

Gathering Locally with Outreach to the Community As Lutherans



Summer of Servant Hood 2011

Official Guidebook

Published by the 2009-2012 Board of Lutheran Youth Organization

Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?"

Romans 15:2

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A Message from the BLYO President:

Dear GLOCAL participant,

I want to thank you for taking the initiative to participate in this summer long service opportunity. The idea for this event came about in response to a resolution that was passed by the 2009 ELCA Lutheran Youth Organization Convention. The purpose of this resolution was to encourage youth and young adults across the ELCA to participate in servant opportunities. This idea was inspired by the hours of service that youth dedicated while attending the 2009 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana.

When looking over the resolutions that were passed by the 2009 LYO Convention, the Board of the Lutheran Youth Organization (BLYO) felt that it should do something to promote service opportunities across the ELCA. The result was GLOCAL, which combines the terms global and local. As Mother Theresa said, “We can do no great things, only small things with great love.” The idea is that if a thousand people do small acts of kindness within their own neighborhoods, the world will be a better place in which to live. We are therefore called to ask, “How can I help?” This guidebook will lead and guide congregations and their youth groups through a process in which they will be able to learn, serve, and reflect upon their service experiences together as a group. Our hope is that youth and adults will grow in their faith through this shared experience.

I want to take this opportunity to thank many members of the GLOCAL committee, a select group that were enthusiastic and offered their service for this project. Maya Mineoi, Apu Seyenkulo, Cherub Philip, Cogan Blackmon, Dan Potaznick, Vivi Ramos-Morales, Josiah Williams, and Jillian Foster all contributed to the guidebook, as well as general planning for the event. Jabari Campbell was instrumental in coming up with a catchy logo, that not only looks great, but perfectly conveys the meaning of the summer long event. Much thanks goes to Hannah Knauss, Anna McCracken, and Molly Crouser for heading up the effort and compiling the material into this guidebook. Finally, big thanks go out to Sue Rothmeyer, Kristen Glass-Perez, and all the other churchwide staff that collaborated with us on this project. This project could not have been pulled off without the help of all these people.

Again, thank you so much for getting involved in your communities. This event should provide opportunities in which to help your community, build relationships among various members of your congregation, and grow in your faith. It doesn't matter if your congregation's size consists of only 10 members or over a 1,000 members, each congregation has the chance to make a difference in their community by participating in this event. We would love to hear stories, see pictures, and any other feedback that you wish to give! Please join the GLOCAL Facebook group and we hope to see you out working hard to make a difference in your community and the world! I wish you the best of luck!

Peace,



Matt Wertman
President of the Lutheran Youth Organization

A Message from the Co-Chairs

Dear GLOCAL service participant,

First and foremost, we'd like to say thank you! Thank you for giving your time this summer to help those who are in need. Since we've been elected to our positions, we've learned a great deal through the ELCA's Global Mission unit, and the idea of "Intentional Service Learning." A broad definition of this phrase would be doing service in a way that is intentionally helping those who you are serving. It means learning what exactly is in need in your community, or with whom ever you are serving. And doing just that, providing them with the help that they need, not what you believe is best for them.

The Global Mission unit of the ELCA is pushing this sense of service learning for all service work we do throughout the world. But we had this idea. Why not start at home? So from that, and a resolution passed at the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering, GLOCAL was born! Part of the program we want you to take away is that it doesn't have to last just this summer. We want you to take what you learn, with the relationships you build and have them last all year long! We want service to be a part of your everyday life, and we hope that this event can help you as you learn what that means!

A special thank you goes out to the members of our GLOCAL committee for helping us plan and write for the guidebook. Those individuals are Maya Mineoi, Apu Seyenkulo, Cherub Philip, Dan Potaznick, Vivi Ramos-Morales, Josiah Williams, and Jillian Foster. Thanks to Jabari Campbell for the awesome GLOCAL logo, and other members of the board for their editing skills!

