

faces *of* faith

This six-minute Faces of Faith video introduces **Gather Long Island**, a community of young adults in their 20s and 30s exploring faith together across Nassau and Suffolk counties. Led by **Pastor Claire Repsholdt** of **Lutheran Church of Our Savior** in Patchogue, Gather LI grew out of a simple practice: asking young people directly what they want from a faith community, and listening closely to the answers.

This guide is meant to help your congregation, small group, or ministry team continue that conversation. Watch the video together, then use the questions below to reflect on what Pastor Repsholdt and the members of Gather LI share — about resurrection, belonging, and what it looks like to go out and ask rather than wait for people to come in.

There's no need to answer every question in one sitting. Pick what's most relevant to your context, and let the conversation go where it needs to go.

1) **Pastor Repsholdt** points out that Patchogue's downtown has lived through its own kind of resurrection — revitalization that brought more young people into the village. Where are you seeing resurrection in your own community, and how is that community changing because of it?

2) Gather LI member **Michelle Chan** shares that seeing other young people in church is a big part of what brings them back. What do you make of that? How can you help young people in your congregation see each other and worship together?

3) Gather Long Island usually meets outside the four walls of a church. What are some everyday social spaces in your community — karaoke bars, pumpkin patches, and more — where young people might like to gather?

4) When Lutheran Church of Our Savior realized it wasn't seeing folks in their 20s and 30s on Sunday mornings, they went directly to young people and asked what they needed from a faith community. Who do you see in your neighborhood who isn't yet part of your faith community? How might you reach out to them?

Closing Prayer:

Dear God, You graciously invite all to your table. Please grant us the humility to see those among us who we have not yet invited ourselves, and the courage to welcome them to join us. Amen.