZE** (all sizes are adult): XS S M L XL XXL XXXL XXXXL

**12** \_\_\_\_\_ **← PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE** (all sign!)

"By my signature, I agree to abide by the stated expectations of this event"

(**←←← see the expectations for Winter Celebration on the opposite page**)

**13** **ADULTS** – Choose one of the following:

☐ I will serve as a small group leader or co-leader (\$50 only) (must be 21 or older)

☐ I will serve as an assistant small group leader (\$50 only) (18 or older)

☐ **All adults who do not choose one of the above options will be in a small group of adults for the weekend** (\$160 / early: \$150)!

*Other notes or instructions for the event registrar:*



**STOP! DOUBLE CHECK: DID YOU FILL OUT ALL 13 FIELDS ABOVE (12 FOR YOUTH)?**  
**IF SO, PROCEED TO THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM! →→→**

**RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM AND REGISTRATION FEE TO:**

**WINTER CELEBRATION REGISTRAR, PO BOX 70, SALEM VA 24153**

**→ check with your congregation to see if forms are being sent in as a group!**

# PERMISSION AND MEDICAL FORM - Winter Celebration 2026

**THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY ALL PARTICIPANTS. FOR THOSE UNDER 18, A PARENT / GUARDIAN SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED**

Name of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's Date of Birth (mo/day/yr): \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Insurance Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy / Contract Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant Allergies / Disabilities / Special Medical Conditions, Food Needs, or other concerns of which event leaders should be aware: \_\_\_\_\_

Medications participant is taking: \_\_\_\_\_

"I give permission to be treated if I am unable to answer": (participant sign:) \_\_\_\_\_

## **Emergency Contact Information: ( →→ PLEASE PRINT !)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (relationship: \_\_\_\_\_)

Daytime phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Nighttime phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Contact person: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone #: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Nighttime phone #: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

## **Parents / guardians of participants under 18 must complete this section:**

- (Name of Youth) \_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to participate in Virginia Synod Winter Celebration at Eagle Eyrie Retreat Center in Lynchburg VA, Jan. 23-25, 2026.
- I have read and understand the stated expectations for Winter Celebration and will support event leaders in the administration of these event expectations.
- In the event I cannot be reached at the numbers above, I give permission to have the above participant treated at an appropriate medical facility as deemed necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature of parent / guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed name of parent / guardian)

*if you have questions about the event or the registration procedure, contact Dave Delaney at the Synod Office (cell: 540-529-6893; [delaney@vasynod.org](mailto:delaney@vasynod.org))*