



**DISTRICT
BLITZ**

2026

LEADER PACKET

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About District Blitz

District Blitz is an annual student ministries conference hosted by the North Central District of the EFCA and CNC (Converge North Central). The purpose of District Blitz is:

"To provide a conference that challenges students to love God, love one another, and love the lost."

It is our prayer that this event will help in the spiritual development and transformation of your students. We strive to accomplish this through teaching that is biblical, energetic, and challenging, as well as through worship times, practical workshops, and prayer rallies. All while giving plenty of time for you to be together as a group, building and deepening relationships.

This conference is designed as a growth-level event. During our sessions there will be a "call" for students that may be new to understanding who Jesus is. However, the overall presentation of the conference is intended for students who are already Christians and are wanting to grow in their walk with Christ.

We know that these conferences take a lot of time and work to plan, so please don't hesitate to contact us. Additional resources will be posted on our website: www.districtblitz.org

Blessings,

Glenn Olson & Nick Norgaard

Contact Info:

North Central District
Glenn Olson
651-592-6702
glennolson@me.com

Converge North Central / Christian and Missionary Alliance
Nick Norgaard
320-247-0286
nick@troutcamps.org

2026 Theme



The book of Jonah is a strange one, featuring a gloomy prophet who doesn't listen to God. Not only does Jonah complain about everything and everyone around him, but he also argues with God! Everyone else in the story does the opposite of expectations, crushing stereotypes at every dramatic turn. It has a weird start, a missing ending, and it is a book where everything is upside down. Not only does this

book include a very large fish, but even a battle between a shade plant and a worm! Bottomline, do we care about Nineveh or not? And what does this curious book mean for us today?

Memory Verses

We will be doing memory verses again this year! They will be included in the handbook emailed to you a few weeks prior to your arrival.

Offering

Fred and Cynthia Cressman – Missionaries in Malawi, Africa

Our aim is to empower Malawians themselves to bring change and transformation through Christ like living, planting and revitalizing healthy churches and by becoming Christ-like, transformational leaders. Because Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world, we help people become self-reliant through equipping them with skills to earn a living and provide for their families. We are also helping impoverished communities overcome poverty through early childhood development, establishing schools that have Christ at the center and are becoming models of creative, successful education in Malawi. For more info go to: www.communityimpactmalawi.org

Friday and Karen Omot – Missionaries in Kenya, Africa

The Omot family is serving in Marsabit, Kenya at Northern Bible Training Center. They have three children. Friday teaches at Northern Bible Training College. He is working to equip and train up men and women from unreached people groups (UPG) with Biblical knowledge and skills. They work with people from many different tribal affiliations and work to help bring understanding of unity under Christ. For more info go to: <https://usgiving.aimint.org/donate/146320>

Main Stage Line-Up



Frank Lanier

Frank is grateful for the wonderful life GOD has given him, first to know and be known by his Heavenly Father. He is blessed to be married to Dottie and dad to six pretty cool kids. Frank serves as Associate Pastor at Christ Community Church in Pinehurst, NC and is working towards planting a church in the Moore County area. You will find him laughing together with his family, reading a good book (theological, biography, and fantasy fiction), or coaching someone in something.



Molly Sanborn

(aka The Cheese Ball Chick) is a proud wife, homeschool mom, speaker, author, adventurer, and lover of Jesus. Molly will make you laugh (and maybe even cry) as she shares practical, biblical, and comical applications to help you draw closer to each other and God. Learn more about Molly at www.cheeseballchick.com.



Alive City

A bold, genre-defying Christian band based in Detroit, fronted by sibling duo Zach and Maddy Schossau. Rising to recognition as the 2018 CFA Battle of the Bands champions, the group has since amassed over 40 million streams, driven by their breakout hit "Only Ever."

Blending pop, rock, soul, and worship, Alive City crafts music that's both high-energy and deeply personal. Their mantra: No limits, just Jesus.



