



Defending Defending Life FAQ

HT Beyond & YA For Life 2026

Give me the quick details!

Who? Young Adults ages 18-30

Where? Fort Wayne, IN

But more specifically, where? Concordia Theological Seminary will be our host

When? October 23-25, 2026

Cost?

- Conference (no meals or housing) - \$50
- Conference & Meals (no housing) - \$100
- Conference, Meals, & Hotel housing (double occupancy) OR Seminary dorm housing (double occupancy) - \$150
- Conference, Meals, & Hotel housing (single occupancy) OR Seminary dorm housing single occupancy - \$175

What's the theme all about?

There's a reason so many pro-life arguments get reduced to what sounds witty on a picket sign. Actual conversations are hard. So many of those signs shut them down before you ever even have to have a discussion. Those discussions are challenging. It isn't just "How do I talk about life with someone who doesn't already agree with me about it?" It's also navigating relationships that matter, the nuances of complex issues, and the traumas and sins and baggage that get brought to them by people who struggle with godly teaching that teaches a very black and white definition of right and wrong to a world very muddled by sin.

Being right isn't enough. We need to be helpful, too. Motivated by the gospel. Able not only to navigate these conversations in terms of right and wrong, as well as the facts that support these truths, but also the hope for sinners who find themselves on the wrong side, rooted in the God who loves them enough to bleed to forgive, die and rise to save the least of these, and even those who would harm them. Join us in the fall of '26 for apologetics training on life issues like abortion, end of life, gender, and other life issues at our young adult conference Defending Defending Life.

What will we be doing?

Gathering with dozens of other like-minded individuals, learning about why it actually matters that we know how to defend life. We'll worship, learn, serve, and spend time together as we join under the cross of Christ. Think Higher Things, over a weekend. We'll gather together to begin our weekend under the Word through Evening Prayer. You'll get a teaching session on Friday night with some hang out time with the group, too. Saturday is chalk full of four more worship services, three more teaching sessions, a service project, and more fellowship time. On Sunday morning, we'll finish our event by gathering with a local congregation for the Divine Service and Bible Study. Plan for the weekend to begin at 4:00 pm on Friday, and end by noon on Sunday.

What is included in the cost?

Included

- Depending on your choice of registration, housing for two nights and three days, including linens
- Depending on your choice of registration, all event meals (Friday supper through Sunday breakfast)
- Four retreat sessions on why it matters that we know how to defend life
- Seven worship services throughout the weekend
- All event programming, which runs from morning to night during the event, including evening activities
- All event materials
- Transportation during the event
- Child care if needed (*Please let us know if you will be using this service!*)



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Not Included

- Transportation to and from the event site (Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN)
Please let us know if you need assistance getting to the event from the airport or train station! We'll do our best to accommodate!
- Personal items and supplies
- Snacks & beverages outside of the included meals
- Spending cash for souvenirs

Who will be leading this thing?

Have you ever wanted to learn about something really difficult from someone compassionate who simultaneously holds great expertise? Look no further than Michelle Bauman, Director of YA For Life. With over twenty years in the education world, and the rest of her professional career dedicated to speaking with a Gospel-motivated voice to life issues, Michelle has plenty of experience defending that which the Lord has called good to the world around her, even while the world calls it a problem. She'll be here to talk about the tough questions and find Jesus' promise in each one!

Rev. Harrison Goodman is the Executive Director of Mission and Theology for Higher Things, and will serve as the Chaplain for the event. He's been a pastor for more than 15 years, speaking to the youth and young adults of the church in a way that doesn't talk down to them, but rather wrestles with the things of this world alongside them, showing them that they aren't alone in the darkness. Pastor Goodman is always willing to meet someone in their doubt or concerns, never shying away from the promise of Life that is won for us by our Savior.