## Gather Together

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## Gather Together: Snapshot

Gather Together is not a traditional VBS or camp curriculum, but we've listed it among Building Faith's top picks for 2024 because it may be of interest for VBS or for an intergenerational program. It offers 8 events designed to introduce congregations to "All Creation Sings," a worship resource by the ELCA released in 2020. Gather Together focuses on the four major themes of "All Creation Sings": creation care, lament in crisis, healing and wholeness, and justice and peace. Its events include activities, worship, and the option for liturgical meals. This is an excellent resource for engaging "All Creation Sings" in community.



## **Gather Together: The Basics**

- **Theme**: "Intergenerational Events to Explore <u>All Creation Sings</u>"
- Publisher: <u>Sparkhouse</u>, 2023 (<u>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</u>)
- Intended ages/grades: intergenerational for all ages
- Format: onsite
- Number of sessions: 8
- Types of activities: meal option, worship, art, nature walk, puzzles
- **Cost**: \$40; <u>All Creation Sings</u> is sold separately

## **Gather Together: List of Events**

- Event 1: Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom A kick-off event to introduce <u>All Creation Sings</u>
- Event 2: The Work of the People An event about worship
- Event 3: Image-ine the Possibilities An event about images for God
- Event 4: All Around the World

An event about our global Lutheran community

## **Gather Together: List of Events**

• Event 5: Life Transitions

An event for all stages of life

• Event 6: God Is Here

An event when traumatic things happen

Event 7: Creation Care

An event for all of earth's stewards

Event 8: Climate Justice

An event to call all generations to action

## **Gather Together: Where It Shines**

#### Meaningful, widely accessible activities

This resource makes fantastic use of the content from <u>All Creation Sings</u>, including prayers and music. It introduces key parts of these new liturgies and expands them for use during liturgical meals. Many activity options are presented for each of these feasts that make physical the spiritual concepts introduced in <u>All Creation Sings</u>. The activities seem well thought out, appropriate for a variety of ages, and accessible for disabled and non-disabled people.

#### Attention to justice

This resource engages concepts like creation care and climate justice with simple activities to reinforce its messages.

## **Gather Together: Where It Shines**

#### **Minimal additional materials required**

The additional materials needed to execute the events seem modest, which can make this easier and more budget-friendly to implement.

#### Adaptable for VBS

It would be very easy to take the basic structure of the events and add games and other activities to create a VBS program around this resource.

#### **Gather Together: What We Miss**

#### Not intended for an out-of-the-box VBS

This resource is not designed to be a standalone VBS curriculum. If you're looking for a fullfeatured curriculum that comes out of the box with everything you need, you may want to consider other options.

## Gather Together: Overall Assessment

Resource Recommended for 2024

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