Brandon Early

With humor, authenticity, and deep faith, Brandon Early has spent over two decades helping teens, preteens, and families discover and follow Jesus. He is a Teaching Pastor at Valley Church in West Des Moines. Brandon and his wife Keri have been married for over 20 years and are raising three incredible boys. When he's not speaking or leading, you'll find him perfecting his Chicago-style pizza recipe or showing off his questionable ninja moves in impromptu sparring matches with his sons.

Registration Information

Registration opens February 1st, 2026.

Cost is \$75 per student.

A \$15 late fee will apply April 6 - April 17.

If you are paying via card, you can register online by going to www.districtblitz.org, clicking "register," and selecting whether you are an EFCA, CNC, or CMA church. If you have questions or have forms to send, please see the contact info below for your association.

EFCA Churches

Phone Number: 612-338-1716

Fax: 612-338-1519

Email: Sharon.Trucker@ncdefca.org

Mailing Address: 3510 Hopkins Place N

Building 4 Oakdale, MN 55128

CNC & CMA Churches

Phone Number: 218-543-4565

Email: registration@TroutCamps.org

Mailing Address: 10173 Trout Lake Dr,
Pine River, MN 56474

Adding Registrations - You can add additional students and leaders to the group after you register (\$15 late fee will apply April 6 – April 17). All registrations are transferable, but are not refundable.

Seating assignments – Seating assignments are determined by your group's registration date. Payment must be received for your registration date to count.

Hotel Reservations - We recommend making hotel reservations as soon as possible. See pages 10-11 for more information including hotel lists, pricing, and contacts.

Planning Checklist - In order to assure a smooth and quick registration the day you arrive in Duluth, please make sure you have completed the following items:

- Make hotel reservations. Some hotels fill quickly. See page 10 for the hotel block information. We recommend doing this as soon as possible.
- Calculate budget costs for the weekend, including transportation and meals. We suggest adding about \$15-\$18 per meal. Many groups bring supplies for meals and some hotels offer continental breakfast. You're in charge of running the numbers to figure out how much to charge your students. Make sure to factor in your leaders' cost if necessary.
- Register your group. Two weeks before the conference, you will receive a confirmation that includes maps and recreation information.
- Review the Conduct Code and Responsibility Pledge (pg 12) with leaders, parents, and students.
- Check in at the DECC on April 17. On-site check-in will be from 6:00-8:30 pm on Friday, April 17 in the registration area at the DECC. The head youth leader should come and check in your church. Please bring the exact number of students and leaders in your group and one complete set of health forms for your group. Also, pick up your seating assignments and wristbands. (**Note:** Wristbands serve as tickets to the conference and must be worn at all times. Broken wristbands may be turned in and replaced. Lost bands will cost \$2).

***Please do not bring your youth group into the check-in area**

Tentative Conference Schedule*

***A finalized Conference Handbook with the schedule will be emailed to you at least two weeks prior to the conference.**

Friday, April 17

- 1:00-3:00 Pre-conference prayer
- 6:00-8:30 On-site check-in at the registration area. (*Head youth leader only*)
- 7:15-8:00 Prayer Moves
- 8:00 Doors open
- 8:30-10:00 First Conference Session (DECC Arena)
- 8:40-9:10 Head youth leader orientation meeting
- 10:00-10:45 Breakout Sessions by groups
- 11:00 In hotels
- 11:30 In hotel rooms and quiet for the night

Saturday, April 18

- 7:30 Breakfast on your own
- 8:30 Doors open
- 8:00-8:45 Prayer Moves
- 9:00-10:30 Second Conference Session (DECC Arena)
- 10:45-11:15 Breakout Sessions by groups
- 11:30-12:30 Seminars / Workshops
- 12:30 Lunch on your own
- 1:00-6:00 Recreation and ministry options
- 4:00-5:00 Dinner on your own
- 6:00-7:00 Seminars / Workshops
- 7:10-7:40 Prayer Moves
- 7:20 Doors open
- 7:55-9:30 Third Conference Session (DECC Arena)
- 9:30 Breakout Sessions by groups
- 11:15 In hotels
- 11:30 In hotel rooms and quiet for the night

