



# northeastern minnesota Synod Journey to the ELCA Youth Gathering

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## Let's travel together!

The Northeastern Minnesota Synod has a long tradition of traveling together to the ELCA Youth Gathering. Much has changed since the last Gathering was held in 2018, but as we look ahead to 2024, we are eager to continue this beloved tradition!

Partnering for the Synod Journey this year will include:

- Pre-trip Support, including a registration walk-through on Zoom
- Spring Training and Networking Event for adult leaders in 2024 - more details to come!
- Group overnight at Camp Onomia Sunday, July 14 - featuring group building experiences, worship, and a service opportunity.
- Flying together to New Orleans
- Intentional time together as a Synod Journey group throughout the Gathering - including special events on Monday when we arrive, Tuesday before the Gathering begins, and throughout the Gathering experience by way of daily breakfasts, adult leader support, and check-ins - you're not in this alone!
- Partnership with Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry staff for worship experiences, games and activities, and adult leader support.
- Flying home together back to Minnesota.
- Relationships, memories, and connections throughout our synod that will last beyond the trip!

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. PSALM 139:14*



[fb.com/youthgathering](https://fb.com/youthgathering)



[@elcagathering](https://twitter.com/elcagathering)

July 14-21, 2024  
*New Orleans*

### Synod Journey Leadership

**Pastor Taryn Montgomery**

*NEMN Synod Minister for  
Discipleship & Christian Community*

**Katie Rich**

*Director of Faith Formation, Lutheran  
Church of the Good Shepherd, Duluth*

**Pastor Laura Mills Anderson**

*Messiah Lutheran Church,  
Mountain Iron*

**Katie Maurer**

*Director of Programs,  
Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry*

### Contact Information

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[elca.org/gathering](https://elca.org/gathering)  
**#ELCAYG2024**

# Synod Journey ITINERARY

## *Sunday, July 14, 2024*

The Synod Journey begins with a sending worship service in your home congregation - Worship resources and liturgy will be provided. That afternoon, we will gather as a group at Camp Onomia for a fun overnight including worship, service projects, group building, games, activities, and dinner in partnership with Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry camp staff.

## *Monday, July 15, 2024*

From Camp Onomia, we will bus to the Minneapolis/St. Paul (MSP) airport and fly together to New Orleans! Upon arrival, we will check into the hotel and get settled. Synod Journey group activities continue, including worship, an adult leader meeting/check in plus a "Welcome to New Orleans" photo scavenger hunt!

## *Tuesday, July 16, 2024*

The day will begin with a Synod Journey breakfast and check in time. Tuesday morning will include additional Synod Journey activities as we prepare to begin the ELCA Youth Gathering schedule. Adult Leaders will register with the ELCA Youth Gathering and we will launch into the Gathering Schedule mid-afternoon and celebrate our first night at the Mass Gathering in the Dome. Nothing compares to your very first Gathering experience: walking into the stadium filled with young Lutherans from across the Church and the globe!

## *Wednesday, July 17, 2024*

Start your first full day at the ELCA Youth Gathering! On your Accompaniment Day\*, you will have an opportunity to engage in service learning, be immersed in NOLA's culture and story, or learn about social justice and advocacy issues. Your day will end with the second Mass Gathering in the Dome.

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# Synod Journey ITINERARY *continued*

## *Thursday, July 18, 2024*

Continue ELCA Youth Gathering Schedule.

On our Synod Day\*, we'll gather as a synod group for a 45-50 minute worship led by the VLM staff (reuniting with friends we met at Camp Onomia and meeting some new friends, too!)

We will also have plenty of time to explore our host city that day, including a Justice Tour experience for our whole Synod.

The day ends with a Mass Gathering experience in the Dome.

## *Friday, July 19, 2024*

This will be our final full day of the Gathering Schedule.

During our Interactive Learning Day\*, you'll get to explore a "holy playground" of sorts - exploring and engaging with partners doing amazing work in hunger, advocacy, and more! There's also a chance to meet with Lutheran colleges and universities from across the country, and shop at the "Old Lutheran" Store. End your day with the Mass Gathering in the Dome.

