

## *Alternative Ideas for Youth Ministry – Summer 2022*



Right now, it might feel like our disappointment is beyond measure! Everyone who has been planning on the ELCA 2022 Gathering knows the letdown of learning that this important event will not be held this year. People have the dates blocked off on their calendars, young people have been doing fund-raising, and people in the Cities have been ready to welcome us. We're all drawing on the creativity of the Holy Spirit and praying about what could be next.

So rather than miss out on doing anything extra-special and even life-changing this summer, consider taking your crew on another life-changing experience!

Synod staff have been doing research on additional ideas for great experiences for young people. It's true: God's power at work in and through us, will do far more than we dare ask or imagine! Here are some opportunities to consider:

- Augsburg College Youth Opportunities, including Urban Plunge, Interfaith opportunities, and Youth Theology Institute: [Congregational Youth Groups - Campus Ministry | Augsburg University](#)
- Gustavus Adolphus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics: [Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics - Preparing leaders who cultivate creative alliances between religion and science in order to ethically address contemporary challenges. | Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics](#)
- Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity works with groups of youth in a variety of service opportunities: [Group Volunteer Opportunities | Twin Cities Habitat For Humanity \(tchabitat.org\)](#)
- Serve Boldly: A youth service opportunity led in part by pastors from our synod: <https://www.serveboldly.net/> If Serve Boldly does not work for your group this summer, check out these other organizations that also provide service experiences for youth <https://youthworks.com/> and <https://groupmissiontrips.com/>.

As always, our Bible Camps are a tremendous resource to provide programming for youth. Many outdoor ministries are using the shared theme of ***boundless: God beyond measure***. To learn more, reach out to:

- Shetek Lutheran Ministries: [Welcome · Shetek Lutheran Ministries](#)
- Green Lake Lutheran Ministries: [GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN MINISTRIES - Home \(gllm.org\)](#)
- Luther Crest Bible Camp: [Luther Crest - Passionate, Authentic, Accommodating](#)

If area outdoor ministries do not work for your group this summer, check out the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries website for other opportunities! <https://www.lomnetwork.org/>

And here's another thought: There are numerous congregations in the Twin Cities who serve and work with people on the ground for the sake of those local communities. For instance:

- There were organizations in the Twin Cities who were counting on thousands of socks and undergarments to be shared this summer with the people they serve. Watch for information that may come from congregations or organizations there. We will share this info it as soon as we hear.
- Many Twin Cities hotels had been booked for the Gathering. If there are stays or events that could be booked with them through the end of 2022, please consider this as a way to bring these good folks the business they will lose.

Please check back, [www.swmnelca.org/elca-youth.com](http://www.swmnelca.org/elca-youth.com), to this page for more information as it becomes available. As people of faith, we continue to look to God's love that IS boundless beyond measure.



**Southwestern Minnesota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.