We want this guidebook to be a helpful resource for you as your travel on this journey. Remember, as Mahatma Ghandi once said,

“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”

In His peace & love,

Molly Crouser
Co-Chair

Anna McCracken
Co-Chair

Hannah Knauss
Co-Chairs

Introduction:

The Idea

This guidebook and program is a long-time coming. After the 2009 ELCA National Youth Gathering the LYO Convention was held in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. There a resolution was passed written by members of Region 7 that stated this:

RESOLUTION 2: SERVANTHOOD IN THE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS the LYO constitution in chapter 2.01.h calls for “opportunities for study and action on global issues from a theological perspective,” and WHEREAS, as Lutherans we are servants of the Lord, and WHEREAS, as servants we spread God's grace throughout the community, including through servant hood projects, be it RESOLVED, that the 2009 LYO Convention encourages servant opportunities in every synod, and be it further. RESOLVED, that these servant hood opportunities include but not be limited to disaster areas inside or outside of that local area in which the leadership conducting the servant hood project resides.

From this, the GLOCAL “Summer of Servant hood program was born! The Board of Lutheran Youth Organization formed a committee is dedicated to finding a strong sense of what the resolution meant. We developed this idea of not only serving within our communities, but also building lasting relationships that we can go to all year long with those we are serving, and those we are serving with! We chose a theme verse that will be described the event in its entirety.

Romans 15: 1-2 from The Message reads: *Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, “How can I help?”*

We are called to go out into the world and do exactly as Christ would have done. The ELCA’s Global Mission unit was also influential and helpful in our discernment of how to go about this process. It is necessary that we become God’s living disciples, and do just as the ELCA’s tagline states, “God’s Work, Our Hands.”

The Guidebook

The intentional purpose of this guidebook for all participating in the BLYO’s GLOCAL “Summer of Servant hood” event to have a supplement to all the wonderful work they are doing. This helps leaders of organizations, youth groups and others to have a purposeful booklet to help them on their journey in exercising a good balance between the service work and the additional Lutheran breakdown of it all. We hope this guidebook is more of a helpful tool than a burden. And of course, we are hopeful that it will help you in your service journey this summer, and can be used for many other reasons as well!

We’ve broken the guidebook into four larger sections. The first is the idea of “The Call.” This part is the discerning aspect of the program. This is the time leading up to the actual serving. That section, along with part two, “Gathering Locally,” hosts your group’s time of getting to know one another, planning of the actual service the group would like to do, finding strengths and weaknesses in members, and gearing up for what is to come. This is where you learn best why we are serving as well!

The third part is seen as the “doing” section, or “Outreach to the Community.” This is describing just that, actually doing the service. Here you will find opportunities for immediate reflection on what is going on around you while you are serving, the feelings you may have while serving and some great prayers to keep your strength up, as this is the hardest part of the journey. The fourth and final section is what we like to call the celebration section. Here we give you a time of reflection of not only the service you’ve done, but of the whole process beginning to end. We encourage you to celebrate your accomplishments in whatever way your group sees fit! Also, we encourage your group to keep in contact with the people you served! Remember, we are all a part of the one body of Christ!

Keep In Touch!

As your journey progresses, we recommend each member keep a personal journal, or the group as a whole or keep a blog! That way, you can document your journey and see how far you’ve come! During the summer (and even after!) we’d love to see your group take a few moments to visit the GLOCAL Facebook page where you will find an area to upload pictures and videos, post a link to your group’s blog or any other helpful websites and write on the wall! We want to hear from you and see what you’re doing. This is a great way for kids across the country to gather ideas for their own service projects and celebrations! We’re connecting!

Also, we hope all of you will continue this service you’ve done well into the future, and make service apart of your lifestyle! As you may know, you will again be able to practice your service learning in New Orleans at the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering. This event will be the perfect opportunity to flex your service muscles, as it is a major theme of the week. Be on the lookout for all the information regarding the Gathering, and we hope to see you there!

Find more resources for the Lutheran Youth Organization on the ELCA’s Website by searching LYO or following this link <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Youth-Ministry/Lutheran-Youth-Organization/Resources.aspx>. If you have any comments, questions or concerns feel free to contact the BLYO at contact.BLYO@yahoo.com. As said before, search GLOCAL on Facebook, like our page, and get all the updates!

Suggested Timeline:

March

Gather as a group and discover what it is you are most passionate about. How can this meet the needs of your community? Talk to community members and find out where the greatest needs lie. How can you effectively address these needs this summer? Grow in your relationships together as a group—get to know each other. The more comfortable you are working together, the more effective and rewarding your experience will be.

