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Greetings!

In this edition of gNews, there is a video from Presiding Bishop Eaton, a video from the Community Life Team to help you get oriented to the Gathering, litanies for commissioning and welcoming back participants, information about preparing for Ford Field and storing bags downtown, and a reminder to bring diapers to Detroit.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton: "Come to Detroit expecting to be changed"

"I want you to come to Detroit expecting to be changed, expecting to have an encounter with the Holy Spirit, expecting to be changed by the people of Detroit." [Click here](#) to hear more from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton in these final weeks as we prepare to go to Detroit to *Rise Up Together!*



GATHERING COUNTDOWN:

JULY 15-19, 2015

21
DAYS

An orientation to the Gathering

The Community Life Team wants to help you learn more about what is going to happen at the Gathering. So they created

Reminder: Bring your T-shirts to Detroit!

T-shirts will be sent to the primary adult leader for each congregation to bring to Detroit. They must be worn on your Proclaim Justice Day. There will be extras available at the Old Lutheran store.

a video featuring their animated national spokesperson, D Wayne, who wants to help you learn what will happen during your time in Detroit. [Click here](#) to see the video. The Community Life Team looks forward to serving alongside you in Detroit. Let's *Rise Up Together!*



Commissioning and welcoming litanies

Congregations have supported their youth in preparing for the Gathering in Detroit. Soon it will be time to send them on their way as we Rise Up Together! The Gathering team has provided a congregational blessing and sending for congregations to use in worship July 5 or July 12 to commission your Gathering participants to go to Detroit to live out their baptismal call. Also available is a litany to welcome Gathering participants back upon their return. [Download](#) print copies of the litanies from the Documents tab.

Getting ready for Ford Field

Ford Field will be open to all participants at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday through Saturday. Entry will be through Gates A, B, C, D, F and G. Security will check all participants' bags as they enter the location. No food or beverages are permitted to be brought into Ford Field (water bottles and food required for medical reasons will be allowed). Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, so it is highly recommended that groups enter Ford Field together as there is no reserved seating or saving of seats. Access to the main floor seating will be through staircases at the end of designated aisles. Once the floor has been filled to the capacity, no additional participants will be permitted. Participants seated on the floor will be issued a wristband that will allow them to leave the floor to use the restrooms and concessions and return to their seats. Concessions will be open from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. for food and beverage purchases. Please note that concessions close promptly at 7:30 p.m. when the house band begins, even if there are still people in line. On Sunday, Ford Field will open at 8:30 a.m. for closing worship. Concessions will not be open on Sunday.

Bag storage downtown

The Community Life Team will provide bag storage Wednesday, July 15, through Saturday, July 18, at the Cobo Center. Each congregational group can check one bag (up to the size of a carry-on suitcase). Bags must be picked up by 11 p.m. each day or they will not be able to be accessed until the Gathering activities at Cobo begin the next day (you may not want to put your hotel or car keys in the bag). A reminder that bags larger than a backpack will not be allowed in Ford Field.

For Sunday, July 19, the Gathering has made arrangements for participants using the TMS airport service to store their luggage at the Cobo Center in Hall E

Detroit: Did You Know?

Did you know Detroit has ties to the Underground Railroad or that the nation's first four-way electric traffic light was invented and operated in Detroit? Or did you know that Martin Luther King Jr. first gave the "I Have a Dream" speech in Detroit? No? Well, [learn more secrets](#) that tell Detroit's story.

Gathering by the number

There are 43 International Companions from Lutheran churches around the world who will be traveling to Detroit for the Gathering.

Supplies for Detroit

Gathering participants will join in Detroit's neighborhood revitalization efforts by boarding up abandoned properties, making neighborhoods safer and healthier for residents. We need help with supplies for this project. If you know of a building supply company that could donate 4-by-8 OSB boards, please contact Lisa.Jeffreys@elca.org. You can also [donate toward the project](#).



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

For more information:

Mail:
ELCA Youth Gathering

from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. This service is ONLY for participants using Gathering transportation to the airport.

8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631

Email:
[Gathering](#)

Phone:
888-411-3522

Diapers for Detroiters

On average a newborn goes through eight to 10 diapers a day, a cost that can add up to \$100 a month for one baby. For people who are poor that cost is out of reach. Too often they have to choose between diapers and food. To help families with children, one of the in-kind items the Gathering is collecting for Detroit is diapers — lots and lots of diapers.

Starfish Family Services, a Gathering partner, will work with Detroit-area agencies to make sure the diapers are distributed to agencies that serve children. The impact of this collection will hopefully continue well after the Gathering. Pam Lincoln from Starfish, who is helping organize the diaper project, said, "Because of the ELCA, community members have decided to resurrect the Detroit Diaper Bank. Your event will jump-start that initiative!"

The Metro Detroit Diaper Bank will house the diapers so babies can be healthy for months after the collection. The hope is that the Gathering's efforts will create a spark in the community for people to continue donating diapers to share with Detroiters. As you are getting ready for the Gathering, remember to bring diapers!

