

Tips & Tricks: Fundraising Online

Looking to start your fundraising efforts to attend the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering? Here are some fundraisers and tips for raising money online.

#1: Online Trivia Night

Using a virtual meeting platform such as Zoom or Google Hangouts, you can organize an online trivia night. Charge \$10 per person or \$20 per family to get access to the meeting link. You can set up the trivia game using a free software such as [Kahoot!](#) or [QuizWitz](#). Topics for the night could be Bible history, pop culture, Harry Potter or sports. Let the games begin!

#2: Art Show

Encourage your youth to be creative and start painting, sculpting, drawing or sewing different projects for an online art show and auction. Share pictures of the youth creating the pieces on social media as well as a small blurb about why they are wanting to gather next summer in New Orleans. Once the projects are complete, post pictures on your church's Facebook page. Encourage people to "bid" on different pieces. You can even use services such as [Vistaprint](#) to upload drawings and paintings on products such as cards, mugs or t-shirts to sell. A great way to get every age group involved!

#3: Zoom-a-thon

Organize a telethon through Zoom for a Friday evening or all day on a Sunday. Youth can have a scheduled amount of time where they share music, a dance, an activity or a testimony. Encourage your youth to talk about the importance of the Gathering and how they can't wait to be in community with others. Encourage everyone to share the Zoom link on social media with their friends and family. Donations could be accepted through an online platform, which can be shown occasionally in the chat.

#4: Scavenger Hunt

Gather on Zoom with everyone that would like to participate. Once everyone is in the call, release a list of 50 items that they need to search their house for—items can be anything from a can opener to a clothespin. As households collect the items, sit back and relax—wait for someone to notify you that they've found all the items! First household to collect all the items wins (or whoever finds the most items in a set amount of time). Can be a pay-to-play activity or ask for a donation at the end of the hunt.

#5: Gathering Catalog

Like ELCA World Hunger and their "[Good Gifts Catalog](#)," you could make a Gathering catalog for your group! List out a variety of expenses (breakfast for the group one morning, t-shirts for a day, lunch for one person, etc.) and folks can select one of these items and donate the connected cost. You could even throw in a "rubber duck" and bring sponsored rubber ducks to New Orleans with you. Be sure to take pictures with the ducks outside a food truck, in the Superdome or at your Accompaniment site and send it back to the sponsor as a thank you & a good laugh!

#6: Sponsor-A-Day

Have a digital calendar for people to "sponsor" a day! It could be a special day (birthday, baptism, anniversary, etc.) or just a random Tuesday. If it is the 14th day of the month, it costs \$14 to sponsor, 23rd

day- \$23 and so on.

Things to Note:

- The [impact of the Gathering](#) should be at the forefront of your fundraising efforts. You can do this by having previous participants give a short talk before your virtual activity or share their message on social media while promoting your fundraiser. You could also post #ThrowbackThursday pictures of your group attending in the past with a quick quote from the student about the impact of the event on their life and faith.
- Not all of these fundraisers or tips will work in every situation, so please [adopt them to fit](#) your context and community.
- Think [outside the congregation](#) when fundraising. How can you get the community involved? Is it asking leaders in your community to share your Facebook posts highlighting your upcoming virtual fundraiser?
- Are you looking for a [crowdfunding platform](#) to use? We've heard people using sites such as [GoFundMe](#), [Network for Good](#) and [Fundrazr](#).
- Be sure to [have fun](#) with your fundraising and share your tips with us—we would love to hear what you are doing during this time to prepare!