April-May

“Gathering Locally”

Begin to reach out to your community. Spend time learning about your community and building relationships with people. Tell the members of your congregation what you are doing; maybe they will want to join in. The work that you do this summer will not only effect you and your peers, but your entire community. Spread the love!

June-August

“Outreach to the Community”

Serve! After months of preparation, learning, and growing together, the time has come to take what you have learned and put it into practice. Remember, this is a service learning experience. Service isn’t just doing something tangible for someone else, it is also taking the time to listen and get to know another person—simply being present with them.

End of Summer

“As Lutherans” (Celebration)

It’s time to celebrate! Although the summer has come to an end, your service and the connection to the community have not! This is only the beginning. Now that you have learned where the needs of your community lie, you can begin to address those needs in your everyday life. Maintain relationships with your fellow group members and the people who you served. Ready, set, GO!

Continue on...

After serving for a whole summer, it’s time to take it to the next level! Continue the relationships you’ve built throughout the rest of the year!

PART 1:
“The Call”

Opening Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

¹⁻³The boy Samuel was serving GOD under Eli's direction. This was at a time when the revelation of GOD was rarely heard or seen. One night Eli was sound asleep (his eyesight was very bad—he could hardly see). It was well before dawn; the sanctuary lamp was still burning. Samuel was still in bed in the Temple of GOD, where the Chest of God rested.

⁴⁻⁵ Then GOD called out, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Yes? I'm here." Then he ran to Eli saying, "I heard you call. Here I am." Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed." And so he did.

⁶⁻⁷ GOD called again, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, "I heard you call. Here I am." Again Eli said, "Son, I didn't call you. Go back to bed." (This all happened before Samuel knew GOD for himself. It was before the revelation of GOD had been given to him personally.)

⁸⁻⁹ GOD called again, "Samuel!"—the third time! Yet again Samuel got up and went to Eli, "Yes? I heard you call me. Here I am." That's when it dawned on Eli that GOD was calling the boy. So Eli directed Samuel, "Go back and lie down. If the voice calls again,, say, 'Speak, GOD. I'm your servant, ready to listen.'" Samuel returned to his bed.

¹⁰ Then GOD came and stood before him exactly as before, calling out, "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak. I'm your servant, ready to listen."

Introduction:

Look around you. Do you know everybody here? You have gathered in place with people you may or may not know. Think back to who called to be here? Did you receive an invitation? Was this advertised on a poster? Did you read about it in the bulletin?

The more important question is not how you found out about this, but rather "why am I here?" You've come to be a part of a summer of service! Obviously, you see yourself as a servant of God. But what exactly does that entail? Just like you felt called to be a part of the 2011 LYO Summer of Service, you are also called in other ways.

Take a minute to either jot down and/or discuss the following questions about your own call to service:

-
- Can you think of a time when God has called you?
- Have you ever ignored a call from God?
- What are some things in our lives that may distract us from being able to hear God?
- How can we be we be better listeners of God?

A few quotes to ponder:

- “We are not put on this earth for ourselves, but are placed here for each other. If you are there always for others, then in time of need, someone will be there for you.”
-Jeff Warner
- “All success consists in this: You are doing something for somebody - benefiting humanity - and the feeling of success comes from the consciousness of this.”
-Elbert Hubbard
- “What is it to serve God and to do His will? Nothing else than to show mercy to our neighbor. For it is our neighbor who needs our service; God in heaven needs it not.”
-Martin Luther

Take another few minutes to reflect upon the following questions about service:

- How is God calling you to be his servant?
- What types of things in our everyday lives can we do to service God?
- How does helping others help us to be servants of God?

Group Activity:

One aspect of the Summer of Service Project is to join youth across the country together through one project. Servants of God from the west coast will be united to servants of God on the east coast all through the call to serve others. But, every child of God is unique. You just discussed how God calls YOU. The person sitting next to you is being called to serve in other ways. The following activity will show the ways you enjoy serving as well as show how a group is diverse, yet all living as servants!

