



2018 NE MN Synod Journey Final Updates!

May 26, 2018

Dear Synod Journey Primary Leaders,

You've spent a year fundraising, gathering paperwork (and more paperwork!), planning, preparing. You have stood on holy ground with your young people as they have encountered scripture, asked questions, and wondered together, "How does THIS change everything?" And now we're here! In less than a month you will jump on your bus, to start the trip portion of the Journey!

This final mailing contains many details. The details are exciting, because it means we're almost ready to go! At the same time, the details can overwhelm us because...*ohmygosh*...it's almost time to go! So just like we talked about at the Spring Trainings...take a moment before reading on to pause and remember why we are doing this Journey:

This Journey is about faith formation.

This Journey is about leadership development.

This Journey is about God's Call...God's Love...God's Grace...God's Hope.

This Journey is about Jesus.

And because of that, this Journey Changes everything!

When you feel the anxiety start to rise, remember - this Journey is about what GOD is up to...not us! God is already in Galveston. God is already in Houston. God is already at work in the lives of your youth, your adults, in YOU!

Don't get me wrong...these details are important! And yes, I do expect you to read through this mailing carefully and completely! Enclosed is the Final Itinerary, Bus Assignments, Packing List, Housing Assignments, and many more details. Please share all this information with your other adult leaders. I can guarantee that this won't be the last word from me - so keep checking your inbox for Synod Journey Updates and the "NE MN Synod Journey 2018 Adult Leaders" Facebook Group for last minute updates.

**"Imagine the confidence
God has, to put you in
leadership at this time
and in this place."**

- Reggie McNeal

God is at work through the details. And God is at work through YOU. I firmly believe that each of you have been called and equipped by God for this Journey. The Synod Journey Planning Team, synod staff, and I continue to hold you in prayer as you make final preparations. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call (218-724-4424, ext. 124) or email (Catherine.Anderson@nemnsynod.org).

I look forward to seeing all of you in Galveston!

In Christ,

Catherine Anderson
Coordinator of Youth Ministry

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Emergency Contact Numbers

Please give these numbers to parents, spouses, pastors and your church secretary in case of emergency:

Catherine Anderson's Cell Phone:	218-310-8528
Northeastern Minnesota Synod Office:	218-724-4424
Patti Maguire's Cell Phone (<i>June 23-July 1</i>):	218-341-6821
Texas A&M Galveston, Maritime Hall (<i>June 24-27</i>):	409- 740-4445
Wyndham Houston West-Energy Corridor (<i>June 27-July1</i>):	281-558-5580

Patti Maguire

Patti Maguire will be serving as Catherine's assistant on the Synod Journey. She will be assisting with our check in process at Texas A&M and the Wyndham, be your caregiver if you need to be taken to urgent care, answer questions, and provide a number of other support roles! Make sure her number gets added to your contacts in your phone!

Forms

If Marilyn Hull has emailed or called you regarding missing or incomplete forms, please return those forms to the synod office by June 1 to give us time to process them! **Youth and Adults with incomplete or missing forms will not be allowed to board the bus!!** *We do not want that to happen – but please note, there is no refund if participants are not allowed on the bus due to forms not being turned in!*



Cancellations

If you have a youth or adult cancel at this point, it is essential that you contact Catherine as soon as possible so we can make housing and other adjustments **before we leave!**

Bus Assignments and the Bus Ride

Your bus assignment is enclosed. Your group is assigned to a specific bus, and needs to get on that **same bus** every time we depart. Switching buses is not allowed! There are 10 buses for our group. There will be a sign in the window indicating your bus number.

Please have your group in the parking lot, **ready to go at least one half hour prior** to the listed departure time. The departure time listed for the first stop is the time the bus should **leave** the parking lot. Subsequent departure times are estimates. Remind your group – the longer it takes to get out of the parking lot, the less time they will have at meal stops...and at the beach in Galveston!

Primary leaders: Check in with your Bus Captain when you arrive at your departure point on June 23. Tell your Bus Captain when your entire group is present and has their gear loaded on the bus.

Each bus is equipped with a DVD player and monitors. Your group can bring appropriate, G, PG, or PG-13 movies and music. The Bus Captain has the right and responsibility to screen media before it is played, and to not play inappropriate media material. Snacks and Pop are allowed on buses. Please do not bring glass containers on the bus. Screw top beverage containers are best, as they tend to spill less.

Your Bus Captain is in charge of counting heads every time the bus is loaded, making sure the drive is safe, helping everyone on the bus meet each other, providing devotions on our travel days, upholding the dress code, and sharing announcements with the group. Please remember your bus covenant and support them in this role!

Wristbands

Each participant will receive a Synod Journey wristband when boarding your bus. Wristbands must be worn at all times during our trip (even through the Gathering), and will give you access to our synod events, meals and work sites. In addition, Catherine's synod cell phone number is printed on the wristbands in case of emergency. If your wristband comes off, please bring your old wristband to Catherine or Patti to get a new one. There is a \$25 replacement fee for lost wristbands.

Breakfast in Houston

- **Brunch WILL be provided Thursday, June 28th!** The cost for this is included in your registration fee. To keep lines moving, we will assign times for your group to arrive for breakfast.
- **Milk Run:** We will do ONE milk run in Houston, on Friday, June 29. We will give you information on how to order during an adult leader meeting in Galveston. For additional milk, there will be grab and go options in the lobby at the Wyndham, and across the street at the Shell station.

