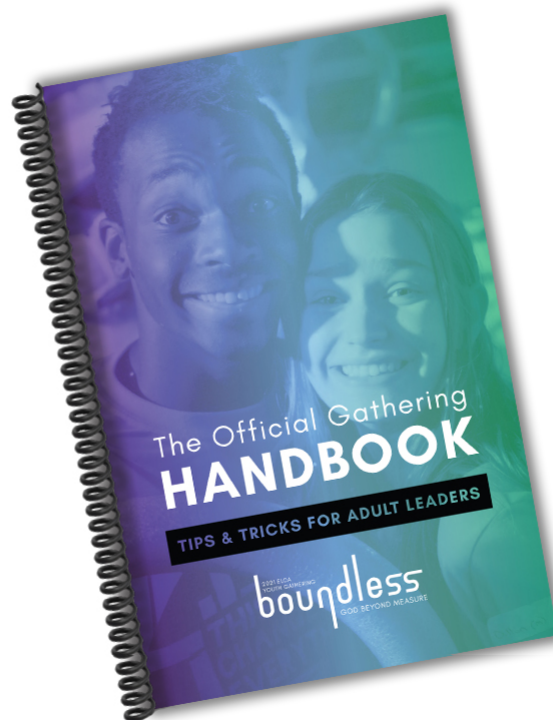




Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Our revamped *Official Gathering Handbook: Tips & Tricks for Adult Leaders* is finished!



That's right! We've taken our popular Handbook and adapted it to the 2021 Gathering in Minneapolis. If this is your first time leading a group to the Gathering or your sixth, you'll want to check out this resource. It's filled with tips and tricks (including sample budgets and covenants) that will make your Gathering experience an enjoyable one. You can download the book from the Gathering's website or purchase a copy from [Old Lutheran](#). (If you're at the 2020 Extravaganza, you might be able to snag a copy from the Old Lutheran store!)



Can we get a mic check? The 2021 Gathering Theme Song Contest will go live in exactly one month! Grab your instrument of choice and start dreaming up lyrics to a song that talks all about God's boundlessness. More information will be available on our website and on social media in the next month, so stay *tuned*!



We're excited to share the theme for the 2021 Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE): "Made Free." The theme is based on 2 Corinthians 3:17: "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there is freedom.*"

MYLE is a pre-event to the Gathering and the largest gathering of people of color within the ELCA. MYLE empowers young people of color and those whose primary language is not English to claim their story as a part of God's story. For more information about MYLE, visit elca.org/MYLE.

PRO-TIP

Creating Your Team: Before any firm commitments are made, be sure to talk to youth and get their recommendations about which adults they might respect and relate to well and would be interested in having along on the trip. Some groups create a team of youth and adults (heavy on the youth) who choose their adults from the list of those interested in going.

Things to look forward to:

- **Jan. 30-31, 2020:** ELCA Youth Ministry Network Intensive Care courses, Anaheim, Calif.
- **Jan. 31-Feb. 3, 2020:** ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza, Anaheim, Calif.
- **Feb. 21, 2020:** Theme song contest opens
- **Feb. 21-23, 2020:** Gathering Synod Coordinator training, Minneapolis, Minn.
- **April 21, 2020:** Theme song contest closes
- **May 21, 2020:** Gathering Volunteer Corps application opens



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