1. To begin the activity, read “Luther’s Perspective,” on page 4
2. After finishing, take the personal service assessment on page 5
3. Once you’ve finished the assessment, discuss your thoughts about the reading as well as your ratings with other members of your group making

Closing Reflection:

As said in the reading, God was calling Samuel, yet Samuel did not know it was God calling him. Samuel must be called three times before he realizes that God is calling him. With the third call, Samuel finally replies to God by saying, “Speak, I am your servant ready to listen.” The LYO is challenging you to be ready to listen to God this summer. Listen to the ways that God is calling you to be his servant in your daily lives. Respond to God’s call to be a servant on the first try. Be ready to listen for him. Set aside time this summer to answer God’s call and be a servant to others around you.

Closing Prayer:

Our Father in heaven,

Your people need you, bring us together and fill us with your spirit. Help us to do your will.

Give us the power to understand what it means to serve. Give us the energy to go out and do service. Fill us with your love so that others may be touched and know the wonderful mercies of you, O Lord. In your name we pray,

Amen

Service: Luther's Perspective

Why should I serve? I am a Lutheran saved by grace!

Yes, we as Lutherans are made distinct in the Christian community by scripture alone, by faith alone, and by grace alone. Since our religion calls us to focus on God and the word, what is our obligation to people? Since we are given justification through faith, should we also seek justification through good works? Since God saves us unconditionally through grace, why do we have a call to service?

Our pastors focus on the love, compassion, and grace of God, and will give examples of the teachings of God to our everyday life. They don't commonly tell us what to do, but instead remind us of the presence of God. The word gives us countless stories of Jesus as a servant. The bible tells us: to love is to serve. In response to Jesus' love, we are called to love and serve others.

Our faith in Jesus leads us to pick up the cross of service and follow him. We are given justification freely; therefore our motivation for service is not seeking a reward. Our motivation for service is to show our faith in God through service to God's people.

The Lutheran church tells us that the grace of God is abundant. Without doing anything for God, we receive God's gifts. Without receiving anything from our community, we are called to offer our gifts in service.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship. 4th ed. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2006.

HOW DO YOU DEFINE SERVICE?

Directions: People define service in many different ways. Represented below are some examples of service. Study the list carefully.

Place a “1” next to the action that most closely models your personal philosophy of service. Place a “2” next to the action that is the second closest to your philosophy of service, etc. The example that is farthest from your own philosophy should be ranked “16.”

- ___ - Providing dinner once a week at a homeless shelter
- ___ - Joining the armed forces
- ___ - Talking with a friend
- ___ - Chaining yourself to an old growth tree as loggers enter the forest
- ___ - Leaving your car at home and biking to work every day
- ___ - Giving \$50 to the Red Cross
- ___ - Choosing professional work that makes a difference
- ___ - Writing a letter to a congressional leader about campaign finance reform
- ___ - Developing a micro-lending project for low-income teens to start small businesses
- ___ - Serving on a committee at a religious institution (e.g. church, synagogue, temple)
- ___ - Giving blood
- ___ - Tutoring a migrant worker
- ___ - Adopting an eight-year-old boy
- ___ - Organizing your peers to work for affordable housing
- ___ - Participating in a one week meditation retreat
- ___ - Voting

Kent Koth and Scott Hamilton, Salem, OR. 1993 Revised 2003

PART 2:
Gathering Locally

Introduction:

Gathering locally. It's a theme found throughout the Bible. People gather together to do almost everything imaginable: pray, talk, listen, worship, serve, eat and drink. Jesus gathered together all kinds of people. He brought together crowds in the thousands. Jesus gathered different kinds of people too, Jews and Samaritans, rich and poor, powerful and powerless. He gathered people together in many different ways and places and for many different reasons. Jesus gathered people together to baptize, to share meals, to do miracles, to build relationships, and to save lives. As a matter of fact, Jesus has gathered you here!

Scripture Reading: John 4: 1-13

¹⁻³ Jesus realized that the Pharisees were keeping count of the baptisms that he and John performed (although his disciples, not Jesus, did the actual baptizing). They had posted the score that Jesus was ahead, turning him and John into rivals in the eyes of the people. So Jesus left the Judean countryside and went back to Galilee.

