

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.

2018 ELCA
YOUTH GATHERING
JUNE 27 - JULY 1

June 27 – July 1, 2018 • Houston, Texas

• CALL •

[Rev. Tuhina Rasche](#) • 9:44 minutes

“Rev. Tuhina Verma Rasche has a complicated relationship with Jesus. She lives a hyphenated life as a second-generation Indian-American woman raised in a devout Hindu household and often finds herself in liminal spaces. She is ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and is called to work for the representation of God’s full diversity in the church. Her work focuses on dismantling white supremacy and conversations on the complexity of identities. She loves stories and believes sharing narratives are integral to building relationships.” Source: www.tuhinavrasche.com

[Ginny Owens](#) • 10:32 minutes

Since the beginning of her career, Ginny has been inspiring audiences with life-giving songs and stories of encouragement. Having been blind since age 3, her unique perspective on life and faith has a way of helping others see with more clarity. See: www.ginnyowens.com/about

• LOVE •

[Marlon Hall](#) • 14:18 minutes

Marlon F. Hall is a lecturing anthropologist and storyteller who uses film, art-installations, salon dinner parties, and yoga to unearth beauty from brokenness. He is the Director for Folklore Films, a Sourcing Innovation lecturing fellow at Leadership Education at Duke Divinity, and a Yoga Teacher at Big Power Yoga. His life intention is to cultivate human potential in ways that are whimsically beautiful and positively willful. See his website: <https://www.faithandleadership.com/marlon-f-hall>

[Rev. Aaron Fuller](#) • 8:13 minutes

Aaron has a passion for youth and young adult ministry in a variety of roles: Parish Pastor, Navy Reserve Chaplain, and Wrestling Coach. He is currently serving a call to specialized ministry as a Navy Chaplain, responsible for ministering to over 3,000 individuals deployed worldwide. He resides in Virginia Beach, VA with his wife Kelly Schumacher Fuller. He is also the unofficial ELCA Lutheran Honeybadger. See his blog: <https://wrestlinginspiredfaith.wordpress.com/>

[Caroline Meeker](#) • 9:32 minutes

Caroline Meeker is a freshman at Texas Tech University. She is involved in many things on campus including being a wish granter through the 'Make a Wish' foundation, she is a member of Chi Omega sorority, and when she's not being blown around by Lubbock's wind, she loves spending most of her time with her friends! Read more at <http://blogs.elca.org/youthgathering/gods-love-changes-everything-day-two-of-the-gathering/>

[Deacon Erin Power](#) • 5:58 minutes

• GRACE •

[Rev. Will Starkweather](#) • 11:35 minutes

Will Starkweather is an ELCA pastor serving St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sugar Land, Texas. He has a passion for worship and pastoral care, and loves helping people find healing through ritual. Will believes that we are all recovering from something, but God's grace can bring beauty out of brokenness. Learn more about Pastor Will at his church website: <https://stmartinslc.org/our-staff/5259-2/>

[Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber](#) • 22:32 minutes

"Nadia Bolz-Weber is an ELCA pastor and works as the founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver, Colorado. She is the author of two New York Times bestselling memoirs: *Pastrix*; *The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint* (2013) and *Accidental Saints; Finding God in All the Wrong People* (2015). Nadia travels domestically and internationally as a speaker." See her website: <http://www.nadiabolzweber.com/>

[Elizabeth Peter](#) • 7:11 minutes

Student at United Lutheran Seminary and 2018-19 Vicar at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church. Elizabeth spoke on Friday, June 29 at the 2018 Youth Gathering of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

[Michaela Shelly](#) • 10:06 minutes

Michaela Shelley is a student at Converse College from Spartanburg, South Carolina who lives with Mitochondrial Disease. She advocates and raises awareness for the needs of teenagers and young adults who are struggling with chronic illnesses. She writes about her experiences at: www.ChronicallyAwesome23.blogspot.com

[Jasmine Seguarra](#) • 5:34 minutes

• HOPE •

[Maria Rose Belding](#) • 11:03 minutes

Maria Rose Belding is the co-founder and executive director of MEANS Database, a national nonprofit tech company that has rerouted more than 1.7 million pounds of food waste to people in need. She has spoken on hunger, poverty and God's call for justice in 19 US states and the Obama White House, and been recognized for her work by, among others, Starbucks, L'Oreal Paris, and the Daily Show with Trevor Noah. Maria Rose is a junior at American University in Washington, DC, where she studies public health on the premed track with a concentration in caffeine and power naps. Although she was raised and retained ELCA, this is Maria Rose's first time attending the Youth Gathering, and she is STOKED to talk to fellow young Lutherans about how God changes everything. Read about the MEANS database at <http://www.meansdatabase.com/>

[Carson McCuller](#) • 10:44 minutes

Carson McCullar is an 18 year old senior at Archway Academy in Houston, Texas. He has just over 2 years of continuous sobriety and recovery from drugs and alcohol. Without the help of God and those who love me, he wouldn't be around to share my experience, strength, and hope with the other addicts and alcoholics who need it most.

[Jamie Bruesehoff & Rebekah Bruesehoff](#) • 10:59 minutes

Jamie and Rebekah Bruesehoff are a mother-daughter team advocating for transgender children and youth. Jamie is a writer, speaker, and educator who is passionate about sharing her family's story to create positive change. Rebekah, eleven years old, spreads her message of hope for trans kids internationally through public speaking, television appearances, and social media. Read Rebekah's blog at: <http://iamtotallythatmom.blogspot.com/>

[Rev. Dr. Stephen Bouman](#) • 12:30 minutes

Stephen Bouman presently is Executive Director for Domestic Mission Unit of the ELCA, in which he directs all the domestic ministry of the church body. He served over twenty years in parish ministry in New York City and New Jersey. He served as Bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the ELCA from 1996-2008. He has written books on parish ministry, the response of the church to the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York, on immigration issues. His current book, The Mission Table is being used in congregations and synods throughout the ELCA. He is the founder of the Diakonia lay training program. Read more at: <https://www.redeemer.org/pastor-bouman-bio/>

[Joe Davis](#) • 10:20 minutes

Joe Davis is a nationally touring writer, speaker, and performer based in Minneapolis, MN. He is the frontman of emerging soul, funk, and spoken word ensemble, The Poetic Diaspora, and the co-founder and Artistic Director of H-Cubed: Harrison, Healing, and Harmony, a monthly event series centered on healing through the arts. As a student and educator, he has served as teaching artist at dozens of high schools and universities and most recently as the Artist-in-Residence at Luther Seminary, receiving a masters in Theology of the Arts. See his website: <http://joedavispoetry.com/>