



August 2021 COVID-19 Update

Gathering leadership is proceeding with plans for the 2022 Gathering, with registration to open Sept. 22. We are in continuous conversations with the City of Minneapolis and medical professionals about the COVID-19 pandemic, the Delta variant and how our event will be impacted. Any decisions will adhere to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the local health department.

We strongly encourage everyone to talk with their health care providers and get vaccinated if they are able. The science shows that the vaccine is safe and effective in limiting the spread of COVID-19. To learn more about the vaccine or how to get an appointment, please visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

We've also added an additional [Safety & Security Webinar](#) that will take place Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. Central time. We urge you to attend or to watch the recording so you can hear what our team is planning and ask any questions you might have.

As we get closer to next summer we will communicate any safety measures, such as mask requirements, that will take place to ensure the safety of all participants. To learn about the cleaning practices and safety precautions of the City of Minneapolis, visit: [minneapolis.org/covid-19-health-safety](https://www.minneapolis.org/covid-19-health-safety).

[View COVID-19 & the Gathering FAQs](#)



Registration opens in one month

Registration for the 2022 Gathering opens in just **one month**, on Sept. 22! Visit the Gathering's website to download the registration worksheets to help get you ready to register your group. If you missed our registration webinar on Aug. 19, be sure to watch the recording in a few days, once it's added to the [Gathering website](#). Bonus —If you register during the Early Bird period, your congregation will be entered to [win some exciting prizes!](#)

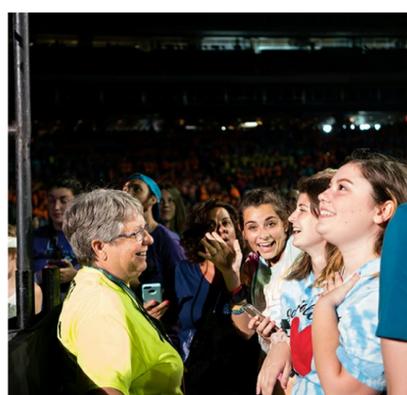
[Download Registration Worksheets](#)



Fill the Drawer

We are thrilled to announce our in-kind offering recipient is The Drawer, a nonprofit in the Twin Cities area that provides new socks and underwear to those in need. Our goal is to collect 300,000 pairs of new socks and underwear to donate at the Gathering next summer. Help us *Fill the Drawer* by encouraging your community to donate these items ahead of the Gathering.

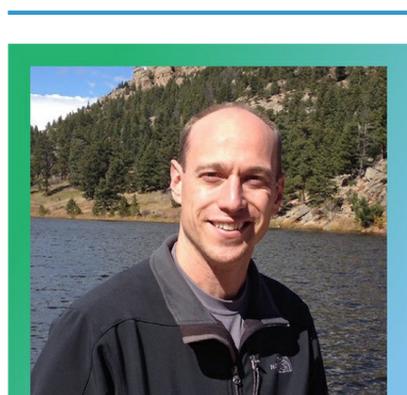
[Learn More](#)



Safety and Security webinar

Join the Gathering's director (Molly Beck Dean), Safety and Security team leader (Pastor Shawn Hannon) and medical manager (Rachel McConnell, R.N.) for our upcoming webinar on Wednesday, Sept. 8, at 7 p.m. Central time. Our Safety & Security team will share what they're planning for next summer and then open it up for Q&A.

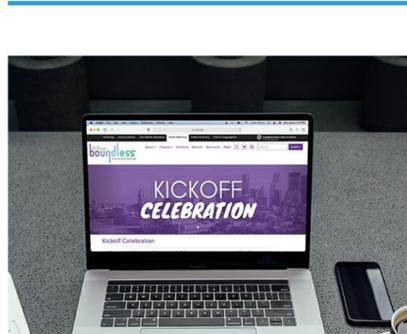
[Register Now](#)



The Gathering's Role in Lutheran Formation

The Camp and Church Leadership project, led by Dr. Jacob Sorenson, seeks to cultivate church leadership among young adults who have been engaged in camping ministries. Research by the project has found that the Gathering — like campus ministry, Sunday school and outdoor ministry — is an integral part of the ecology of faith formation in the ELCA. Dr. Sorenson shares a glimpse of the project research and his own experience at the Gathering in our latest blog post.

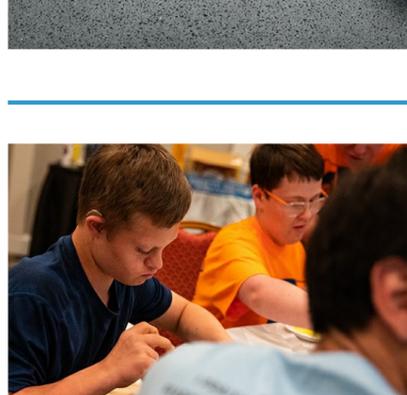
[Read Blog](#)



Kickoff Celebration

Did you miss our Kickoff Celebration on July 25? A recording is available for you and your congregation to view as you start to prepare for the 2022 Gathering. You'll hear from our host city and our partners across the country, dive into our theme, learn what's new for the 2022 Gathering, and more!

[View Kickoff Celebration](#)



the tAble webinar

As a pre-event to the Gathering, the tAble blesses and empowers young people who live with a wide range of physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities, so that they might grow as faithful, wise and courageous witnesses. Join Pastor Jamie Bruning for a webinar on Sept 16 at 7 p.m. Central time to learn more about the tAble, its 2022 theme and what the team is planning for next summer.

[Register Now](#)

PRO-TIP

Going solo or partnering up: Choosing to travel and prepare for the Gathering together and choosing to attend the Gathering as one congregation are two very different decisions. In order to be housed and move through programming as one group, you must register under one congregation ID.

Things to look forward to:

- **Sept. 8 (7 p.m. Central time):** Safety & Security webinar
- **Sept. 16 (7 p.m. Central time):** the tAble webinar
- **Sept. 22:** Early Bird Registration opens
- **Oct. 21 (7 p.m. Central time):** Tips & Tricks: Preparing your group and fundraising webinar