⁴⁻⁶To get there, he had to pass through Samaria. He came into Sychar, a Samaritan village that bordered the field Jacob had given his son Joseph. Jacob's well was still there. Jesus, worn out by the trip, sat down at the well. It was noon.

⁷⁻⁸A woman, a Samaritan, came to draw water. Jesus said, "Would you give me a drink of water?" (His disciples had gone to the village to buy food for lunch.)

⁹⁻¹⁰The Samaritan woman, taken aback, asked, "How come you, a Jew, are asking me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" (Jews in those days wouldn't be caught dead talking to Samaritans.) Jesus answered, "If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking me for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water."

¹¹⁻¹²The woman said, "Sir, you don't even have a bucket to draw with, and this well is deep. So how are you going to get this 'living water'? Are you a better man than our ancestor Jacob, who dug this well and drank from it, he and his sons and livestock, and passed it down to us?"

¹³⁻¹⁴Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst—not ever. The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life."

Reflection from Reading:

- In the fourth chapter of the gospel of John, Jesus is busy with his disciples gathering people, going from place to place in Judea baptizing. They temporarily leave their baptizing to return to Galilee and to get there they took a road that Jews very rarely traveled. This road was a Samaritan road and went through many Samaritan villages along the way to Galilee. In this time Jews, like Jesus and his disciples, had as a little to do with Samaritans as possible. Along His path, Jesus comes to a small village called Sychar.
- Think about the city you live in. Is there a part of your town with a bad reputation? A place you avoid driving through at night? A dirty place, filled with outcasts and the unsavory?
- Now you understand exactly how a traditional Jewish person of Jesus' day would have felt about Sychar. It was for Samaritans who had been caught committing adultery, lying, stealing, or were thrown out of town for any reason that was cause to look down upon. The people living there were thieves, liars, and seen as the worst of sinners. Jesus went to the well, which was the most common place in the area. He had become thirsty on his journey and it was noon, the hottest time of the day. He noticed this woman who had come to draw water and simply asked her for a drink. This was a radical gesture. Jews never spoke to Samaritans and the woman knew this. Why would Jesus be asking this woman, a convicted adulteress, for a drink? Is it possible this was all done for a reason? Could Jesus have traveled the path never taken by Jews just to ask this woman for a drink of water? And if so, why in the world would he do this?
- This woman had about the same social status as a beggar we would see on a street corner of a busy gas station or fast food restaurant. Jesus tells this woman that if she only realized who he was, then she would be begging him for a drink. As they continue to converse it becomes evident that this man is Jesus and he is offering living water. He wants to give us a second chance. He came to give us hope. Jesus formed a relationship with this woman.

Questions:

- Where could you gather locally? And with what people could you build relationships?
- What does "living water" look, act, or live like?

Quotations:

- "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."
-Matthew 18:20 ESV
- "To gather with God's people in united adoration of the Father is as necessary to the Christian life as prayer." -Martin Luther
- "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject of all, subject to all." -Martin Luther

Group Activity:

You just finished discussing a story in which Jesus went to a nearby village. This village wasn't a plane flight away or even an 8-hour drive; it was right along the way. Take time to figure out what your community is calling your group to do. Don't expect this to be an easy task!

Part A:

- Learn about your community:
 - How large is your community? Do you know where the borough or city office is located?
- Learn about service in your community:
 - What activities or organizations are already actively serving your community?
 - How many churches do you have within your community? What does your current church do in terms of outreach to the community?
 - How many schools/districts do you have in your community?
 - What programs are available for young children? Families? The elderly?
 - Where is there current need? (i.e the food pantry, helping to prepare the community swimming pool for opening weekend, helping to paint, helping to weed, etc.)
- If you can't come up with some ideas on your own, what might be some good places to contact? (examples: Salvation Army, other churches, schools, recreational centers, non-profit organizations.)

Part B:

- How are you going to serve?
 - Now that you have learned about and determined need within your community, your group must decide how exactly to serve.
- While deciding on a service project:
 - All participants in the group are given gifts. Does the area of service utilize the most gifts of the servants who will be serving?
 - Is the service project located within the community?
 - Is this going to be a one-day or an on-going summer project? (BOTH choices are 100% okay!)

