



JESUS JUSTICE JAZZ

April 10, 2008

Hi Everyone,

It is time to start planning for the 2009 Youth Gathering which is a little more than a year away. It will be in New Orleans, Louisiana, and we want to give you some basic information to whet your appetite! We also want to give you our contact information and introduce ourselves to you as your Synod coordinators for this fantastic event which happens once every three years.

First of all the dates:

Youth Gathering is July 22-26, 2009

Myle will be July 19-22, 2009

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LYO Convention will be July 26-29 at University Of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Cost for these events is still being tweaked, and final prices will be available shortly. For now, plan for between \$275 to 300 per person, which covers registration fees for the Youth Gathering. Food, housing and travel will be in addition to that, and we will help you put together a budget at our first workshops in May. Some of you heard preliminary information about needing your own transportation while in New Orleans – the ELCA staff is working out a good plan to resolve that issue – more to come.

The theme is **Jesus✦Justice✦Jazz** and it draws from the rich faith history, diverse cultures, and arts of New Orleans. The focus of the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering will be on service and justice as we live our shared reality as Christians. Through a variety of service learning experiences, every congregational group will have the opportunity to contribute to a service initiative every day!

For those of you have been to a gathering before, this year there will be only week for all participants. There are **36,000 spaces on a first come first served basis**. Registration will be available both online and through the mail. **Early registration opens September 15, 2008**. If space is still available you may register after 1/15/09 at an additional cost per person.

The other difference this year is that each day will begin in smaller groups which will be working and learning together throughout the day. The whole assembly will gather each evening in the dome for incredible mass gatherings and experiences.

There will be a community service component built into the schedule each day and the daily schedule will look like this:

Day 1 Arrive, Register, Dome Experience (at night) Hotel Life

Day 2-3-4

Blessing / Sending for the Day

Breakfast

Daily Assignment (Think rotation model) and Lunch

One Day Jesus – time to dive in to the Bible study in a fun and innovative way. We will be broken into 12,000 for large group study and then into smaller groups of 50 traveling through the day.

One Day Justice time to travel with your same group of 50 into New Orleans for a day of service. These groups will be lead by college students (we are recruiting 800, and registration for that opens April 15 at www.elca.org/youth/gathering).

One Day Jazz you will meet at the convention center to listen to speakers and experience videos that focus on your Justice experience.

Early Afternoon-Free time/Interaction Center/Dinner

Evening Dome Experience- Large Gathering Time

Late night Hotel Life

Day 5 Breakfast- Closing Celebration/Dome experience

THIS IS A LOT OF INFORMATION AND HAS MADE YOU THINK OF 25 QUESTIONS TO ASK, HASN'T IT?

Have no fear, we have scheduled a series of information sessions in May, and we will have details about registration, suggestions for fundraising, information about traveling together by chartered busses, budgeting help and sample materials. Plan to attend one of the following sessions: and bring all of your questions.

Saturday, May 10 at 10 AM
Sunday, May 18 at 2:00 PM
Wednesday, May 21 at 7 PM

St. Peter's, North Wales
Redeemer, NE Philadelphia
Advent, West Chester

And for you VERY ORGANIZED PEOPLE, we will be gathering on **Sunday, October 5 at 2 PM at Trinity, Lansdale** for a kickoff party for the Gathering, and more information as registrations open. We intend to take a fabulous delegation of young people, college students and adults to New Orleans. We hope you will join us!

Blessings, and thank you for supporting your youth in this great adventure. If you need us for anything, feel free to email or call us.

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Synod Coordinators 2009 Gathering