



TO: Synodical bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
RE: Invitation to attend and participate in the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering

Greetings in the name of our servant savior, Jesus Christ:

On behalf of the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering staff and the Vocation & Education Unit of the ELCA, I am extending a cordial invitation to you to join thousands of Lutheran youth and adults in New Orleans next summer! Your spouse is also warmly invited to attend as our guest.

Our hope is that you will be fully immersed in this event and in the lives of youth and adults who are seeking to grow in their faith. Together, we will deepen our understanding of our baptismal callings to serve and to strive for justice; together we will taste the joy and strength that we receive in the gathered body of Christ. Your presence and engagement, as fellow disciples and as youth-cherishing leaders, will be a profound blessing in our Gathering community!

The opportunities for your presence and meaningful engagement with young people and youth ministry leaders during the Gathering program will be plentiful and diverse. Pastor Bruce Davidson of the New Jersey Synod will be working with you prior to the Gathering to help discern how your time, interests, gifts, leadership, and faith might best be shared in the Gathering community.

During your time with us, you will be provided **complimentary hotel housing and Gathering registration**, and **ground transportation** in New Orleans. In addition, you will be asked to be our guest at the **Bishops Dinner** at Café Reconcile on Wednesday night. **Lunches** on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday will be provided in the staff and volunteer meal area.

To register and learn more, go to the ELCA Youth Gathering Web site at www.elca.org/gathering and click on the “**Bishop Registration**” link (available later in October). This special invitation for bishops of the ELCA is not transferable to other staff representatives of your synod. Registration questions can be directed to Donna Wiegel at 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2578 or Donna.Wiegel@elca.org.

We look forward to your continued partnership and presence in service with young people and leaders in youth ministry throughout the ELCA.

Blessings in your ministry!

Heidi Hagstrom, Director for Youth Gathering
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