Sunday, April 19

- 7:30-8:30 Devotional on Your Own
- 8:00 Check-out and breakfast before leaving for the rally
- 9:15-9:45 Prayer Moves
- 9:45 Doors open
- 10:15-11:45 Fourth Conference Session (DECC Arena)
- 12:00 Lunch & Head Home

Conference Overview

Conference Sessions - Each conference session includes worship, student-led prayer, and Bible messages centered around our theme of "Jonah" (pg 3). Sessions will be engaging and include other interactive elements. We set up these sessions to be fun, encouraging, and challenging. Please begin praying now for our speakers and worship leaders who will be leading these sessions.

Seminars/Workshops - We desire students to go deeper in their faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Because of this, we are offering a number of different seminars and workshops that will encourage them to live out their faith in all areas of their life. Students and leaders can select two seminars/workshops to attend on Saturday that interest them. A list of all the available seminars/workshops will be included in the handbook. You are able to review these with your students prior to the conference.

Breakout Sessions - Following each rally, groups will have a time to discuss and interact with what they just learned. We have a limited number of rooms, so larger groups will be assigned spaces. You may want to check with your hotel about open meeting spaces prior to your arrival.

Afternoon Activity Options & Ministry Projects - Youth groups will have the opportunity to help local churches and ministries by providing various services for them. We will have 300-500 spots available. All projects will last approximately 90 minutes, including drive time (if necessary). More details on these opportunities will be sent out about three weeks before the event.

Inflatables & Laser Tag - Your group is welcome to hang out with our staff for a couple of free activity options at the DECC on Saturday afternoon.

Prayer Moves - About 45 minutes prior to each rally, we have a time set aside for students and leaders that want to pray over the upcoming rally/session. This time is spent in both large group and small group prayer. We will also have students that pray for our rallies on stage during each session. Please consider finding someone in your youth ministry that is willing to start a prayer team prior to the conference.

"Be Still, Know God" Prayer Event – Do you want to help your students reach a new level of getting to know God through prayer as well as preparing their hearts for what God will do during District Blitz? Bring them to our "Be Still, Know God" prayer event in the DECC from 1:00-3:00 pm on Friday, April 17. There will be worship and prayer individually and in small groups. This event is designed to help students embrace intimacy with God through prayer and to learn different ways to pray. We can't think of a better way to begin your District Blitz weekend!

Note: This event is optional, but if you're able to come, we suggest eating lunch early. This way you can be at the DECC by noon. ("Get-Out-Of-School-Early" forms are available on page 16). The event will run until 3:00 pm, at which time you will have a chance to check into your hotel, eat dinner, and then make your way to the conference registration area.

Meals - All groups will be responsible for their own meals while at the conference. Some hotels offer a continental breakfast and/or have refrigerators in the rooms. There are several fast food locations in the area, however, you may need transportation to get to them. There are grocery stores and pizza places that are less than 2 miles away.

NEW THIS YEAR – Box Lunches @ The DECC

This year, the District Blitz conference team has partnered with the DECC to provide a space on-site for anyone who wishes to have a quick Lunch or Dinner on Saturday. The meals are simple boxed grab-and-go style with vegetarian and gluten free options available. There will also be a concession stand in Pioneer Hall from noon – 6pm if anyone needs to purchase a small additional snack or fountain drink. Orders must be submitted no later than April 1, 2026. **Please check out the other attached PDF for more information.**

Friendly Reminder: There is a nationwide labor shortage affecting the staffing at hotels and restaurants. With this in mind, we strongly recommend that you establish a meal plan for all your meals. We recommend making restaurant reservations two weeks prior to the event. Please be patient with the restaurants trying to serve thousands of kids with little staff.

