

Gathering Overview



Jesus is our peace.
In his life and death on the cross,
Jesus broke down the dividing walls
so that we are no longer strangers and outsiders,
but we are citizens with the saints
and also members of the household of God.
The foundation of God's house was build of apostles
and prophets, and Jesus, the cornerstone, holds it all
together.

Our Mission

The 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering, a unique community by size and scope, serves as a distinctive sign of the ELCA's evangelical mission as it works with synods and congregations to accompany young people in their faith journey to understand their vocation and articulate their faith in Jesus Christ.

Our Vision

Invite participants to return to New Orleans to dwell together as "one new humanity," remembering who we are in Christ and acting in response by forming faithful, wise and courageous leaders who will...

- ▶ Live among God's faithful people,
- ▶ Hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- ▶ Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through words and deed,
- ▶ Serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- ▶ Strive for justice and peace in all the earth. (*ELW, Page 236*)

Our Values

- ▶ Be present with the people of New Orleans
- ▶ Respect differences and diversity
- ▶ Learn from the people and culture of New Orleans

- ▶ Recognize and challenge unjust systems
- ▶ Practice peace and reconciliation
- ▶ Celebrate, affirm and use the gifts of the participants/leaders
- ▶ Empower participants and leaders to be a Christian/Lutheran public voice
- ▶ Reflect the priorities of the ELCA Churchwide Organization:
 - accompanying congregations as growing centers for evangelical mission; and
 - building capacity for evangelical witness and service in the world to alleviate poverty and to work for justice and peace.

The Fruit Produced (Outcomes):

1) Practice Discipleship

Demonstrate the capacity to articulate their unique witness.

That witness will include...

- ▶ Claiming and valuing their baptismal identity
- ▶ The ability to talk about the grace that Jesus offers
- ▶ Allowing themselves to wrestle with questions of faith
- ▶ Demonstrating openness to the movement of the Spirit in their life

2) Practice Peacemaking

Act in a way that reflects God's value for everybody, particularly those who are marginalized by society.

Behavioral evidence will include...

- ▶ Recognizing when they hold the power in relationships with people who are marginalized, and freely giving that power away.
- ▶ Being able to take a back seat comfortably (i.e. deny self, to reach a point where their self is no longer the most important thing in the world)
- ▶ Listening before speaking
- ▶ Working toward reconciliation in Christ in all relationships

3) Practice Justice

Live boldly in the face of injustice, crisis and suffering.

Evidence of "living boldly" includes...

- ▶ Realizing that daily choices make a difference that benefit the thriving of all God's creation
- ▶ Being able to differentiate between accompaniment and charity, and commit to reflecting a posture of accompaniment in their daily lives with others
- ▶ Knowing that it is Jesus who makes us able, not our efforts

Story Constructed to Share

Day 1 Wednesday, July 18 Welcome – Community To Belong to

Ephesians 2:14-19

Themes: Reception, Creation of Community, Baptismal Promise

Day 2 Believe – A Creed to Believe

Ephesians 2:15-16

Themes: Belief (Creed), Essential Pieces of Jesus Story, Identity

Day 3 Hold On – A Hope to Hold Onto

Ephesians 2:14-16

Themes: Hope in Christ, Grief experience of injustice, Celebration of Christ overcoming the world

Day 4 Live Out – A Call to Live Out

Ephesians 2:19-20

Themes: Forgiveness, Call, New Creation, Freedom of a Christian

Day 5 Sunday, July 22 Sending – A Story to Tell

Ephesians 2:17-18

Themes: New Community

Practices Incarnating the Story

Return to congregations with witness of God's activity in the world, and with skills to help the congregation live out its evangelical witness in the community and the world.