

## Lutherans 'Live Love(d)' at San Antonio Youth Gathering

Written by Darci Tomky

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Eight local high school kids joined 25,000 other students in San Antonio, Texas the first week in July for the 12th triennial National Youth Gathering with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

These LITE youth group members from Holyoke's Zion Lutheran Church were part of a sea of blue backpacks as they emerged themselves in the beautiful Texas city and a life-changing conference at the Alamodome.

Making the trip Friday, June 28-Friday, July 5 were Becca Weaver, Kody Timm, Dakota Gipson, Zach Roll, Trevor Dalton, Xander Nelson, Megan Vieselmeyer and Anastasia Conklin along with sponsors Laura Roll and Marcia Dalton.

They learned how to live loved and live love—a focus of the "Live Love(d)" theme based on 1 John 4:9, "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him."

The event was "very uplifting," buzzing with "lots of energy," according to the local students, and it was certainly never hard to find a high five or hug waiting for them throughout the week.

Each evening, the youth, adult sponsors and volunteers from 49 U.S. states and 13 other countries gathered at a "Mass Event," with speakers, dance groups, the Skit Guys, the Jesus Painter, BMX bike riders and more.

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