Parking/Transportation - Most of our blocked hotels are within walking distance to the DECC. Check a map to ensure your hotel is within walking distance. To keep your parking costs to a minimum, we recommend that you arrange for parking at your hotel and utilize the Skyway system. The parking lot at the conference location will have enough parking spaces to accommodate all vehicle types, including buses and trailers. You will have to pay a parking fee every time you enter the DECC parking lot with a vehicle. You will have the option of parking your vehicles overnight at the DECC for the entirety of the weekend.

Health Forms & Medical Personnel - All students and leaders are required to bring a completed copy of the enclosed health form. These will be collected at registration. We understand you may have your own health forms, but we require the conference-specific form. There will be certified medical personnel present at the DECC and certain hotels. Stop by our boardroom for help locating the medical personnel while at the DECC. In the event of an emergency, it would be best to call 911 or go directly to a hospital.

Head Youth Leader Orientation - The focus of this weekend is to minister to students. We trust leaders will set the example by following conference rules and encourage their students to do the same. The head youth leader for your group must attend a brief orientation on Friday, during the first rally (See schedule). This will be the time when we review rules, expectations, schedules, and answer any questions. We will have the rules and expectations printed in your conference handbook.

Location & Directions - All Conference Sessions and Seminars will be held at the DECC.

Duluth Entertainment Convention Center

350 Harbor Drive Duluth, MN 55802

(218) 722-5573 | www.decc.org

Hotel Information

You are responsible for securing housing arrangements at one of the local hotels. Page 10 has information on the hotels that blocked off a certain number of rooms for us at our conference rate. You can see the number of rooms blocked, cost per room, and other information there.

The hotel costs and number of people per room should be taken into consideration when calculating price per person for your trip. Please confirm with your hotel what type of room you are getting and the max count per room.

All hotels will release the unused rooms one month prior to the conference, but hotels usually book up long before then. We recommend contacting your selected hotel as soon as possible.

When you call, identify yourself as being part of the **"District Blitz Conference."** Let them know how many rooms your group may need and ask for the conference rate. All hotel prices are subject to a 13% state & local tax. Check-in time is after 3:00 pm on Friday and check-out is by 12:00 pm on Sunday.

****IMPORTANT:** Any unclaimed hotel rooms below will be released to the general public on March 7th, 2026. Don't wait to book your hotel rooms, get the best rates now.

Youth leaders, like students, are expected to comply with hotel rules. You are responsible for the conduct of your youth group. We want our attitudes and actions to be the best possible testimony in the name of Jesus Christ.

We recommend calling to confirm your hotel registration 14 days prior to the conference.

Hotel Block Information

Make sure to book under the hotel block name: **"District Blitz Conference"** otherwise, you will not get the best room rates.

Hotel	Nightly Price Per Room	Room Type	Phone Contact	# of Available Rooms in Block (Per Night)
Canal Park Lodge	\$189.00	2 Queens	Becky 218-279-6000 Ext 412	68
Comfort Inn	\$165	2 Queens	Amanda 218-628-2541	30
Days Inn – Duluth Lakewalk	\$135.99	2 Queens	Nancy 218-625-0406	20
Edgewater Hotel & Waterpark *Prices do not include waterpark tickets	\$189.99	2 Queens / Sofa (Pool View)	Nancy 218-625-0406	30
	\$194.99	2 Queens (Lake View)		
Hampton Inn – Canal Park	\$189.00	City View	Chelle 218-720-3000	70
	\$199.00	Partial Lakeview		
	\$209.00	Lakeview		
	\$259.00	1 Room Suite		
	\$289.00	2 Room Suite		
Holiday Inn Express & Suites – Hermantown	\$140.00	2 Queens	218-722-1202	100
Lift Bridge Lodge	\$219.00	Single	218-727-1348 Booking Link	60
	\$239.00	Double		
	\$229.00	Triple		
	\$249.00	Quad		
Radisson Hotel Harborview	\$129.00	2 Queens (65)	Carissa 218-727-9074	70
	\$129.00	Single King (5)		
The Inn on Lake Superior	\$201.99	2 Queens (Pool View)	Nancy 218-625-0406	90
	\$215.99	2 Queens / Sofa (City View)		
The Suites Hotel at Waterfront Plaza	\$120.00	Single	Ruth 763-670-7724	60
	\$139.00	Double		
	\$149.00	Triple		

