

2021 ELCA
YOUTH GATHERING

boundless

GOD BEYOND MEASURE

Ephesians 3:14-21 CEV

*¹⁴I kneel in prayer to the Father. ¹⁵All beings in heaven and on earth receive their life from [God]. ¹⁶God is wonderful and glorious. I pray that [God's] Spirit will make you become strong followers ¹⁷and that Christ will live in your hearts because of your faith. Stand firm and be deeply rooted in [God's] love. ¹⁸I pray that you and all of God's people will understand what is called wide or long or high or deep. ¹⁹**I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is.***

²⁰⁻²¹I pray that Christ Jesus and the church will forever bring praise to God. [God's] power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine. Amen.

We are bound. Bound by our sin, by the expectations of others, by poverty, by -isms that try to divide us, and by so much more. In a life that often feels like it has young people in a suffocating grip, we want them to imagine the boundlessness of God: boundless love, boundless mercy, boundless freedom, boundless creation, boundless strength. All offered from a gracious and loving God who knows and adores them. All so abundant and endless it cannot be measured.

What are the stories of God's people, both in scripture and modern day that share the awe and wonder of just how vast our God is? What does it mean, what does it look and feel like to live a life "filled with all that God is"? How can young people find themselves within the boundlessness of Christ's love?

MYLE, the tAble and the Gathering are unique opportunities to invite young people into a deeper relationship with a God whose possibilities are boundless. Through one of a kind experiences, this ministry stretches and affirms young people's gifts and calls. They experience the power of the Spirit within them, that frees them to live in the grace of God's boundless love in Jesus Christ.

Finally, we are excited by the connections this theme offers to our host city of Minneapolis and the surrounding area. Known as the "City by Nature", Minneapolis is an earth-minded city in many ways. The Minneapolis Area Synod also names advocacy around care for creation as a top priority, which would allow us to learn from and support the local expression of the church.