



Frequently Asked Questions & Encouragement

- **Why The Gathering vs. a mission trip, especially when it comes to cost?** There are so many answers to this question including “ask anyone who has attended a Gathering in the past”. Want more? Check-out this blog post from the ELCA Youth Ministry Network for a great perspective: <https://elcaymnet.blog/2017/08/10/why-the-elca-youth-gathering-is-worth-the-cost/>
- **I have never led a group and don't know where to start?** We have lots of resources and experience and will walk you through every step of the process! We will provide PowerPoints, handouts, fundraising ideas etc. **Let us know how we can help!**
- **We are not a wealthy congregation so how can we fund a Gathering?** We are happy to help you and chat about your context and brainstorm ways to fund your trip. It's never too late to start. We can and will accompany your congregation to explore options and ultimately find a way for your youth to engage in the Youth Gathering.
- **We have only a few youth and no adult leader OR we don't have any youth in our congregation, what do we do?** First: know that you are not alone. As we navigate this post-pandemic time the church has changed and, in many cases, gotten smaller. This means that you may have less youth engaged but know that ALL youth are welcome to come to the Gathering.

If you only have a few youth, we have congregations throughout the synod who are ready and willing to step-in and welcome your youth to join them. We will help you make those connections and explore avenues for funding the experience for your youth through your congregation.

Any and all youth who wish to go to the Gathering will be able to!

If your congregation does not have any youth, we still need your support. Through prayer and even your financial support we can share the experience of the Gathering with as many of our youth from across our synod as possible. Please reach out to Jason or Marie for ways you can still support the Gathering even if you don't have any youth attending.

- **What about young adults who were not able to attend a Gathering?** Those youth who were not able to attend a Gathering due to the cancellation of the 2021/22 event may attend the new Young Adult Gathering. Learn more: www.elca.church/gathering/attend/young-adult-gathering.
- **Where can I learn more about The Gathering and other resources that are available?** The Gathering has several resources available to learn all about the event along with online training for adult leaders (note that all adult leaders who attend The Gathering will be required to complete online training prior to attending):
 - www.elca.church/gathering Gathering Website
 - www.elca.church/gathering/faqs Frequently Asked Questions
 - <https://glearn.elcagathering.org> Online Training Courses & Videos
 - @elcagathering Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat
 - @youthgathering Facebook
- **Will the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin be offering transportation options for congregations?** Yes! We are currently working on details to offer air travel options for congregation groups to sign-up to take advantage of. Full details will be shared through synod communication channels by the time Gathering registration opens on September 15, 2023.
- **Who can I contact for help, answers, encouragement, or more?** Please reach out to either Jason or Marie if you need help or encouragement to get your congregation excited about the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering:

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