



**Feb. 21, 2018**  
**SERVICE LEARNING DAY**

Dear Gathering Grown-ups,

On our fourth (or maybe third) Day at the Gathering, everyone from the Northeastern Iowa Synod will go out on their "Service Learning Day."

**What to Wear?**

- Orange T-Shirt (mandatory) - before you leave Iowa, your group will receive a box of Orange T-Shirts to wear on the Service Learning Day. These shirts are both for safety and a part of our Evangelical Witness. It is required that everyone in your group wear them this day. There are NO Exceptions.
- Closed Toe Shoes (mandatory)
- Water Bottle (mandatory)
- Hat/Cap
- Sun Screen
- First Aid Kit
- A little snack (just a suggestion)
- Extra Shirt - Since groups may go directly from their service learning to the NRG, it might be advisable to bring a fresh shirt for the evening.

**How do we get there?**

In the morning of our Service Learning Day, a bus will come to your hotel and pick up your group. The goal is to have every group to their service learning site by 9:00 am!

**What kind of service will we do?**

Only 10% of the service projects will be hurricane response. Many more will involve literacy using the books that groups have donated.

**What about Lunch?**

The Gathering will provide a boxed lunch for everyone from Jason's Deli. The boxed lunches will be delivered to

the site in time for lunch. There will be NO SPECIAL Lunches, so if you have kids who are vegetarians, vegans, or have allergies, you will have to bring your own. The lunch will include a large croissant, chicken, cheese, whole fruit, pickles, and chips. No Beverage will be provided. Show up with a full water bottle that you can refill on site. Hydrate often as it can be really hot in Houston. Please see my unboxing video attached. Note: fruit is substituted for the cookie on Service Learning Day.

**How do we get back?**

At the end of your service project, the same bus will take you back to the NRG. The goal is to have your group there by 1:00 pm. Your group will be treated with a celebration giving thanks for the opportunity to do service including a DJ. We will then break into small groups to talk about the experience and learn about how we can do Service including advocacy back home in Iowa.

**When will there be more information?**

- This spring: in the GNews - will post four visual poems highlighting four different people in the city sharing the stories of Houston.
- Late Spring - Getting Ready Video for Service learning

Please note that this email is being sent to the Primary Leader of each group registered for the ELCA Youth Gathering from Northeastern Iowa. Please share this email with other adult leaders, parents, and youth as you see fit

Your Gathering Partner in Ministry,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Mark".

Pastor Mark A. Anderson