



JULY 24 - 28, 2022 | MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Information Meeting

September 12, 2021

What is Youth Gathering?

The ELCA Youth Gathering for high school-age youth takes place every three years and is about faith formation, worship, study, fellowship, service, and play.

It is an opportunity for youth to engage with peers from across the United States and the world who share a common commitment and faith in Christ. The Gathering is a five-day event that begins on a Wednesday evening and ends with a service of communion the following Sunday morning. The opening night sets the stage for the days ahead in which young people may have an encounter with Jesus that energizes their faith and helps them discover their call to serve in the world – locally and globally.

Young people rotate through a variety of service learning experiences in the surrounding community. They explore and strengthen their faith by studying God's word, serving their neighbor, sharing bread and wine in worship, participating in lively faith discussions, and broadening their experience of God's world and diverse communities through travel.

When & Where:

Minneapolis, MN | July 24-27, 2022

Leave: July 22 or 23

Return: July 27

Minneapolis: where there's a park every six blocks, where biking and running trails go for miles, where Prince was born and raised, and where the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held! Minneapolis is also known as a growing, diverse and Lutheran-dense city, nestled on the banks of the Mississippi River in the heart of the Midwest.

While in the city, Gathering participants will spend time at the Minneapolis Convention Center, U.S. Bank Stadium, area hotels and local congregations in addition to the many restaurants, parks and cultural centers the city has to offer. To dive deeper into what Minneapolis and the metro area have to offer, visit minneapolis.org.

Who: current 8th-12th grade students + 1:5 Ratio of Adults *vaccination required

Why should I go?

This is an amazing opportunity to attend and gather with 30,000 other high school students from all over the world ...witness the power of voices and actions working together...see what the church is about now and how you can make an impact....to know and spread the radical love of God. The gathering offers large group events with amazing musicians and speakers, stadium sized worship and communion, a service day, a day to gather with other churches from our area synod, and the opportunity to learn about and explore a new city.

**I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured.
Then your lives will be filled with all that God is.**

EPHESIANS 3:19 CEV

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Gatherings have proven to be opportunities to strengthen group relationships, empower leaders, foster independence, encourage service, and of course ignite faith.

We will meet regularly as a team before we go to the gathering to not only build community but to also learn, pray! Every student and family will be involved in fundraising efforts to make this trip possible.

What will travel and accommodations be like?

We will fly to Minneapolis and rent vans as transportation. While in Minneapolis, we'll be staying in a hotel with other gathering students and leaders. There will be 4 students to a room.

What will it cost?

The current estimated cost is \$1350 per person. Families are asked to cover half (\$675) and we will fundraise to cover the other half, plus adult leaders. If we fundraise beyond this goal, the cost to each family will be lowered. ALL parents are asked to help plan and lead fundraisers. All students participating will be required to attend fundraisers or send a family member in their place. Scholarships are available.

***NOTE the registration fee of \$350 is non-refundable (to us, and you) should you decide not to attend at a later date. All monies will be returned should the Gathering be cancelled due to Covid.**

PAYMENT

October 1st \$150 Commitment Payment
 November 1st \$250 Remainder of Registration Due
 February 1st \$225 Payment Due
 May 1st \$200 Final Payment Due
 Additional cost to students: \$3³ souvenirs, spending & snacks

Budget Considerations

\$350/person for early bird registration ***non-refundable**
 \$300ish Flight
 \$30-50/day/person for food
 \$50-75 T-shirts (1 shirt/day/person)
 \$150-\$200/person for van transportation/gas/parking
 \$150/room per night for lodging (2-4 people per room)
 \$8 hotel tip/night
 \$ Gas & Parking Fees
 \$ Adult Leader Cost
 \$ Offering
 \$ Additional Excursions

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- PayPal Link (allows to use your own account or pay with Credit/Debit card) – link on our website
- Venmo (Use @stmatthewsrenton)
- Check – made out to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

**Please note YOUTH GATHERING in the notes of all payment forms*

What's next??

- Discuss with your family and decide you want to go!
- Fill out and return registration forms + \$150 **by October 1***
- Start dreaming and planning for fundraisers; consider how you will lead!

Questions???

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 www.stmatthewsrenton.org

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