## *Saturday - Sunday July 20 -21, 2024*

Closing Worship at the Dome on Saturday Morning. Following closing worship, we will share in one final meal as a Synod Journey group and activities.

Fly back to Minnesota, bus back to Camp Onomia to pick up vehicles. Congregational groups will have the option to stay Saturday night at Camp Onomia for an additional charge - more details to come in Spring of 2024. Arrive home late Saturday night or Sunday afternoon.

\*Accompaniment Day, Synod Day, and Interactive Learning Day will be assigned on a rotation - we will not know the order in which we will experience these days until much closer to the Gathering dates. Regardless of when, these days will be filled with fun, faith formation, and opportunities to build relationships - within congregation groups, Synod Journey participants, and across the wider Church!

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# Synod Journey COST BREAKDOWN

We recommend budgeting a minimum of \$1,500 per participant (youth and adult leaders!) We recognize that the cost of this experience is significant. Please know that we are doing our best to keep costs as low as possible. This cost does include:

\$550 - Transportation

\$250 - Housing (Camp Onomia & Hotels in New Orleans)

\$375 - ELCA Youth Gathering Registration Fee

\$225 - 9 Meals together as a Synod Journey Group

\*This does not include all meals, or additional spending (offering, tips, souvenirs, etc...)

\$100 - Synod Journey Expenses

\*Including programming provided by Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry, social justice tour, t-shirt, and other experiences

**TOTAL: \$1,500 per participant** (youth & adult)

There are four categories to keep in mind as you budget:

- \$900 per Journey participant - Money paid to the Synod
- Approximately \$600 per participant for the Gathering - Money you will need to pay directly to the ELCA (this covers the registration fee of \$375 plus hotel Tuesday-Friday nights). Exact cost will be defined after our hotel is assigned, but this is based on what the ELCA recommends budgeting for hotel expenses.
- Money you will want to have as a congregation/team (for example, meals, tips, or offerings that you'd like to pay for as a church group.)
- Money you will want participants to bring with them (perhaps some meals, offering, tips, souvenirs that you'd like students to pay for on their own.)

More on Meals:

At this moment, we are planning to provide dinner at Camp Onomia, breakfast each morning, and a Synod Journey meal to begin and conclude our time in New Orleans. We are not able to provide meals while traveling or lunches & dinners once we begin the Gathering schedule. As a congregation, you will need to decide if you'd like to pay for those meals at as church, or if individuals will be expected to pay on their own.

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# Synod Journey

## HOW TO REGISTER:

**You will need to sign up as a congregational group.**

**On the NEMN Synod website, you will find:**

- Synod Journey Online Registration Form
- ELCA Youth Gathering "Congregation Details" Worksheet
  - ELCA Adult Participant Registration Worksheet
  - ELCA Youth Participant Registration Worksheet
- Detailed Synod Journey packet

### **How to Register:**

**Step 1: Collect Forms/Worksheets from all participants – youth and adults!**

**Step 2: Register (as a group) online through the ELCA Youth Gathering website. Registration for the ELCA Youth Gathering includes a deposit of \$150 per participant.**

**Step 3: Register online each of your participants for Synod Journey. This can be done on the Synod website: [www.nemnsynod.org/synod-journey](http://www.nemnsynod.org/synod-journey)**

**Step 4: Make copies of all worksheets, and send to the Synod Office, along with a check for \$100 per participant by/before October 15.**

**\*Important Notes:** You may register for the ELCA Youth Gathering without registering for the Synod Journey. The Synod Journey is an additional step, process, expense, and support network. These are just the first two payments (one to the ELCA, one to the Synod Office.) You will need to make additional payments, totaling no more than \$1,500 per participant throughout the year.

**We will offer a Synod Journey Registration Support Meeting on Zoom Thursday, September 14 at both 12:00pm and 6:00pm to walk through registration and answer any questions.**

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