



## 2018 NE MN Synod Journey Getting Ready Resources Guide

The Synod Journey is a year-long faith journey, culminating in the trip to Galveston and Houston, Texas. Synod Journey participants are expected to gather as congregational groups a minimum of once a month for group building, faith development, and preparations for the Texas portion of the experience. Groups are also encouraged to creatively engage the wider congregation in the Journey experience. Preparation is an important part of the Journey. Congregations that are diligent in their preparation together have a much better experience on the Journey and are more able to engage in relational ministry and impact faith development.

Throughout this year The Synod Journey Worship Team will make resources available to assist you in your monthly meetings and to include the congregation in this journey. It is not required to use all these resources. Choose the best combination for the faith development and relationship building within your group. See the “Monthly Meeting Overview” for suggestions on how to use and choose the resources that are best suited for your group.

### **Resources that are/will be available to you:**

- **Getting Ready Materials from The ELCA Youth Gathering**
  - Available at <https://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-Youth-Gathering#GettingReady>
    - The Gathering’s Getting Ready resources are based in group building, Bible study and faith based conversation for use with congregational groups before and after the Gathering. Twelve lessons will be developed – nine for use in the months leading up to the Gathering and three for taking your experience home. The ninth lesson will not be posted until the spring of 2018. The three post-Gathering lessons will be available shortly after the Gathering. Getting Ready curriculum could be used for your entire youth ministry group, not just those attending the Gathering.
  
- **Story Kits**
  - Available one per congregation at the Fall Adult Leader Training
    - During the Journey and the Gathering, youth and adults will encounter five scripture texts: Moses at the Burning Bush, The Woman at the Well, Philip and the Eunuch, The Road to Emmaus, and the Hemorrhaging Woman. It is our hope that participants will encounter these five stories prior to the Journey, enabling them to hear and engage these texts on multiple levels. This resource will include materials and a curriculum guide for encountering these stories in five story sessions. They can be

used independently or in conjunction with the Monthly Gathering Resources. The kit will include suggestions for using the Story Kit with your congregation.

- **Four Congregational Worships**

- Available through the “SJ Resources” link on the Synod website
  - In our worship services, we **GATHER** as God’s people, **HEAR** God’s word, **CELEBRATE** God’s word and work, and are **SENT** out into the world to live as God’s people. Four worship services will be available prior to the Journey. Each resource is a complete worship service that can be used in its entirety or dissected into helpful pieces for inclusion in your congregation’s worship and programming. **GATHER** has been available since Spring 2017. **HEAR** will come out in late Fall 2017, **CELEBRATE** winter 2018, and **SENT** (including a commissioning) Spring 2018.

- **Bus Meeting Resources**

- Available to Bus Captains late Fall 2017.
  - All Synod Journey congregations are assigned to a bus group and assigned a bus captain. Bus Groups are asked to meet twice prior to traveling to Texas. The first bus group meeting will include “get to know one another” resources. The second bus group meeting will focus on covenanting and travel preparations.

- **Facebook Fire Ups**

- Available on the Synod Journey Facebook page.
  - Watch for short posts with ideas and images to help get you fired up!

- **Return Resources**

- Available Summer 2018 on the “SJ Resources” page on the Synod website.
  - Congregational worship, group gathering, and ideas for sharing and engaging youth once you return from the Journey.