Part C:

- Logistics:
 - Who is going to contact the place? Will it be you leader? Or will the duties be divided amongst the group?

Closing Reflection:

As Christians, God calls us to servant hood. He wants us to go into those places like Sychar and converse with people like the woman at the well. But sometimes what we fail to realize is that towns and places, like Sychar, are not far away. They are here locally, in our own towns, cities, and communities. All the time teens and youth groups want to get together and go do service work, or a mission trip, or anything along that sort. But one of the most common things that keeps them from going is they say they don't know a place to go, or have the money to go to a place that is really in need of help. The truth is there are places in your hometown that are in need of your help. There are people in need of relationships. There are people who want and need Living Water. Granted we can't actually give it to them, but what we can do is form a relationship with those people so they can see what this living water really is. Then just as the woman at the well, they will ask for a drink. This summer is the perfect opportunity to give the Living Water, be God's hands on this Earth, and to be a true disciple of Christ. Form relationships. Overflow with Living Water. Gather Locally.

Closing Prayer:

Let's close our eyes and listen... (moment of silence)

Listen, listen God is calling. Listen, God is calling (moment of silence)

O God, We are listening. We are listening to you. We bow our heads and come humbly to you.

We close our eyes so that nothing distracts us from hearing your will. We come today not to focus on our peers or our selfish desires but the desires of you and your community as a whole.

Help us to listen, understand, and serve. Speak to us father (moment of silence).

In your name we pray, Amen!

PART 3:
Outreach to the Community

Opening Scripture: 1 John 3:18

"Dear children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action"

Opening Prayer:

"May God bless us with discomfort as easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that we will live deep in our hearts. May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people and the earth, so that we will work for justice, equity and peace. May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer, so we will reach out our hands to comfort them and change their pain to joy. And may God bless us with the foolishness to think that we can make a difference in the world, so we will do the things, which others say cannot be done. Amen"

Introduction:

Part I of this guidebook focused on the definition and meaning behind serving. Part II focused on locating needs that are in your community. This part will be a guide for you as you venture out into your place of service. Whether you are serving one day or an entire summer, take time throughout to check-in with fellow members and most importantly, to check in with God. The hope is to be "doing a lot of loving"!

To begin your day of Service...

Quote to ponder:

- "We shall serve for the joy of serving; prosperity shall flow to us and through us in unending streams of plenty." -Charles Fillmore

Take a few moments to reflect on the following questions with your group:

- Remind yourself of what it means to be a servant?
- Should this work be viewed as a project? A box we check off? Or something that we should do in order to glorify God?
- Serving within the community will offer you a unique experience. You may see people you know; you may learn things you never knew. Take a minute to review what exactly is expected while serving within a local environment.
- Note: We realize that humans set expectations for certain situations and how they will outcome. We want to wash away those expectations and let the Holy Spirit lead you and guide you during your service process.

After discussing the previous questions, have someone lead in prayer.

"Father, Allow us to serve others with a joyful heart, never keeping score; always giving; never expecting to receive. Allow us to give ourselves, to give our talents and our goods, to give our time and our energy, to give our hearts and our souls. Help us understand the needs of others, never criticizing, never demeaning, never scolding, never condemning. You have been so gracious to us, always loving, always forgiving, always restoring; never gloating over our defeats, even when we have been so wrong. Father, keep a condemning spirit far from our hearts and further from our lips. Allow us to serve others as You serve with gentleness, compassion, and tenderness, never diminishing the worth of another, choosing to extend mercy to the brokenhearted, like You have repeatedly shown it to us. Amen."

(Prayer taken from Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. www.icpj.net/index.html)

Take a break...

During your break, take a few moments to write down some things that you have experienced, seen or thought about.

Read the following scripture verse:

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." -Peter 4:10

What gift(s) have you used to serve one another? (i.e. compassion, teaching, gift of listening, etc.)

Conclude your break with this prayer:

"Dear God, Be with us and show us how to serve others so that we become stronger rather than weaker. Help us to continue serving others so they listen to your voice more intently or even for the first time. Help us to continue serving others so that we know how your wonderful redeeming power gives all of us a better life. And finally, help us to continue serving others so they see by our example and be strong in faith and strong in substance. In the name of God the Father, Amen."

