

EVEN  
MORE

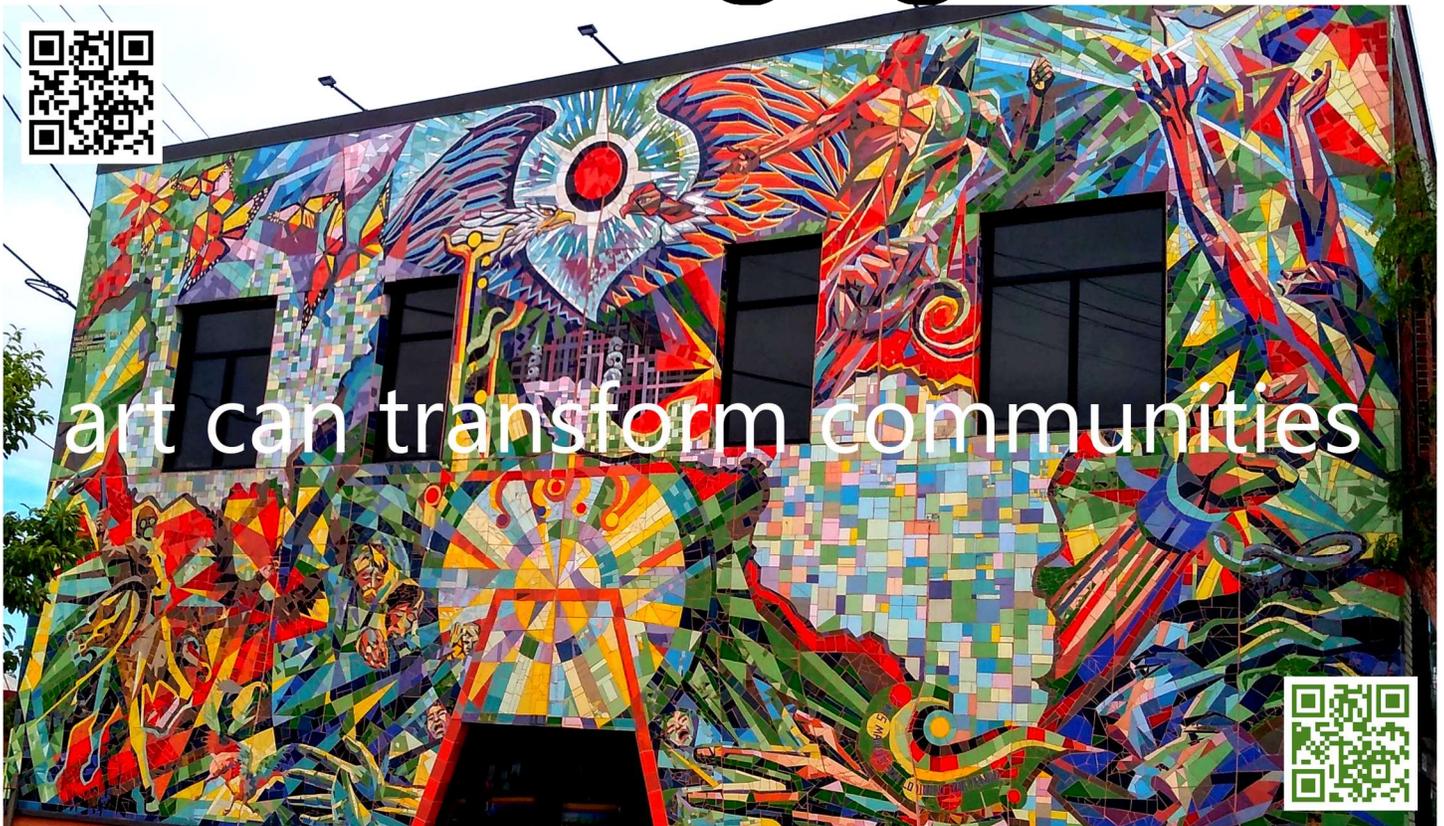
# BOUNDLESS

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Supplemental  
Resources for  
the 2022 ELCA  
Youth Gathering

## Unit 1

This activity works well as an intro to the John 11:17-27 passage in Session Two right after the group covenant activity (p. 91), or use it however you like!

# Artistic Engagement



## Explore Art – **Boundless Promise** – Mosaics

- Check out this **intro** to the “**Mosaic of the Americas**,” a collaboration of Mexican and US artists including José Luis Soto, Isa Campos, Gustavo Lira, and Lori Greene. The café is closed but you can still visit the mosaic in Minneapolis. The text at the bottom right (coming out of the mouths) reads “Y mis manos son lo único que tengo” or “my hands are the only thing I have” in English. The words come from Victor Jara’s beautiful song “Lo único que tengo” about the immigrant struggle. *What transforms a community alongside art like this mosaic?*
- Check out the **Lakewood Memorial Chapel** in Minneapolis created by Harry Wild Jones, Charles Lamb, and Ella Condie Lamb. The chapel is located in a cemetery—a generally somber place—and yet its world-renowned mosaics have made it a place of celebration and hope. *What else could make a cemetery hopeful?*



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## Make Art – Boundless Promise – Fluid Painting

Create a gorgeous work of art with minimal skills or experience using the flip-cup method of fluid painting. Each person gets their own canvas and the group shares one giant artwork.

*Supplies Needed:* large sheet of paper (large enough for the entire group to work overtop of), canvases, cups, gloves, pourable paint (you must buy or mix special paint for this project)

### *Instructions:*

It is recommended that you complete this project outside or another place where you are prepared to make a mess, and that participants wear gloves.

7. Select paint colors to add to your canvas. Three to five colors are a good number.
8. Pour your colors into your cup in any order you choose so that they make distinct layers of color. The next steps need to be completed overtop your large sheet of paper.
9. Keep your paint cup upright and place your canvas face down on top of the cup. Holding the cup and canvas together, carefully flip the canvas over so that the cup is upside down.
10. Lift the cup off of the canvas so that the paint is free to spill out.
11. Pick up the canvas and tilt it so that the paint flows over the entire surface. Paint will spill off of the canvas and onto your large sheet of paper.
12. Once each canvas is covered in paint, place it in a secure place to dry. We recommend that you use cups like stilts to elevate the canvas so that the paint on the edges does not stick to whatever surface the canvas is resting on. The edges will drip paint onto that surface.
13. After the canvases are set up to dry, it's time to finish the collaborative aspect of this project. Allow your youth to pick up the edges of the large sheet of paper so that it can be tilted and the paint drippings can be used to make a giant fluid painting.
14. Place the large sheet in a secure place to dry. The canvases and large sheet should dry in about 24 hours.



## What does Fluid Painting have to do with Boundless Promise?

Did Martha think Jesus had broken a promise? When Jesus encounters Martha at the tomb of her brother Lazarus in John 11:17-27, he finds her stricken by grief. Martha lashes out at Jesus a bit. He wasn't there. He wasn't there when Mary and Martha had to bury their brother Lazarus. He wasn't there with them when Lazarus took his last breath. He wasn't there when Lazarus suddenly took a turn for the worse and got really sick. Where was he? Life isn't just messy; it's a mess. We'll never know if Jesus stayed away because he was waiting to teach a grand lesson by raising Lazarus and promising eternal life. What we definitely know is that Martha was hurt when Jesus arrived. She was a mess. Even if Jesus was carrying out a grand plan, he turned into a mess of tears and anguish too. Life is a mess, but that mess can be beautiful. You may feel like a mess, but you are beautiful. Make a beautiful mess with the fluid paint and remember that God promises to be right there in the midst of it all with you.