

Dear Synod Coordinators:

I hope each of you have had enjoyable summers. Perhaps your summer has been busy, time for playing, enjoyable or challenging. Whatever the case, I pray the presence of God in your life keeps you hopeful and thankful.

☞ Here are a few **August Gathering Info** highlights:

- ❶ The Gathering Facebook page is filled with questions, comments and information regarding the gathering. Encourage adult leaders who are on Facebook to check it out.
- ❷ The Gathering web-site is projected to go live sometime this week.
- ❸ Registration forms are available at:
[ELCA Youth Gathering](http://www.elca.org/ELCA/Youth-Gathering/Planning-for-the-Gathering/Registration-Information.aspx) This is our in-process website for registration forms. You will find pages that aren't completed yet, but the downloads for the various forms are live at <http://www.elca.org/ELCA/Youth-Gathering/Planning-for-the-Gathering/Registration-Information.aspx>

Groups can begin entering registrations in preparation for the official launch day – Oct. 9.

- ❹ Gathering Medical Form:
<http://www.elca.org/~media/Images/Youth%20Gathering/Files/MYLE%20DAYLE%20Medical%20Form.pdf>
- ❺ Two musical artists who will be at the Gathering are Rachel Kurtz and David Scherer “Agape”. Check out the info regarding their tour.

Citizens With the Saints Tour | 2011 ELCA Tour

www.citizenstour.com

Featuring: *Performances by youth gathering artists AGAPE* (David Scherer), Rachel Kurtz, and other special guests *Exclusive videos about the Youth Gathering *Workshops on gathering related themes (Program subject to change in each location, check website for more info)

- ❻ Keep checking the following link for updated information and resources:
<http://www.elcaymnet.org/coachesandcoordinators>
- ❼ Friendly reminder regarding adult to youth ratio for the gathering:
The ELCA Youth Gathering is, and will always be, a ministry by, with and for teenagers! For that reason we cannot support a one-to-one ratio of adults to youth. The ideal youth to adult ratio is 5 to 1, but the only ratio we insist on is one adult for every ten youth, and we encourage at least one adult for each gender represented in a group. Adult leaders must be at least 21 years of age at the time of the Gathering.
- ❽ Highlights from today's on-line interview with Heidi Hagstrom, Director of the Gathering:
 - ☞ Housing will be assigned before the Extravaganza (in February)
 - ☞ Champion Square, a new area outside the dome, will have stages and ample food vendors
 - ☞ Congregations will be housed with their synods. They will also be together as synods during the Practice Discipleship Day
 - ☞ Congregations will be assigned times for each of the three days experiences.
 - ☞ Scholarships are being reviewed. More than the \$400,000 allowed has been requested. Those awarded will know in September.
 - ☞ Registration deposit is: \$150; Registration cost is \$315

- ☞ How can we find out who has bus space in our synod? Contact your synod coordinator
- ☞ The Extravaganza will offer a bus tour of New Orleans (don't know about the cost).
- ☞ Regarding Day of Justice – changed from service language to stretch understanding of accompaniment and learning by listening and walking alongside people, not just doing.
- ☞ Early bird registration is Tues., July 17
- ☞ Official registration starts Wed., July 18

⑨ MYLE/DAYLE take place on July 16 – 17. Questions? Direct to gathering@elca.org

⑩ Last but not least.....

Thank you for your work on behalf of your synods and the Gathering. Your work is so important. You are empowering, be-friending and serving as supporters and guides for adult leaders in congregations. Your work is SO important.

God's grace to you,
Kathy Hunstad
Synod Coordinators Team Leader