



You are receiving this email because you have signed up to receive updates for the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit. If you do not wish to receive any future updates, visit this [link](#) to leave the list. Visit the same link if someone forwarded this gNews to you, and you'd like to receive your own updates in the future.

## Greetings!

We are only five months away from the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering! In this issue of gNews, get to know an entrepreneur who's making a difference in Detroit and learn some important tips.

Also, if you haven't already, be sure to check out Lesson Two of the [Getting Ready Materials](#) and look for Lesson Three later this month!

## Let's show up in Detroit as we Rise Up Together!

"I can't wait ... to show up and to show the people in that community that the Lutherans do what they say they're going to do ... that the Lutherans show up."

In this video, Lisa Jeffreys, 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering Proclaim Justice Team Leader, shares the story of her first interaction with Focus Hope, a Detroit civil rights organization and one of our partners for service learning at the Gathering. She shares how Bill and others from Focus Hope were skeptical at first of whether people would actually show up in Detroit as they said they would do. Click [here](#) to hear Lisa's inspiring story of what changed their minds, how Focus Hope came on board as a Gathering partner, and the outstanding project Gathering participants will be able to engage in with Focus Hope.



**Haven't registered for the Gathering yet? What are you waiting for? Lutherans, let's show up!**

## People of Detroit: Devita Davison and fellow Detroiters Rise Up Together

Devita Davison moved to her hometown of Detroit after Hurricane Sandy destroyed her New York home and the business of her dreams, a gourmet grocery store. Though her dream was deferred, it did not take long after Devita arrived in Detroit before she was working toward a new dream – one that would not only help her but also other Detroiters take part in the revitalization of the city.

Devita opened a new business, Detroit Kitchen Connect. Detroit Kitchen Connect partners with churches to provide new Detroit business owners access to kitchen

### GATHERING COUNTDOWN:

JULY 15-19, 2015

154  
DAYS

### Did you know ... partial group registration

Do you have potential Youth Gathering participants who are still on the fence? Did you know you don't have to register your whole group at one time? You can register your confirmed participants now and log back in later to add those who are still deciding! You have until registration closes on May 15 to make changes and add participants

### Detroit by the numbers

The Detroit Riverfront spans 3.5-miles along the east riverfront, spanning from Joe Louis Arena to Gabriel Richard Park, with space for walking, running, biking and even fishing. Detroit hopes to expand the riverfront to 5.5 miles.

Source: [detroitriver.org](http://detroitriver.org)

facilities and equipment.

Looking back, Devita says her mom encouraged her to find out why God sent her to Detroit, and now she has.

The Gathering provides us all an opportunity to find out why we are being sent to Detroit as well. Devita is working with other Detroiters to *Rise Up Together*. We have the opportunity to do the same.

To learn more about Devita and Detroit Kitchen Connect, [click here](#).

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## B.Y.O.B. - Bring Your Own Backpack!

For the 2015 Gathering, youth and their adult leaders will need to bring their own backpacks! In an effort to care for God's creation and reduce waste, the Gathering will not provide backpacks for participants as it has in years past.

Make sure you and your participants pack a backpack that is sturdy to hold all the items needed for each day of the Gathering as participants will spend much of the day away from their hotels. Spread the word and add this to your packing checklist: Remember to B.Y.O.B. – Bring Your Own Backpack!

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## Give via the Gathering App!

You can now support the Gathering's four major giving opportunities using the Gathering App! When you log in to the app, you will see a link for giving opportunities on the left side bar. It will take you to the website where you can support the Gathering through your giving.

To download the Gathering app, search for "ELCA Organizations & Events" in Apple's App Store or Android Market or simply [click here](#). After you download Guidebook, create an account using one of your existing online profiles (i.e., Facebook) or your email address. You will then be invited to download a guide. Search for "Rise Up Together - 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering," download it and you're connected!

If you haven't already, check out the app, which offers an easy way to donate to the ministry of the Gathering in Detroit. Learn more about the donation opportunities [here](#).

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## From Tinkletown to disABILcity: An Interactive Learning Experience

Participants at the last four ELCA Youth Gatherings have had the opportunity to take part in "Tinkletown," an obstacle course filled with the everyday challenges that often confront wheelchair users in an un-accessible world.



In 2015, Tinkletown will again be present, but as a part of a larger experience to move participants from **awareness** of the challenges faced by people who are definitely-abled to **advocacy** for people who are definitely-abled.

Just as Detroit became the center of a revolution that opened up new ways of moving around our world, so we hope disABILcity will start a new revolution in viewing and welcoming people who are definitely-abled. In Proclaim Community on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Gathering participants will be able to:

- Encounter a variety of impairments through games and activities
- Learn what really makes an impairment a disability in our society
- Explore ways to make the world more accessible and inviting for all people – regardless of ability

Be sure to visit to disABILcity in the Proclaim Community space to play, learn and be challenged to make a more welcoming and barrier free world!

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*When you "like" our page, be sure to right-click and select "get notifications" to ensure all Gathering posts show up in your newsfeed.*

### Custom gear

If you are thinking about custom gear (T-shirts, ball caps, luggage tags), think [Old Lutheran!](#) Their proud, but not too proud, designers can make you stand out in a humble way.



### For more information:

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**Email:**  
[Gathering](#)

**Phone:**  
888-411-3522

## Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) volunteers to help youth explore theme 'Love Does'

A team of 40-50 exceptional and diverse volunteers is excited to serve as small-group leaders for this year's MYLE experience. As participants explore the theme "Love Does," volunteers are charged with the task of helping them explore how love binds, celebrates, calls and rises. Our leaders are excited to see love translated and transformed into so many ways throughout the upcoming three-day experience. Volunteers will assist participants in unpacking Scripture and experiential learning through activities and honest dialogue. It is our desire that small groups will help participants see God at work in Detroit and their own lives. Love Does!

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## Proclaim Community Partner spotlight: Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science and Technology

"Mythbusters" answers all those crazy "I wonder what would happen if ..." questions, ranging from driving a motorcycle on water to making a candle out of earwax. When they visit Proclaim Community, Gathering participants will have the opportunity to put their "I wonder" questions to the test at the Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science and Technology's myth-busting booth! The myth-busting booth will have three components: questions, quizzes and experiments. At the listening post, participants are videotaped asking questions about faith and science. The quizzes will take many faith and science assumptions and determine if they are myth or fact. Your youth will be surprised when they bust or confirm a common myth.

*The Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science and Technology is an independent Lutheran Organization affiliated with the ELCA and dedicated to expanding awareness and promoting conversation about the implications of science and technology for Christian faith and life. Learn more at [www.luthscitech.org](http://www.luthscitech.org)*

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## From the director's blog: The grace of a new beginning

**Heidi Hagstrom**

In his poem "For a New Beginning," John O. Donohue writes:

Though your destination is not clear  
You can trust the promise of this opening;  
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning  
That is one with your life's desire.

[Click here](#) to read more.



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## Adult leader tip of the month

In Mark 6:6b-13, Jesus is sending his disciples out as missionaries into the world. He wants them to go with someone, not alone. Jesus gives them specific instructions so they will rely completely on God and the hospitality of others. The disciples' mission was to share the good news. How can we share the hope that Jesus brings to the world and the grace that God so freely gives us with others? How can each person in your youth group bring these instructions to Detroit? Talk with them about how fulfilling a mission can be discouraging. How is the mission of going to Detroit this year challenging for your youth group? Make a promise to all members going to Detroit that you will collaborate and rely on faith to do the work Jesus has called us to do.



**Contact us**

Please [contact us](#) with your ideas and comments. Please forward this email to others who may be interested.

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