T-Shirts

Each participant will receive two t-shirts in Galveston:

- **The Synod Journey T-Shirt** is Carolina Blue and will be worn on **Wednesday, June 27** for your bus activity and the first mass gathering in Houston.
- **The ELCA Service Learning Day T-Shirt** is neon orange, and will be shipped to the synod office (you can ignore any confirmation emails from Old Lutheran/UPS regarding their delivery). These **MUST** be worn on your Service Learning day (Friday). This is for safety in the city. Plus it's just really cool to see 10,000 people in the same shirt!



Health Issues on the Journey

Enclosed is a contact list for support in dealing with health issues while on the Synod Journey. Please read through this document and bring with you for reference on the Journey. You are also encouraged to bring with you the Crisis Management and Notification Procedure Documents that were handed out at the Spring Trainings (and can be downloaded from www.nemnsynod.org/training-events).

Work Assignments

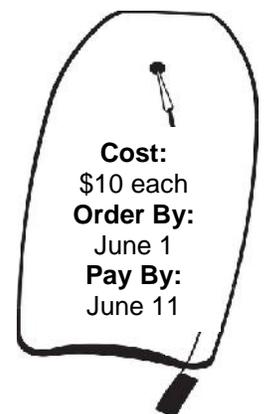
As we shared at the spring adult leader trainings, the servant events will continue to evolve and change as we get closer to arrival. Expect to get dirty – Galveston projects include gardening/landscaping, painting/staining and light maintenance...along with relational opportunities. You will receive your work assignment the night before we serve at the Adult Leader Meetings in Galveston. The Packing List contains general items needed for servant events. Not everyone will be painting/scraping...or using small hand tools. But consider bringing these as a “just in case.”

Participants should hang on to their gloves for possible use in Houston as well. You won't know in Houston until you get on the bus what your project is, but if needed, you'll appreciate having gloves!

Boogie Board Orders

You can order Boogie Boards at \$10 each for your group to use at Stewart Beach at: <https://goo.gl/forms/kGLvOcYWnERUrAmT2> . They will be ready for you when you arrive at Texas A&M in Galveston. *Please note: These are the inexpensive, 33" Boogie Boards from either Target or Walmart. If they break on your first run into the ocean, **no refunds!***

Please make checks payable to "NE MN Synod LYO Gathering Account" and mail to:
NE MN Synod
Attn: Synod Journey
1105 E Superior St., Upper Suite
Duluth, MN 55802



Sending Liturgy and Commissioning Service

The Synod Journey Worship Team will post the final “Sent” worship liturgy that will include a commissioning service by June 1. If you need a commissioning service resource before that date, you can use the ELCA Commissioning that is available at <http://elca.org/Resources/ELCA-Youth-Gathering>.

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Synod Journey on Social Media

The Synod Journey planning team will be posting pictures and updates during the Journey using the following social media accounts. Share these with your parents and congregations so they can follow the Journey!

- **“NE MN Synod Journey” Facebook Page.** Please note this is different than our Facebook group for Synod Journey Adult Leaders!
- **Twitter:** @SynodJourney
- **Instagram:** @SynodJourney
- Follow/post to these accounts using #SynodJourney18



Covenant Reminders

Please review with your group and parents the Participant Expectations and Covenant Form you signed when you registered last fall! I encourage you to also review the “Expectations and Covenant Explanations” document. Both can be found at www.nemnsynod.org/registration-forms. Highlights of the areas that often need the most reminding:

- **Dress Code:**
 - Wear appropriate clothing at all times. Logos, captions, and appearance should reflect the spirit of The Synod Journey. As a sign of respect for others and for your safety, we ask that clothing cover all underwear (including bra straps, sport bras and boxer shorts) and no belly buttons show. Swimsuits should be modest. T-Shirts will be provided for certain program days during The Synod Journey. At other times, t-shirts will be given for participants to wear if clothing is deemed inappropriate.
- **Cell Phones:**
 - Are not allowed during community times on the Journey.
 - If phones are used for cameras or music during community time, they must be turned to airplane mode with media data and wifi turned off so they cannot transmit phone calls, text messages and social media alerts.
 - We support congregations who ask participants to not use cell phones on the Journey.
 - We ask that parents NOT contact youth, but let youth initiate contact at times designated by congregations. Parents should contact adult leaders in case of emergency.

Be sure parents fully understand that youth will be sent home at parent’s expense if youth are found with or in the presence of alcohol or illegal drugs, and for other serious offenses (for example if youth are at risk to harm themselves or others).

ELCA Youth Gathering Orientation Videos

I have posted at www.nemnsynod.org/SJAdults the webinars and videos produced by the ELCA Youth Gathering, including an Adult Leader Orientation Video and Service Learning Day overview. Please watch these before you depart!

Final Confirmation Letter from the Gathering

Primary Leaders Only! NOW you can go to your congregational accounts! Before you depart, please print the “Final Confirmation Letter” that will be posted in early June and bring with you to Houston. The Confirmation Letter shares your rotation, the launch time/location for your Service Learning Day, and other details for the Gathering. We will go over all these details on the Tuesday Adult Leader meeting in Galveston, to prepare you for our time in Houston.

The login information to access your congregational accounts can be found on the bright yellow half sheet in this mailing. Because your congregational accounts contain sensitive information, I will not post the login information on the Synod Journey website. If you are unable to locate the paper with the information, please email Catherine.Anderson@nemnsynod.org for login information. We ask that you please keep this access information confidential.