[Learn more](#) about the Gathering's in-kind donations

Proclaim Community partner spotlight: Peace Puppets

How can puppets help solve problems? How can puppets help build peace? Come and find out! Make Peace Puppets out of old newspapers and masking tape, and practice peacemaking skills with them. This simple, fun puppetry technique was learned from the late Jane Henson (Muppet co-creator and wife of Jim Henson) and has been used by members of our team in Bosnia and Herzegovina and around New Jersey in churches and schools. After you've made, played with and learned this peacemaking discipline you'll be ready to take your Peace Puppet out into the world!

For years the New Jersey Synod has been engaged in a remarkable peacemaking ministry in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a country still desperately trying to recover from a war that divided the people along ethnic lines. The Peace Puppets we are bringing to the Detroit Gathering have been used all over Bosnia and Herzegovina with children, teens and adults seeking to build a peaceful, diverse country and world! Learn more about the New Jersey Synod's ministry at www.njsynod.org.

Community Life afternoon lineup to include feature-length movies

If you are looking to get in out of the heat after a morning of Proclaim Justice or if

you need a break from the Proclaim Community interactive space, the Community Life team will show two feature-length movies every afternoon in the Cobo Center. Both films address the social pressures placed upon young men and women to conform to our culture's standards for them. Called "*Miss Representation*" and "*The Mask You Live In*," both films were produced by The Representation Project. To learn more about the films and the project or to view trailers, visit www.therepresentationproject.org/. Both films will be shown daily. Start times to be announced. We are also excited to announce that we will be previewing the trailer for a movie set to hit theaters soon, "*Did God Kill Jesus?*" based on the book by the same title and authored by Tony Jones: www.tonyj.net/.

Banners in Ford Field

Congregations are invited to hang banners in Ford Field throughout the Gathering. Since these banners are meant to show our identity as one particular representation of Christ's body, they must not be in poor taste, offensive or include profanity. Banners should not obstruct the view of other guests, cover stadium signage or inhibit walkways. Banners of a commercial nature are also not permitted without specific permission of building management. Banners should be no larger than 3-foot-by-5-foot (portrait orientation) and will be hung with your own plastic zip ties at the base of the plaza level over the wall leading to the floor. Immediately after Sunday's worship service, banners need to be removed or they will be discarded.

Be the STAR! Register to play at the Gathering Piano Lounge

Register now to be a headliner at our Gathering Piano Lounge. Located just inside the riverfront entrance in the lower atrium at the Cobo Center, this stage features a baby grand piano. You can play for your friends, people chilling in the nearby Atwater Lounge and anyone else passing by.

The lounge is close to the entrance to the Proclaim Community venue, the Community Life Playground venue and all the other Gathering activities inside Cobo. If your group is in Cobo for programming, it's a great time to spend 30 minutes at the piano, sharing your gifts with the entire Gathering community. Each shift at the piano is 30 minutes in length, and you can register for up to two shifts during the entire Gathering, but not back-to-back. The Gathering Piano Lounge opens each morning at 9, with a professional musician playing for the first hour. Participants can begin playing at 10 a.m., with slots available until 4 p.m. for a total of 12 opportunities daily. | [Register](#)

There's still time to open an MIF Youth Ministry Demand account

You'll need a Mission Investment Fund (MIF) Youth Ministry Demand account to cash checks at the Gathering, and it's not too late to open one! Adult leaders won't want to miss out on the advantage of

having this MIF account. Authorized adults will have easy accessibility to cashing checks on their MIF Youth Ministry Demand accounts at MIF's Service Center, conveniently located in the Cobo Center (the site of many of the Gathering activities). For more information on opening an account, please visit mif.elca.org/youthministry.



And don't forget to check out MIF's photo booth in the Interaction Center. Grab a fun prop, strike a pose and get ready to be the envy of your friends on Instagram!

From the director's blog: We are brought together for a purpose and a message

Heidi Hagstrom

"A few [weeks] ago we were dispersed; we did not know each other. Now we are together; we belong to each other." This is part of a longer quote from a book by Jean Vanier, founder of the [L'Arche community](#), that describes for me one of the beauties of the ELCA Youth Gathering.



The dispersed will come together in Detroit this summer. They'll leave knowing that God brought them together for a purpose, and God sends them back out with a message for the world: Jesus is good news! Youth will be sent home with a mission to rise up together as followers of Jesus Christ who build bridges, bear burdens, break chains and bring hope.

[Continue reading the Director's Blog.](#)

Adult leader tip of the month

The "Anointing at Bethany" in Mark 14:3-9 is about an unnamed woman who is so honored to be in the presence of Jesus that she breaks her jar and gives him the costly ointment inside. Today many people give the best of what they have to their guests. What are ways we honor our guests in our homes? In our congregations? We will soon be guests in Detroit. Do we have expectations about how we will be treated when we are there? The woman in this story is unnamed, yet she serves Jesus by anointing him. What will we do as guests to serve others during our time in the Detroit area? How do we serve those we encounter every day? We may not remember all the names of those with whom we serve in our daily lives or on trips we take, but that is not the most important thing. We need to be joyful and honored to share the good news of Jesus with those we encounter on our journey of life. Choose a way to remember those you encounter at home and in Detroit as you serve joyfully. Share these experiences with others when you return from Detroit.



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