

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING  
THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING  
1 JULY 2018



*Jesus changes everything. This is everything.*

### THEME BIBLE READING

Take time to read and reflect on this Bible passage and choose how you will tell the story in your own way.

**Scripture**      **Mark 5: 21-42**      **Hemorrhaging Woman/Raising of the Little Girl**

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR REFLECTION

When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement.

**Mark 5:39-42 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for Today:**

Dear Jesus, help us to believe and not be afraid. May we know that having you in our lives changes everything. Amen.

#### **A Mealtime Prayer for Today:**

Dear Lord, thank you for this gift of food. Help us to remember our blessings and never forget those who are hungry and thirsty. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God’s gift of life through Jesus Christ change everything for you.



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### INTERACTIVE LEARNING

[YouTube Hymn for Today](#) 

[Graveclothes](#)

by Birdtalker



### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss today and later in your home or small group:

- When you are ill or know someone who is, do you pray for healing?
- Jarius begged Jesus to heal his daughter and the woman who was hemorrhaging for years touched Jesus. They believed. How likely are you to turn to Jesus if you or someone you know needs healing?

### DEVOTIONS

Reflect on today’s reading.

Choose one of four ways to retell the reading in your own words. You may choose to tell it as it is and act out one of the scenes from the reading in Mark 5:21-42 or choose to retell the stories in a modern day setting using one of the following venues:

1. **Puppets:** Use puppets to retell the story or relate the story to your life today.
2. **Signing Scripture:** Go to this link to find key words to sign. <http://www.aslpro.com/>
3. **Creative Movement:** Use the YouTube link above and engage in creative dance movements as the song is sung.
4. **Spontaneous Melodrama:** Have one person read Mark 5:21-42 with expression while others are re-enacting what they hear through motions.

### SERVICE

World Aids Day is December 1st each year. It is a time to remember those who have died from AIDS-related illnesses. The [HIV and AIDS Ministry of the ELCA](#) walk alongside and serve those who are living with this disease. Learn more about this ministry and the many social ministry organizations that are part of the [Lutheran Services in America](#). In what ways can you support their advocacy?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus took the little girl’s hand and said, “get up!”. The healing power of touch is known to slow heart rates, decrease blood pressure, and make immune systems stronger. Making the sign of the cross physically on one another’s foreheads or hands as you give a blessing is a Christian tradition. This small act of touching and saying a blessing can make a difference when we feel stressed or are afraid or lonely. Do you bless one another in your congregation or in your home? When you go back home, think about establishing the daily routine of blessing. Discuss how this act could change lives.



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