

# You're Invited!



Minneapolis, Minnesota is the largest city in Minnesota and is nestled next to the state capital, St. Paul to create what is known as the Twin Cities. The Mississippi River is what separates these two great cities. Minneapolis is a part of the “Land of 10,000 Lakes” with parks and/or waterways roughly every six blocks. Trails are abundant. It is the home to the famous club First Avenue where many musician get their start and is also where Prince was born and raised. Minneapolis is known as a growing, diverse and Lutheran-dense city and will be the host of the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering!

Come join the FUN!



2022 ELCA  
YOUTH GATHERING

# boundless

GOD BEYOND MEASURE

2022 ELCA Youth Gathering

Minneapolis, MN

July 23 –28, 2022

Open to all 8th –12th graders

## **What is the ELCA Youth Gathering?**

The ELCA Youth Gathering meets triennially. It is an opportunity for High School youth of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the denomination that St. Luke's is a member of) to gather as one voice and one body. It brings together youth, and their adults, from across the country to one central location to experience Christ together.

The Gathering consists of four program areas: Interactive Learning, Synod Day, Service Learning and Mass Gathering. Congregational groups will be assigned to a rotation schedule to experience Interactive Learning, Synod Day and Service Learning.

**Interactive Learning** is a space for participants to engage and be immersed in the life and breath of the church, the community of God. Through a variety of mediums, participants will engage in learning opportunities that support the mission of the Gathering and its theme, and that lift up partner organizations or groups, all in the Minneapolis Convention Center.



## **Who can attend?**

Any 8th –12th grader in the 2021-2022 school year.

## **Do you have to be a member of St. Luke's?**

No. You are welcome to invite friends who would like to attend the gathering and all the components of preparing for the experience with St. Luke's.

## **Are adults needed on this trip?**

Of course! Adults, especially drivers over 21, are crucial to this experience. Adults interested in attending the Gathering as an adult participant are invited to talk with Pastor Sally.

## **How are adult chaperones determined?**

Just like youth have a variety of gifts and needs, so do adults. The primary focus of this trip as an adult participant is safety, support, relationship building with our youth and FUN! The gathering is unique as it includes lots of large group time. So if you don't enjoy very large groups, or get impatient in long lines, this trip might not be the best one for you.

## **I'm In! How do I register?**

Fill out the enclosed registration sheet and return it with your \$200 deposit. Additional registration sheets can be downloaded from [stlukespr.org](http://stlukespr.org). Then spread the word to encourage more to attend!

## Preparation

Preparation for this experience comes in three areas; relationships, educational and financial (fundraising). By registering for this experience, participants agree to engage in the prep meetings to learn more about Minneapolis and the themes for the Gathering while building relationships with peers and adults. Fundraisers will need help to make them a success. Some fundraisers will take more effort than others. The expectation is that all will participate in supporting the efforts of making the fundraisers happen.

Past fundraisers have included but not limited to:



- ◆ Spaghetti Dinners
- ◆ Pancake Breakfasts
- ◆ Bedsheet Sales
- ◆ Youth Shares
- ◆ Auctions
- ◆ Entertainment & Musical Events

### **Preparation Meetings:**

Preparation Meetings will occur periodically in addition to fundraisers. Please make it a priority to attend these meetings.

Tentative Meeting Dates: October 17, November 14, January 23, February 27, April 10th.

Meeting times will be determined at the Parent Information meeting.



**Synod Day** is when you will gather with congregations in your geographic area for worship, conversation, communion, music and learning about how

boundless our God really is. In the past, Synod Day was held in hotel ballrooms; however, for this cycle we are excited to be hosted by local congregations. Participants will be transported with their synods to their host congregation for this program day.

**Service Learning** is an opportunity to take part in the Twin Cities' great story and live out our Lutheran faith by being God's hands and feet in the community. Participants will be able to work alongside our neighbors in the Twin Cities and share meaningful conversations with them. Participants will be transported to their Service Learning site that morning.

