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Greetings!

In this month's gNews, learn more about Proclaim Story Day, how to sign up for an airport shuttle and how you can provide books for Detroit students!

Learn more about Proclaim Story Day

You are part of God's story! In this [video](#), Proclaim Story Day Co-Team Leader Eric Carlson shares more about this dedicated day at the Gathering when your synod gathers for a time of story-sharing before being sent out to share the good news of Jesus Christ.



Watch this video to learn about what Proclaim Story resources are available for Synod Day coordinators, including music Rachel Kurtz has recorded that is available for your use. With Proclaim Story Day, together with our companions in our synod, we frame our story in God's story, a story that named Jesus as the good news. In that promise, we Rise Up Together!

GATHERING COUNTDOWN:

JULY 15-19, 2015

126
DAYS

Did you know?

All of the Getting Ready materials cannot only be found on our website but also on the Gathering App! Go to the app now to download the latest lesson, Getting Ready Lesson 3! Haven't downloaded the app yet? Go to:

<https://guidebook.com/app/elcaevents/>

Mission Investment Fund provides \$30,000 for

books for Detroit – help us raise \$70,000 more!!

According to a National Adult Literacy Survey, 47 percent of Detroiters are functionally illiterate, and reading test scores for Detroit students reflect poor reading skills as well. A number of factors contribute to this, including economic disparity and the lack of quality educational offerings. The ELCA Youth Gathering is partnering with Scholastic to do our small part to provide Detroit children and youth with access to quality educational materials.



The Gathering has a goal to provide at least \$100,000 in Scholastic summer reading book packets for Detroit students. Our partner, the Mission Investment Fund, a financial ministry of the ELCA, has offered a lead gift of \$30,000 for Scholastic summer reading books for Detroit students. Books are organized in packets and each packet costs \$25. Recipients receive books that Detroit teachers have identified as key to curriculum in the year ahead.

Now you, your family, congregation or synod can help the Gathering provide summer reading books for Detroit. Will you join us and help close the reading achievement gap in Detroit? To make a gift to help us reach our \$70,000 goal, [click here](#). You can also give via the Gathering App.



To learn more about the Mission Investment Fund, visit www.mif.elca.org.

Gathering partner, LutheranHANDS, to provide backpacks for Detroit students

LutheranHANDS is an organization that provides opportunities for mission trips for high school students, young adults and adults. This year they are coordinating a pre-Gathering mission trip so 250 youth may arrive in Detroit on the two days prior to the Gathering to participate in service activities.

But LutheranHANDS still wanted to do more. And one of the ways they are doing that is by providing backpacks to Detroit public school students!



Michael Brommer, chairman and CEO of LutheranHANDS, says that LutheranHANDS will provide high quality bookbags for these students.

That's where you come in! When they visit the Proclaim Community (interactive learning) space, Gathering participants will have an opportunity to lend a hand with this effort by stuffing the backpacks with books.

Gathering by the numbers

The bishops are coming! Currently, there are 56 bishops registered to join us in Detroit as we *Rise Up Together!*



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.



Click for more colors

For more information:

Mail:
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To learn more about LutheranHANDS, visit www.lutheranhands.org.

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Sunday afternoon at the ballpark

Baseball fans, the Detroit Tigers are in town on the afternoon of Sunday, July 19! Attending a Tigers game could be your group's last opportunity to experience Detroit, and what better way than an outing at Comerica Park to watch the game?

Comerica Park has something for everyone, even if you're not a baseball fan. You can ride the Ferris wheel or carousel and taste Detroit's famous Coney dog or gyros. Purchase tickets for the July 19 Tigers game between Feb. 18 and March 18 for ELCA group seating – only 500 tickets are available; any purchases after March 18 will be “best available” seating only. [Click here](#) for the ELCA group tickets website.

Transportation news

On July 14 and 15, Transportation Management Services will be providing complimentary shuttles from Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport to selected hotels. On July 19, there will also be complimentary shuttles from the COBO Center to the airport. To register for shuttle service, [click here](#).

Starting March 15, primary leaders should visit their congregational accounts and answer additional questions about transportation. An email with more details will be sent before March 15 to primary leaders.

Visit the [FAQ page](#) for additional answers to your transportation questions.

Proclaim Justice partner spotlight: Arts & Scraps

Arts & Scraps is a Detroit nonprofit organization that annually serves 275,000 students in hands-on learning and creative thinking with recycled materials. Metro-wide Detroit volunteers contribute 10,000 hours and 190 businesses contribute 28 tons of material to make this all possible. Programs include a store affordable to all, student workshops with the 26 foot ScrapMobile bus, custom activities for events/ group fundraising and kits for hands-on learning and fun, which are shipped throughout the United States.



Gathering volunteers will prepare materials and work in assembly lines creating kits and learning experiences for 16,000 students. Participants could be cutting fabric from a swimsuit factory, sorting the cut (new) toes from a sock manufacturer or assembling robot or alternative fuel vehicle

kits. Arts & Scraps looks forward to partnering with the Gathering in providing service learning experiences that benefit Detroit school children and organizations that promote creative thinking. To learn more about Arts & Scraps, visit their website: www.ArtsAndScraps.org.

B.Y.O.B. – Bring your own backpack!

For the 2015 Gathering, we are asking participants to bring their own backpack. In an effort to live more responsibly, the Gathering will not be providing backpacks this year, realizing that most of us already have bags at home from events and giveaways that go unused. Instead, this Gathering will be B.Y.O.B. - Bring your own backpack! You will be away from your hotel rooms all day, so be sure to bring a sturdy backpack to hold all the items you need throughout the day.

MYLE registration reaches capacity

For the 2015 Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE), we had to cap registration at 500 people. At this time, we have reached capacity for MYLE. The MYLE Planning Team chose to prioritize congregations whose first language is other than English, those who have never been to MYLE, and those with high numbers of people of color in their congregations. While there may be congregations that fit those criteria, we are at our limit and are no longer accepting registrations.

We ask that congregations who wanted to attend MYLE pray and consider attending the Youth Gathering. Please watch for information that will be forthcoming about opportunities for multicultural ministry and youth leadership. It is our hope that this MYLE will be a catalyst for even greater investments in the gifts of youth of color in our church.

Thank you for your faithfulness. We don't take your commitment to multicultural youth leadership development lightly.

May God's abundant love catch you off guard.

From the director's blog: Carrying the good news into the world

Heidi Hagstrom

I promise that youth and adults who attend the ELCA Youth Gathering will know the opening line of Mark's Gospel: "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1). And, they will know that they are the ones who carry the good news of Jesus into the world.

[Click here](#) to read more.



Adult leader tip of the month

The story about “Who is the greatest” in Mark 9:33-37 has a variety of interesting phrases in it. Looking at this text from a traveling perspective, the disciples were on their way to Capernaum, but from where? In July, we will travel to Detroit from a variety of places. While we are traveling, what will our conversations include? Who is the best? Who is traveling the farthest? How much have we brought with us? What do we want to make sure “to do” when we are in Detroit? In this passage, Jesus reminds the disciples to be a servant to others and child-like. Child-like in this context is more defined as an invisible person. How can we broaden our thinking to include those we do not normally see when we travel? How can we serve the people of Detroit in a Christ-like way? Talk about the culture of Detroit. How is this culture similar and different from your community? Make a commitment in your group to be open to all the people you meet in Detroit, young and old.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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