



## 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering

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March 28, 2011

Greetings!

By now we hope that you have heard that the ELCA Youth Gathering will be happening again in New Orleans, July 2012. Perhaps you have already begun to make plans for Youth and adults from your congregation to attend. If not, it's not too late...or early!!!

In order to make the process of preparing for and attending the Gathering easier for your congregation's team, we will hold several informational and training events around the Grand Canyon Synod. We are also here to help you in many ways as you make this journey.

A new element of the Gathering this time around will be an emphasis on strengthening Youth Ministries in congregations around the ELCA. To that end there will be a variety of training and resource sharing events made available in your area. We encourage you to make these events and resources available to the members of your congregation and its leadership, especially those involved in youth ministry.

Please be aware, **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A PART OF THE YOUTH GATHERING IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRAINING EVENTS.** These are a gift from the Youth Gathering to the church at large. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities.

Our first training event and Gathering Information Meeting will be held on the following dates.

- April 30 in Tucson
- May 12 in Phoenix
- May 14 in Las Vegas
- May 15 in Phoenix

Please see the enclosed flyer relevant to your area for place and time information.

We encourage Youth Workers (volunteer and paid), Sunday School teachers, Parents, Youth, and even Pastors to attend these events. Anyone who has a stake in today's youth (and isn't that all of us?!) will benefit from this time spent together.

Again, even if you're not planning on participating in the 2012 Gathering, but especially if you are, you will not want to miss this and future training opportunities.

Future offerings will include face-to-face training events, downloadable training sessions, webinars, and workshops.

Register online at [www.gcsynodyouth.org](http://www.gcsynodyouth.org) or call Scott at 480-215-0937.

You can also stay up to speed by visiting our Facebook page, **Grand Canyon Synod 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering**.

Please feel free to contact us anytime.

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