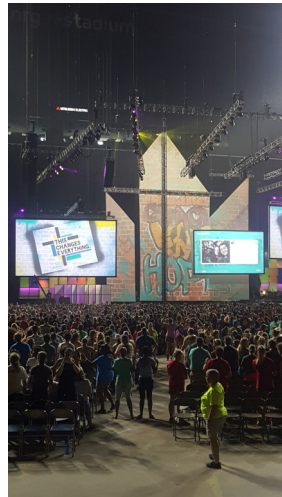




**Mass Gathering** is a time for all our Gathering participants to gather and experience church at U.S. Bank Stadium. This provides a unique experience for participants to come together to sing, dance, pray, learn and ponder their faith. This time is filled with great music from the Gathering band, worship elements, a concert from a current Christian artist, and speakers from all walks of life.



On Thursday morning everyone will come together for worship, blessings and safe travels as well as an opportunity to share communion with 30,000 other people. Mass Gathering is livestreamed for everyone to see whether there are there in person or not.



You will be able to watch the Mass Gathering at:  
[www.elca.org/youthgathering](http://www.elca.org/youthgathering)

## Fees and Dates

Total Cost of experience: \$1500/ Participant (\$500 from participant, \$500 from St. Luke's, \$500 fundraised)

St. Luke's supports our youth being able to have a transforming faith experience by supporting their participation. However, the entire cost is not able to be absorbed by the congregation so we ask families to partner with us to make this experience a reality. If the cost is prohibitive to participation to your family, please be in contact with Pastor Sally as scholarships are available.

**September 12, 2021**—Registrations are due with a \$200 deposit.

**September 19, 2021**— 6:30pm  
(Parent Information Night)

**December 1, 2021**—\$150 payment due

**March 1, 2022**— \$150 final payment due.



## **Why are some meals together and others not?**

Beginning and ending our day together creates community and cohesive communication. By having breakfast together, we know everyone has something in them to start the day, are ready to go, hear announcements for the day and are given their lunch money.

By having dinner together, we get a chance to sit down together at a non-fast food restaurant at least three times on the trip, share a meal and a common experience of restaurants in and around Minneapolis. Because of the size of the group, we will do our best to have reservations for restaurants well in advance of our arrival. Please indicate any allergy or dietary concerns on your registration as this will help determine which restaurants are selected.

We will also pick places that will allow to try new things, especially places that are icons to the Minneapolis/ St. Paul area. Have you ever had a Juicy Lucy?...yummmm.... Just wait....



## **Schedule**

### **Saturday July 23**

Depart St. Luke's

### **Sunday July 24**

Explore Minneapolis

Mass Gathering begins at 8pm

### **Monday July 25—Thursday July 27**

Synod Day

Interactive Learning

Service Projects

Mass Gathering

### **Thursday July 28**

Morning worship

Return to St. Luke's



## How will we get there?

We will be driving to Minneapolis in 15-passenger vans. This allows us the flexibility to have our own transportation throughout the Gathering. It increases our restaurant choices, allows for breaks to cool down at the hotel, ability to run and grab things and to travel at our own pace.



## How will we get around once we are there?

Depending on the location of the hotel we have choices. We can walk, use our vans, use the Gathering transportation busses or utilize the Minneapolis Light Rail system.

## Where will we stay?

During the registration process, we will select housing choices. We will later be assigned a hotel. Often, synods are assigned to the same hotel. Typically, there are 4 youth to a standard hotel room. Roommates will be assigned during the registration process. Adults will only room with other adults unless they are assigned a room with members of their own family.

## What will be eat?

Everyone has different eating patterns. What we are committed to is having a group breakfast so we know everyone has something in them to start the day, and a group dinner each night. Money will be given to students to be used toward lunch each day as they are hungry or thirsty. Students are encouraged to bring additional money as well.



## Who is paying for the food?

As a part of participant fees and fundraising, we will pay for breakfast and dinner. Participants will be given \$15 daily to be used toward lunch/snacks.

## Can we bring our own snacks?

Of course! However, they may or may not be allowed into U.S. Bank Stadium as the stadium food will be available for purchase.