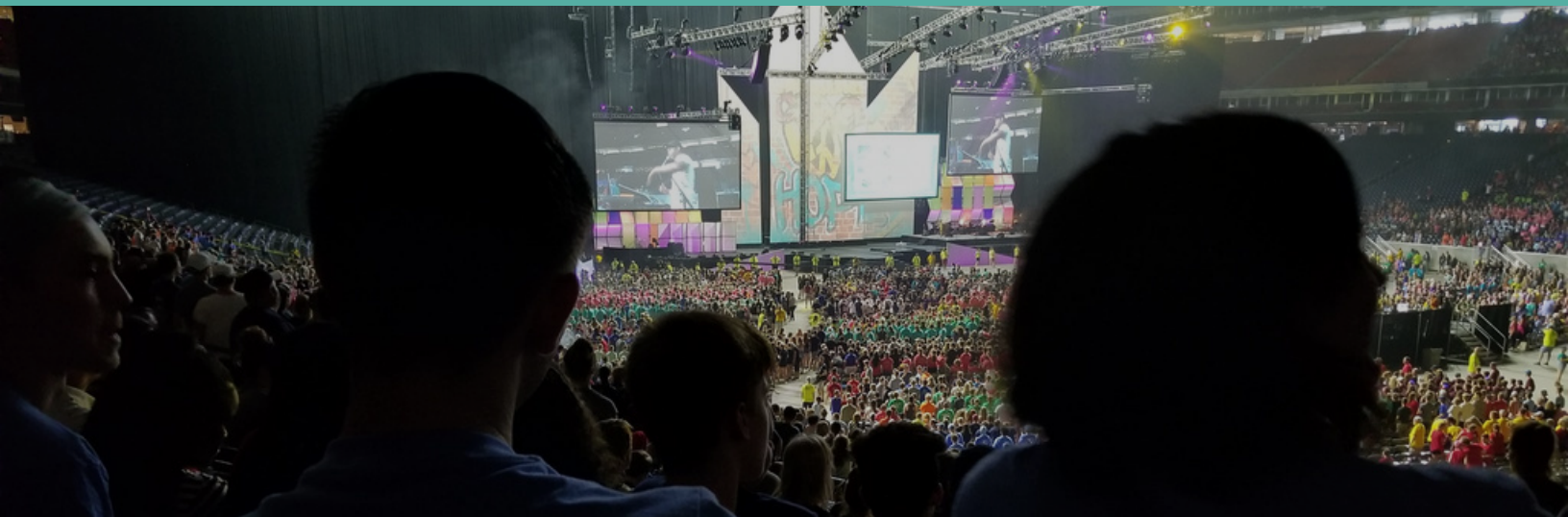


CREATED
TO BE

2024 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

JULY 14-21, 2024

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



"I praise you, for I am
fearfully and wonderfully
made. Wonderful are your
works; that I know very well."

Psalm 139:14

Every three years, thousands of high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.



NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

A timeless city with a unique way of life, New Orleans is a journey and a celebration. Steeped in European traditions and Caribbean influences, the Big Easy calls curious minds to sweet sounds and savory aromas fueled by three hundred years of history. As the birthplace of jazz, the home to Creole cuisine and its unmatched southern hospitality, New Orleans will leave you wanting to explore and discover the mystery behind this magical city.

REGISTRATION INFO

Registration will take place online beginning August 27 at www.epiphanydayton.org/2024-elca-youth-gathering/

Registrations are considered complete with a non-refundable \$250 deposit online or by check, and should be completed no later than October 1. A final payment of \$250 will be due in May 2024.

GATHERING PREPARATION

Informational Meeting: August 27, 12:00pm

Join us for an important informational meeting for students and parents on **August 27 at 12:00pm** to find out more about joining us in New Orleans in 2024. Lunch will be provided. **RSVP online for lunch:** www.epiphanydayton.org/2024-elca-youth-gathering/

Registration Deadline: October 1

Gathering Preparation Meetings

These are not simply 'meetings' - they are opportunities to grow in our faith, connect with other participants, and prepare ourselves for our experience in New Orleans. They are part of the Gathering experience, and your attendance is expected. Lunch is included at all meetings.

- **October 15** - 12:00-2:00pm - Students & Parents
- **December 3** - 12:00-2:00pm
- **January 7** - 12:00-2:00pm
- **February 4** - 12:00-2:00pm
- **March 3** - 12:00-2:00pm
- **April 14** - 12:00-2:00pm
- **May 5** - 12:00-2:00pm
- **June 9** - 12:00-2:00pm
- **June 30** - 12:00-2:00pm - Students & Parents

FUNDRAISING

Our goal is to work as a group to help each student fundraise at least \$1,000 towards the total cost of the trip. More information about fundraising plans and involvement expectations will be available at the informational meeting.

Fundraising Kickoff: October 15

We will kick off fundraising for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering with our Sponsorship Fundraiser the weekend of October 15. Students will be needed to give temple talks at all services and to welcome people at both campuses.

Mid-Lent Mardi Gras Dinner Auction: March 16, 2024

Our main fundraiser is planned for the evening of March 16, 2024. This will be a Mardi Gras themed dinner with auction, and will be a congregation-wide event. This fundraiser will be all hands on deck for registered students and parents for planning and execution of the event. Information and signups for planning teams will be available at the October 15 meeting for registered students and parents.

Bingo Nights, Parents Night Out, Restaurant Takeovers & Car Wash

We plan to host a variety of additional fundraisers throughout the year. Dates and details will be available at the informational meeting on August 27 with signups available at the October 15 meeting for registered students and parents.

We have been created to be ourselves. Created by the Holy One. Since the last time the ELCA came together for an ELCA Youth Gathering, our young people have experienced several major life events. Still today, we are experiencing an ongoing public health crisis mixed with an economic and political crisis. However, we can rest assured that we are created to be in relationship with one another.

We are created to be **brave**, to show up with an open mind and heart, willing to be challenged.

We are created to be **authentic**, to bring our whole selves and know that we are loved by our Creator.

We are created to be **free**, to be transformed by the gospel.

We are created to be **disruptive**, to work for justice for all our siblings.

We are created to be **disciples**, to be sent out into the world to love our neighbor just as we are loved by God.

GET ALL GATHERING INFORMATION AT OUR ONLINE GATHERING HUB:

WWW.EPIPHANYDAYTON.ORG/2024-ELCA-YOUTH-GATHERING/

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