

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering



Living Word Lutheran Church

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering Info Sheet

THE DEETS:

What is the purpose? 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering - a life-changing faith formation experience for students immersed in scripture, learning, and fellowship.

Who can attend? Current 8th-12th graders

How many attend? Staff is expecting 20,000 students and adult leaders from across the United States. In the past, there has been up to 40,000 participants at this triennial event.

When is the Gathering? July 16-20, 2024

Where is the Gathering? New Orleans, LA (where it was also host city in 1997, 2009, 2012)

Why attend? This unique event is one of the largest of its kind! Words can't express how amazing it is to gather with so many Lutheran young people, just like you, from across the country. This chance to participate in the Gathering is only every three years!

Gathering Theme: Created To Be

Theme was developed by young leaders in the church. This theme is all about how God has created you to be who you are and you have a place in this church.

Theme Verse: *I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works: that I know very well.*

- Psalm 139:14

Daily Themes of the event are: We are created to be ...

- Brave
- Authentic
- Free
- Disruptive
- Disciples

What will we do at the Gathering?

There will be a variety of events throughout the week that will grow and stretch your faith life! Daily we will meet as a congregational group for prayer and reflection and end the day with speakers and music during Mass Gathering in the Superdome.

July 15 - Travel day

July 16 - Check in and Mass Gathering in the Superdome

July 17, 18, 19 - Rotation between three programs: Accompaniment, Synod Day, Interactive Learning and then Mass Gathering in the evening

July 20 - Closing worship in the Superdome; Drive back to Katy

MINISTRY GOALS for Students @ the Gathering:

- Affirmed and challenged in their faith
- Ponder their vocation
- Experience new perspectives
- Bond with their congregational group
- Learn more about the ELCA and our partners

How will we get to the Gathering?

We plan to drive to New Orleans in the church van and once we are in New Orleans all programming (except Accompaniment possibly) is in walking distance.

What is the cost?

Roughly \$1,000 per person. The goal is to fundraise \$400 per student.

What's your next step?

Go to livingwordkaty.org/discipleship/high-school/ and register and make your initial payment of \$450

Is it safe in New Orleans?

The Gathering Staff and leadership meet regularly with the local police starting three years leading up to the Gathering. The event leadership has a great relationship with the people of New Orleans having been there three previous times. The event also has its own security team. Safety is a priority and is taken seriously. As a congregation, we will travel as a group when walking around the city.

Payment dates:

April 10th	New registrations due with \$450 fee
April 28th	\$150 payment due
May	TBD based on fundraisers
June	TBD based on fundraisers



Will the group have meetings to prepare for the Gathering?

Yes, preparing for the Gathering starts now! The students and adult leaders will spend time digging into the Gathering daily themes, build trust within the group, and prepare our hearts and minds for this life-changing faith formation experience. All meetings will be at Living Word.

March 3 from 12-1:30pm (students and leader)

April 7 from 12-1:30pm (students and leader)

May 19 from 12-1:30pm (students and leader)

June 2 from 12-1:30pm (students and leader)

June 30 from 12-2:30pm (parents will be there for part of this meeting as we review last minute details)

Fundraisers

Fundraisers help with group-building between the students and also of course help offset the cost. We do expect students to participate in the fundraisers and if needed, a representative from the family if they are unable to.

Envelope fundraiser - In the church lobby, we place envelopes numbered 1 to 100, for example, people are invited to take an envelope and bring it back with that amount the following Sunday.

Dates: TBD

Stockholder fundraiser - Church members are invited to become "stockholders" by donating money for the Gathering participants costs. As stockholders, they will be invited to a special presentation following the Gathering where students share their stories and pictures.

Dates TBD

Stay Connected through social media

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/youthgathering>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/elcagathering/>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/elcagathering>

Snapchat - elcagathering

TikTok - elcagathering



Questions?

Contact the adult leaders for the Living Word group:

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2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO
the table

BE

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Young Adult Gathering