



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

June 8, 2021

Dear Bishop and Synod Staff,

I bring you greetings from the ELCA Youth Core Leadership Team (YCLT) and am excited to share with you their plans for the 2021 ELCA Youth Leadership Summit. Each year, young leaders from across our church gather for a long weekend of leadership development, networking, and faith formation. Even in 2020 during the pandemic, our young leaders found a way to gather virtually for this event, but we are thrilled that in 2021 the Summit will be in person.

The theme is, "Relentless" in pursuit of love, hope, trust, faith, and action. A theme which perfectly encapsulates the many challenges faced by young people and our church this past year.

The 2021 ELCA Youth Leadership Summit will equip youth leaders through workshops, speakers, and other hands-on activities. The youth and adults will be challenged to take home what they learn at the Summit and inspire action in their own synods, congregations, and communities. Another priority of this event is to help these high school youth "look toward" their next faith community. We will invite staff from Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, Lutheran Campus Ministries, Lutheran Colleges and Universities, YAGM, Young Adult Ministries, and a ELCA Military Chaplain to share how young people can connect after high school.

Each synod is invited to send two high school leaders and one adult to the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit. Please consider diversity when choosing your synod's participants. The Summit will be held November 4-7, 2021 at the Marriott Downtown in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Youth will have an opportunity to see where the 2022 ELCA Gathering will be held and get to run through the Gathering's Synod Day curriculum. All lodging, meals, and programming are provided by a gracious grant from the ELCA.

Your synod's responsibility is to provide the travel and any incidentals for the two youth and one adult attending as well as one meal while exploring the city. Plan to fly into the Minneapolis-St Paul Airport. Take the Metro Blue Line (\$2 pp) to Nicollet Mall Station and walk a quarter of a mile to the Marriot. The registration form and other updated information will be posted at [www.elcayouthministry.com](http://www.elcayouthministry.com). The registration deadline is September 30, 2021.

The Youth Leadership Summit is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and partners with the Christian Community and Leadership Home Area, the CCL Mission Team, the SYMBOL Network, the ELCA Youth Gathering, the 65 Synods across the United States, ELCA Disability Ministries, and ELCA Ethnic Specific Ministries.

The Youth Core Leadership Team and I look forward to welcoming participants from your synod to the 2021 Summit! If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Alley, at [Rachel.alley@elca.org](mailto:Rachel.alley@elca.org).

We are thankful for your partnership in growing young leaders!

*Rachel C. Alley*

Rachel Alley, ELCA Program Manager for Youth Ministry

