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Greetings!

This July, we're talking about the material resources you need for the Gathering. We're one year and five days away from the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering. Let's get planning.

Transportation update from July team leaders' meeting

The ELCA Youth Gathering Transportation Team is excited to announce that Transportation Management Services will be providing complimentary shuttle service for groups on Tuesday, July 14 and Wednesday, July 15 from the airport to Gathering hotels and return service from Ford Field to the airport on Sunday, July 19 after closing worship. Watch for more information on how to register for this service in upcoming issues of gNews!



Creating a gathering budget

Your budget will be one of the first places your congregation will proclaim your faith story in the Gathering preparation process.

Unsure where to get started? Here are a few basic line items to consider: Budget for registration fees, hotel rooms, food and transportation. Also, be sure to have an emergency fund for unexpected costs.

Then ask yourself: Where do you place value? Do you pay for an extra check bag full of food to insure your gluten-intolerant participant can eat? Do you invest in the local economy by shopping in Metro Detroit?

Other things to consider are:

- Tips for hotel staff
- Tips for bus/shuttle drivers
- Sunday morning offering
- Fun activities during your trip

If you need advice, contact your Synod Coordinator or start a topic on the ELCA Youth Ministry Network [Adult Leader's Discussion Forum](#).

Introducing the ELCA Mission Investment Fund

Have you started saving for your congregation's youth to attend the ELCA's Youth Gathering next summer in Detroit?

The Mission Investment Fund, the financial ministry of the ELCA, offers a special Demand Investment Youth Ministry account. With this account, you earn interest on your fundraising dollars—and have the flexibility and convenience of writing

We want volunteers!

Do you know a young adult who would make a great Servant Companion? How about an adult of any age who would like to volunteer with Community Life? Show them [how to apply](#) today!

Gathering by the Numbers

At \$325 per participant, the Early Bird registration for the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit is only \$10 more than the registration cost per participant for the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering. Learn more about registration by [clicking here](#).

Gathering Glossary – Gathering binder

A single three-ringed binder where a Primary Adult Leader consolidates records of planning materials, registrations, trip details, budgets and copies of receipts. It is often mistaken for the Primary Adult Leader's hand. For a designed binder cover you print out and use, [click here](#).

Synod shout-out – ELCA Northwest Washington Synod

Every primary adult leader should think about having a Gathering Binder (see Gathering Glossary above). Get your binder started at the [Northwest](#)

checks as expenses occur. In fact, the Mission Investment Fund Service Center onsite at the Gathering will allow authorized account holders to cash checks at the event. Visit mif.elca.org/youthministry for more information and to download a Demand Investment Youth Ministry account application.

Free parking, anyone?

Are you bringing or renting your own ground transportation in Detroit? If so, the Gathering team wants to know. Why? The Gathering team wants to negotiate for complimentary parking to make our 2015 event as cost-effective as possible. When you register online, please indicate your plans.

2015 Gathering participants will be staying and serving in Detroit, as well as its nearby suburbs. Transportation and parking are necessary. Help us keep your costs low by planning early for your needs and communicating those plans with us when you register.

Gathering sneak peek at Extravaganza 2015

Did you hear? You can get a sneak peek of the Gathering when you attend the 2015 ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza in Detroit. Before the Extravaganza, Gathering leaders and experienced youth leaders will offer an intensive care class called "Having a Great Youth Gathering." Visit Detroit and learn how best to steward your resources from the experienced leaders.

Register soon and get your housing early to be sure you can be in the heart of the action! Go to <http://elcaymnet.org/E2015> for more information.

The Director's blog: "Learning How to 'Walk the Talk'"

Clara is a young adult from Germany who moved to the Chicago area to intern for the Holocaust Museum in Skokie, IL. I recently read a blog she wrote, in which she reflects on being German, and not knowing what she should say to the Holocaust survivors she meets at the museum. "Should I say 'I am really sorry'? or 'It's terrible what happened to you?'" Clara wrote. Every time Clara thinks about the Holocaust she feels guilt for the collective sins of her ancestors. Then one day a survivor's response broke open Clara's heart. | [Read more](#)



Detroit history: French occupation

On July 24, 1701, Antoine de La Mothe Cadillac set up the first European settlement in the area that would become modern-day Detroit. He named it Fort Pontchartrain for a French colonial marine minister, because the river was at its narrowest at that location. Therefore, it would be an easy settlement to defend militarily. (In fact, Detroit is the French word for "straight!") The French occupied the area renamed Fort du Detroit for almost 60 years, until the city came under British control.

To read Cadillac's first impressions of the area, [click here](#).

Adult Leader tip of the month

In Mark 2:18-22, people asked Jesus why his disciples didn't follow the same rules as John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees. One of the images Jesus uses to answer the people is that of putting new wine into old wineskins. The new wine caused the old wineskins to burst. Both the new wine and the old wineskin were lost. Will the environment your youth come back home to be pliant and accepting of the growth Jesus has worked in their lives? Make a covenant now with your pastor(s) and council that the congregation will not only welcome the participants back, but will also embrace the new ways in which those participants will be called to grow in Jesus and support Jesus's call for these brothers and sisters in Christ.

[Washington Synod Gathering](#) website. They have sample registration forms, a sample group covenant, adult leader guide, packing list and links to more.

Last chance! Financial Aid application deadline is July 15!

It isn't too late to apply for financial aid. [Click here](#) for more information.



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Custom Gear

If you are thinking about custom gear (t-shirts, ball caps, luggage tags), think Old Lutheran!



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