Hotel Housing Form

Please mail, fax, or email this form directly to your hotel no later than two weeks before the conference.

Church Name: _____ Housing Dates: April 17-19, 2026

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Church Phone: _____ Head Youth Leader: _____

Youth Leader Email: _____ Youth Leader Cell Phone: _____

Boys Rooms	
Room #	
Names	
Room #	
Names	
Room #	
Names	
Room #	
Names	

Girls Rooms	
Room #	
Names	
Room #	
Names	
Room #	
Names	
Room #	
Names	

Place an asterisk (*) by the names of your youth leader(s) in each room.

Conduct Pledge

We want to remind each youth leader and student that we are representing Christ in Duluth. Therefore, our speech and conduct should be glorifying to God (I Tim. 4:12; Col. 3:17). Please discuss this page with your group before the conference. We are looking forward to the best District Blitz Conference ever and hope that you will be a part of making it happen! Your cooperation is vital and greatly appreciated.

Conduct Code

My model for conduct and attitudes is the Lord Jesus Christ.

I will observe all rules established by the conference directors and will follow the code given by my church.

- For my own safety sake, I will not leave the rally area unless given special permission by my Youth Pastor/Leader.
- I will attend all scheduled rallies and sit with my group.
- No excessive public display of affection
- Any free time given to me will be used wisely. I will, at all times, respect the property and safety of others.
- No members of the opposite sex are allowed in hotel rooms.

I will (in travel to and from the rally, and during the conference) avoid all questionable activity and things which would be offensive to Christ, my parents, my church, the rally and others.

Responsibility Pledge

My goal in attending is for spiritual growth and to enjoy and develop friendships. I accept the responsibility for my conduct at the District Blitz Conference.

I realize that my participation in questionable behavior will end my stay at the conference.

I understand that my parents/guardians will assume financial responsibility for property damage/loss caused by me and travel cost if I am asked to leave early (only after parents have been called).

My family and I will be praying that this conference will be an enriching experience for our entire youth group.

We have read and agree to follow the conduct code and responsibility pledge.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Medical Release Form (student)

District Blitz Conference, April 17-19, 2026

Because of the increasing sophistication of our hospital systems, we have found it necessary to have signed parental release forms in the unlikely event of some serious injury requiring hospital treatment. Since many hospitals will not administer any medical treatment to a minor without some parental consent, this release form gives us permission to take your child to the nearest available medical facility and have the necessary medical treatment administered.

Parents/Guardians please read and sign the statement below. This provides permission to seek whatever medical attention may be necessary. It also releases North Central District of the Evangelical Free Church of America, Converge North Central, Trout Lake Camps, and / or the church's personnel from any liability against personal injury or loss.

We understand the arrangements and believe that necessary precautions and plans for the care and supervision of the child will be taken during this conference. Beyond this, we will not hold responsible North Central District of the Evangelical Free Church, Converge North Central, Trout Lake Camps, or any of the conference staff. In case of emergency, I understand that every effort will be made to contact me. If I cannot be reached, I hereby give the Student Ministries Conference leadership, staff or other emergency medical personnel the permission to act on my behalf in seeking emergency medical treatment for this child in the event that such treatment is deemed necessary by the conference or church staff. I give permission to those administering emergency medical treatment to do so using those measures deemed necessary. I absolve the North Central District of the Evangelical Free Church, Converge North Central, Trout Lake Camps, and/or church personnel from liability in acting on my behalf in this regard, so long as they are not grossly negligent.

