

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP April 2023

This Month's Writer: Rev. Brad Dokken

In early February, over 600 people from across the ELCA gathered together in Anaheim, CA for the annual Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza – affectionately known as “The E”. A dozen people from our synod were a part of this group that gathered around the theme of “Enough”. We worshipped together, ate together, laughed together, learned together, and, most importantly, learned that we are enough because God has created us and loves us unconditionally.

While this event is geared towards leaders who work with young people in our congregations, it really provides solid information for anyone who is doing ministry because the issues facing our young people are truly facing all of us.



As I sat at the table having lunch with our synod, I couldn't help but look around and think about the faces that were missing, the ones that I thought could benefit from being here.

Instantly, names popped into my head and I knew that my task for the next year would be to encourage others to join us, to spend some time in a setting where they could be renewed and energized for the work ahead.



Here it is, my invitation to you. If you work with young people, either in a volunteer capacity or in a paid position, think about joining us next January 18-21 in New Orleans for Extravaganza 2024: DREAM and we will engage around the theme verse

“In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your <children> shall prophesy, and your young...shall see visions, and your old...shall dream dreams.” – Acts 2:17

The bonus is that at this event, in addition to all of the other opportunities I mentioned, you will also get a sneak peek into plans for ELCA Youth Gathering that will be happening later in the summer. If your congregation plans on taking folks to that event, this is an excellent time to catch a glimpse of what is to come.

I would love to talk to you more about this possibility and why I think you should make plans to join us.

Blessings to you!
 Pastor Brad Dokken
 Assistant to the Bishop for
 Candidacy, Call, and Leadership



Synod Assembly 2023

Sat. June 3 – Sun. June 4, 2023
 Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center
 Pre-Assembly Workshops Fri. June 2