



Hello Friend,

We want to invite you to be part of the group to attend the 2022 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. The approximate travel dates for this trip are tentatively set at July 23-29, 2022. I am praying for

each of you and your families for the trip to Minneapolis and I hope you will join me in praying for our team from St. John's. This trip will definitely provide an opportunity for a life changing experience for all of us.

Since we don't need to travel far, we will likely be getting on a bus or large van to get to Minneapolis. With that, it means our travel costs should be much lower than if we were travelling elsewhere. I imagine that the "per person" cost of the trip will be around \$1000. This means that I am expecting the "per person out of pocket cost" to be \$350 (\$300 per person for families with multiple youth participating). There will need to be significant fundraising to make up the other \$650 per person. However, I do not want the financial situation to be the only reason you do not participate. If this financial contribution is a challenge for you and your family, please talk to me and we can work something out. With these factors in mind, please take seriously the decision to participate in the trip and understand the level of commitment that I and the rest of the combined team will expect from you.

The first informational meeting we will have will be on Sunday, September 19 at 1:00 in the Parish Hall. I cannot imagine this meeting going more than an hour. I ask that you and a parent/guardian can come (if it's only you, that's okay too!) I'd love to share with you more information about the National Gathering. By the first team meeting, **Sunday, October 10, 2021**, at **1:00**, I will need a **deposit of \$75**, and your "**Registration Worksheet**" filled out. By this time, I will need you to choose to pay your entire share of \$350 a person at one time or spread the cost out in a way that is more feasible for your family. Again, if this is a problem, please let me know and we can work something out. I have included a "**Payment Schedule**" as a communication tool. Please fill this out and return it with your "Registration Worksheet", the sooner the better. I have included two copies so that you can keep one, and so that I can have one so that we are all on the same page.

I know it is not entirely fair to ask you to commit to participate when every date and detail is not firmly set. I also hope that you realize that at this time, it is not possible for me to accurately schedule every meeting and fundraiser for the next ten months. At the September 19 meeting, I will have a more complete list of meetings and fundraisers that I have planned, but we will definitely need more ideas, so start thinking! You are more than welcome to treat the September 19 meeting as a test to see if this is something you are interested in. Come and ask questions, before making up your mind whether or not to go.

The following are important dates to remember:

Sunday, September 19 @ 1:00	Informational Meeting St. John's
Sunday, October 10 @1:00	First Official Team Meeting (Tentative)
Sunday, November 14 @ 1:00	Second Official Team Meeting (Tentative)
July 24-July 28, 2022	ELCA Youth Gathering Minneapolis, MN

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns (920-710-2881 or pastorsara@stjohnsmarion.org). I realize that this is a big commitment, but it's an exciting one as well. I realize that families will need to commit to this team, but I would hate for money to be the primary factor that a student decide not to participate. There is a lot of time and there are a lot of different ways to come up with the money over the course of the next several months, and with hard work and dedication, I am confident we will be able to succeed in meeting all of our goals. I'm glad you are part of our church family and I hope you consider participating in this great event.

Very Truly,

Pastor Sara Gorman