Name of Child: _____

Signature of Parent / Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Insurance Company: _____ Policy Number: _____

If Parent / Guardian are not available, please call person below:

Name: _____ Relationship to Student _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

May we administer over-the-counter medications? (e.g., aspirin, Tylenol, Advil, antibiotic ointments, etc.) _____

Additional comments regarding medical history, allergies, penicillin, drug reactions, use of over-the-counter medications, etc., that may be needed in treatment: _____

Medical Release Form (adult)

District Blitz Conference, April 17-19, 2026

Because of the increasing sophistication of our hospital systems, we have found it necessary to have all attending youth leaders and adults provide the District Blitz Conference with a release form in the unlikely event of some serious injury requiring hospital treatment. This release gives us permission to provide a quick response to any medical treatment that may need to be administered.

Please read and sign the statement below. This provides permission to seek whatever medical attention may be necessary. It also releases North Central District of the Evangelical Free Church of America, Converge North Central, Trout Lake Camps, and/or the church's personnel from any liability against personal injury or loss.

I understand the arrangements and believe that the necessary precautions and plans for my care will be dealt with and handled well and in a professional and timely manner. Beyond this, I will not hold responsible North Central District of the Evangelical Free Church of America, Converge North Central, Trout Lake Camps, and/or any of the conference staff. In case of emergency I understand that every effort will be made to contact my emergency contact. If they cannot be reached, I hereby give the District Blitz Conference leadership, staff or other emergency medical personnel the permission to act on my behalf in seeking emergency medical treatment in the event that such treatment is deemed necessary by the conference staff. I give permission to those administering emergency medical treatment to do so using those measures deemed necessary. I absolve the North Central District of the Evangelical Free Church of America, Converge North Central, Trout Lake Camps and/or church personnel from liability in acting on my behalf in this regard so long as they are not grossly negligent.

Name of Adult Leader: _____

Insurance Company: _____ Policy Number: _____

In case of an emergency, please contact:

Name: _____ Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Relationship to Adult: _____

Additional comments regarding medical history, allergies, penicillin or drug reactions, use of over-the-counter medications, etc., that may be needed in treatment: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Get Out of School Early Form

District Blitz Student Conference

April 17-19, 2026

DECC, Duluth, Minnesota

Dear School Officials/Teachers:

Please be informed that my child, _____, will be away from school on Friday, April 17, 2026, beginning at _____. I have given my son/daughter permission to attend a District Blitz Conference. I would appreciate it if you would make them aware of any assignments which they may miss on that Friday. Thank you.

Parent/Guardian

Get Out of School Early Form

District Blitz Student Conference

April 17-19, 2026

DECC, Duluth, Minnesota

Dear School Officials/Teachers:

Please be informed that my child, _____, will be away from school on Friday, April 17, 2026, beginning at _____. I have given my son/daughter permission to attend a District Blitz Conference. I would appreciate it if you would make them aware of any assignments which they may miss on that Friday. Thank you.

Parent/Guardian

Group Registration Form

Note: This form is necessary only if mailing in a check. If you're paying with a card, please register online at www.districtblitz.com.

Church Name:

Date:

Person Completing Form:

Church Address:

City/State/Zip:

Church Phone:

Your Phone:

Your Email:

Registration Type (circle):

Original Registration

Additional Registration #1

Additional Registration #2

(If you are sending in additional registrations, please include only the numbers of NEW registrants.)

Head Youth Leader Attending (required):

Head Youth Leader Cell Phone:

	Number Registering
Middle School Boys	
Middle School Girls	
High School Boys	
High School Girls	
Youth Leader (Male)	
Youth Leader (Female)	
Total Registering =	
x ___/person	\$
Total \$ Enclosed	\$

CNC & other denominations make checks payable to Trout Lake Camps. EFCA Churches make checks payable to EFCA.