Are you finished?

So now what? Youth and adults across the country are participating in the Summer of Service. Not only are thousands of people being served, but thousands of ELCA youth are also serving! Take a moment on the ride back, walk back, etc. to reflect on what has just happened.

- What did you do?
- How were you affected by it?
- What impacted you the most during your service?
- Did anything surprise you about the people you served, or your own experiences?
- How did you experience God today?
- What can you take away from today?

Reflection:

- Recall the first verse presented in this section (1 John 3:18). The verse focuses on love. As Christians, we are to live a Christ-centered life. Christ has called us to love one another. The verse in 1 John asks us to love through our actions.
- How did you show love during your service this past day/week/month/etc.?
- Serving in the name of Jesus Christ no longer becomes something to do to rank up the volunteer hours; rather, service becomes a way to outwardly express love to one another.
- What does it really mean to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ?
- God's love never ceases; our love for Him and others should never cease either. Hopefully by literally "loving thy neighbor" you have seen the Bible and your relationship with God come alive in new ways!

Quote to ponder:

- "We don't serve God to gain His acceptance; we are accepted so we serve God. We don't follow Him in order to be loved; we are loved so we follow Him." ~ Neil T. Anderson

Closing Prayer:

"Lord, you call us to your service and continue your saving work among us. May your love never abandon us. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, who came to show us the way to love one another. Amen."

PART 4:
As Lutherans
(Celebration)

Celebration!

You have completed your service and are now ready to take the next step: Celebration! Although it's fun to crack open the root beer and Sun Chips and get ready to get down, this portion of your service is focused on keeping your relationship strong with the people who you just spent time helping. Even though this act of service was something that you did this summer, it doesn't have to be just that. You have begun the process of developing a relationship with the people you served—don't let it stop there. Continue serving, learning, and spending time with the people/organization that you served. Take interest in each other's lives. We often think of service as being a physical act that we carry out for someone in need. However, service is simply to be present with another person—sharing your lives, holding each other up, and learning in the times that you least expect it. Our time and our hearts are the greatest and most precious things that we can share with others.

Quotes and verses to reflect on:

- “If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” –Philippians 2:1-4
- “We don't have to find the cure for cancer to make a difference in the world...we only have to share our lives with other people.” –Rabbi Harold Kushner
- “We can do no great things, only small things with great love.” –Mother Theresa
- “Be compassionate. And take responsibility for each other. If we only learned those lessons, this world would be so much better a place.” –Morrie Schwartz

Reflection of Celebration:

- Have you stayed in touch with the people you have served? Can you continue to serve/learn from them after this experience is over?
- Have you prayed with the people you have served?
- Have you listened to the people you have served to understand their point of views?
- Have your perspectives changed

Concluding Prayer:

Dear Lord, This experience has been amazing. It has been one of your group and personal growth as we serve others in our community. People often say that when you serve others, you get so much more out of it than you ever would have expected and we have seen this idea come to life this day/week/summer. We have seen that idea come to life in our lives this summer. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve—most of all thank you for opening our eyes to what is needed. Help us to remember that we cannot always do great things, only small things with great love—that is where a difference is made. Help this to be only the beginning of our lives of service; service focused on relationships, people, and love. In your most holy name we pray, Amen!

BLYO's Closing Thoughts:

One goal of this initiative is to connect: connect you to your physical community and to also connect you to Lutherans around the country! Hopefully you have not only served others, but that you also have been served yourself. This guidebook has asked questions and motivated discussion around serving others through our Lord, Jesus Christ. We, as the BLYO, hope this has been an exciting, memory filled summer. We hope you are now more aware of your local community, and will continue serving others together! As the summer comes to a close, let us take a minute and look back on what has happened!

Most importantly, we hope that this summer has helped you to grow spiritually as you are a servant of God; using gifts he has given you to stir up joy in fellow brothers and sisters in Christ! If you have any comments, questions or concerns during or after your journey, feel free to contact the Board of Lutheran Youth Organization via Facebook page or by email (contact.BLYO@yahoo.com)!

We hope you enjoyed your "Summer of Servant hood"! Let's keep it going!

In His service,

The 2009-2012

Board of Lutheran Youth Organization of the ELCA

