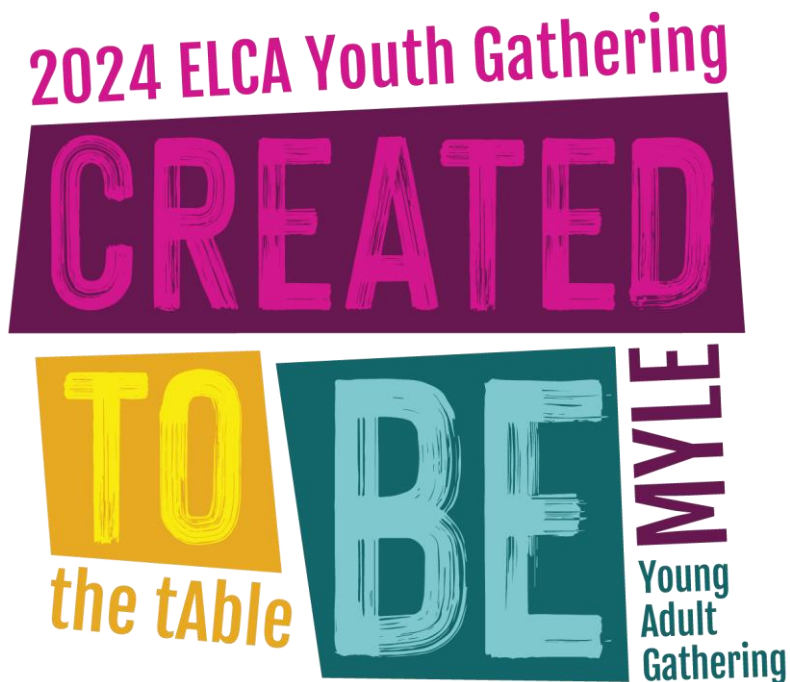


New Orleans 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering



July 15th – 21st

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – ELCA YOUTH GATHERING 2024

When will the trip take place?

July 15 – July 21, 2024

*Tentative based on transportation

Who is eligible to attend?

Grades 8-12th

What is the ELCA Youth Gathering?

Every 3 years, over 30,000 high school youth from across the country gather for a week of fun, fellowship, worship and service work. This is a wonderful opportunity to see and experience the WHOLE church and what we are capable of as a community united in Christ. You'll find out that we are a part of something so much bigger than you ever imagined. You'll grow in your faith and be challenged and inspired to live that out in your daily life. This is a unique and life-changing experience that you will take with you for years to come.

The theme for the 2024 gathering is *Created to be. We are created to be in relationship with one another.* We will explore the daily themes of Created to Be...brave, authentic, free, disruptive, and disciples. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that you won't want to miss.

How do I register for the trip?

Registration will begin on Wednesday, November 15th. *If registration forms are not turned in by the end of December 2023, fee increases, so registering right away is highly encouraged.* In order to register you must have the following items completed: 1) Registration Form 2) Consent & release form 4) \$150, non-refundable payment to Trinity. If this fee is prohibitive, scholarships are available (on a needs basis) to Trinity youth. We will also have a fundraiser to help lower the cost.

How many spaces are available?

There isn't a limit on the number of people that can go.

What will we do during the week?

The 3 main events are: interactive learning day, service learning day and synod day. The interactive learning day is a massive area filled with a variety of opportunities to engage in. They can be educational, hands on service opportunities, active games, high ropes, go karts, quiet spaces – all things that you can do to challenge yourself! The service learning day is an opportunity to get out and experience New Orleans. Poverty, homelessness and wealth are all a part of this community.

The synod day is a time to gather and connect with our entire Minneapolis Synod and engage in a bible study and worship together. This is an opportunity to meet tons of other youth that live in our area! We will open our bibles and dig deep into the scriptures and grow in our faith together. The other main event is the mass gatherings. These happen every night at the Superdome and they include inspiring speakers and music that will get us all out of our seats. We close our time together with worship on Sunday morning where we will have communion with 30,000 people.

How will we get to New Orleans?

The two options we are looking at are sharing a coach bus with another local church or flying. More information to come on this, as we are working on the best way to travel to New Orleans.

Where will we be staying and what are the sleeping arrangements?

We will be staying in a hotel while in New Orleans. The gathering decides what hotel we stay in and we won't find out that hotel until closer to our departure. However, we are guaranteed to have rooms that sleep 3-4 people in each of them.

Who will be the adult leaders for this trip?

Julie will be the main adult leader for this trip and depending on the number of kids that sign up, we could be in need of 4 other adults to help lead the trip. If you are interested in attending, please contact Julie Vagle.

Where will we eat?

Breakfast will be provided. You will be responsible for bringing enough money for food for at least 1 meal a day with 3 lunches provided. We may get a hotel that will have continental breakfast, but it is not guaranteed. It is strongly encouraged to bring snacks. The food options will range between the following: vendors/concessions (at the stadium), Food Trucks, local and chain restaurants, and grocery stores.

Is this trip safe?

Safety is a top priority at the Gathering. Gathering leadership is already working with security personnel at the Superdome, the contracted hotels, the local police department and the Department of Homeland Security. In addition to these partners, the Gathering hires private security for the event and trains dozens of volunteers for duties related to safety and security.

How much will the trip cost and how will I pay for it if I decide to go?

The trip will cost around \$1300 plus the cost of food. This year we will be doing a fundraiser to help lower the cost of the trip on Sunday, February 25th. Youth and parent participation at this event is important to help make it a success and raise funds. Some scholarships are also available on a needs basis. In order to receive one of these scholarships, families must talk to Pastor Adam or Pastor Ann and put in hours as a family at the fundraiser.

Here is a breakdown of the expenses: This figure is approximate and will *change*!

**If you don't turn in your forms in by December 31st, the registration fee increases.

Expense	Cost
Transportation	\$500
Housing, t-shirts, bfast, misc.	\$375
Registration	\$425
	\$1300

How much additional money will I need?

Lodging, transportation and registration fees are budgeted into the cost of the trip. However, most meals and spending money are not included. You will be responsible for bringing enough money for food for the week, roughly \$250 per person (\$30-40 per day). There will be opportunities for you to purchase some memorabilia, but it is suggested you do not bring more than \$100 to spend on that. Trinity is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Will I need to fill out any forms?

You will be required to complete Trinity's Liability and Release form, Registration Forms. It's really important that all paperwork is turned in on time.

Can I bring my cell phone on the trip?

More information to come regarding this. Yes, with boundaries and clear expectations of what we are asking for cell phone usage.

Why pre-trip meetings?

Julie will never hold a meeting for the sake of holding a meeting. It is important that as a large group, we spend time before the trip getting to know each other, but also there is a lot of information to collect and details to share with both youth and parents. All meetings should be attended by both participating youth and their parents unless clearly communicated otherwise.