

August XX, 2018

Dear Bishop *****,

I attend an ELCA church and have a high school aged child. I watched the YouTube video from this year's Youth Gathering and, as a parent, I was horrified to hear Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber (NBW) speak to tens of thousands of young Lutherans and lead them astray—all while carefully checking her notes. On *no* account should my children be taught that the traditional beliefs of the church are lies of the devil that must be renounced. The devil surely laughed at that moment. And her twisted use of language (“Do you renounce the lie that queerness is anything other than beauty?”) seemed *intended* to get the youth to renounce their traditional beliefs. Most young people are not going to be able to decipher tongue twisted language on the fly and no child should be subjected to it – especially not by a pastor at a Lutheran youth gathering. It was totally shameful. A significant part of *her* speech needs to be renounced by you and the other bishops of the ELCA as inappropriate at best.

Also, why did NBW push a political agenda at the youth gathering? That border statement was out-of-place; it was a church gathering, not a political rally.

Why did the ELCA choose keynote speakers such as NBW? Who put the event together and who approved it? I hope these organizers will never again be permitted to plan a youth gathering. I do not trust them to organize one that is appropriate for *all* Christian youth. Unfortunately, this gathering excluded traditional Christian beliefs.

I listened with sadness to the transgender child and parent. Why? Why didn't the gathering focus on Jesus' death and resurrection? What message did the ELCA want the youth to take away from such a shocking presentation?

What are you doing about this situation? These children were brainwashed and now they need to hear directly from you--their bishop. Tell them clearly that NBW went too far in calling the traditional beliefs about marriage a sin that must be renounced! Tell them that many congregations and people in your synod have traditional beliefs about human sexuality that are good, proper and sin-free.

My expectation used to be that I could safely send my children to church youth gatherings and that they would be taught the faith traditions of the last 2000 years. This gathering proved that false. As it stands, the ELCA cannot be trusted with my children. You have no idea how sad it makes me to write that statement. But how can I think otherwise, when I have searched the information available from the ELCA's own website and found it very difficult to find the list of keynote speakers for the event? Why wasn't that information easy to find? Conversely, why was it hard to find? Here it is: <http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/details/mass-gathering#speakers>

Wasn't the last exodus enough? Is the ELCA intent on purging any remaining traditionalists? I am honestly starting to wonder ...

Sincerely,

Name

Address