

**“For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” Eph. 2:8**



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Houston, Texas / June 27 – July 1, 2018

Pre-Gathering Informational Meetings

Pre-Gathering meetings are important for primary leaders, youth and adult chaperones as well as parents and those who have questions about the Gathering. If your congregation is still undecided about attending the Gathering, come and learn more! In addition to practical information about the Gathering, there will be time for collaboration and resource sharing – such as ideas for fundraising, shared transportation and other best practices.

Contact Jill Goldhammer (contact info on back page) to RSVP to one of the following meetings

Sunday, April 23	4:00-6:00pm	Mount Calvary; De Soto, IL (Southern Conference)
Monday, May 1	6:00-8:00pm	Salem Lutheran, Peoria (Northern Conference)
Thursday, May 4	6:00-8:00pm	Good Shepherd; Champaign, IL (East Central Conference)
Monday, May 15	6:00-8:00pm	Christ Community; Columbia, IL (West Central Conference)

Or...join us for a tri-synod Youth Leader Retreat at Lutheran Outdoors Ministry Center in Oregon, Illinois - Monday, May 22 -Tuesday, May 23. The focus will be on preparing for the Gathering and other high impact trips. The cost of this 24-hour retreat is \$35 which includes overnight housing and three meals. Please make reservations directly through the camp at: registrations@lomc.org



There are several ways in which persons may serve as a Gathering Volunteer. Each volunteer must agree to follow the terms of a volunteer code of conduct and submit to a background check by the ELCA. The **volunteer application process opens in May 2017**, via links from the Gathering website. All volunteers must commit to being in Houston for one week. Volunteers arrive on Sunday, June 24, and depart Sunday, July 1, 2018. There are three types of volunteer opportunities:

Community Life Volunteers...

Community Life volunteers work as a team within their assigned hotel to help create a welcoming atmosphere for Gathering participants.

Gathering Volunteer Corps...

The Gathering Volunteers Corps serves in multiple capacities during the Gathering, such as ushering, checking wristbands, directing foot traffic, etc.

Servant Companions...

Young Adult Servant Companions will accompany congregational groups as they encounter and serve the people of Houston during their Service Day. Servant Companions will also help during the evening activities.

**Gathering
Volunteer
Opportunities**

Continued...

Volunteer Eligibility Requirements...

- Applicants must be out of high school for one year by the time of the Gathering
- There is a \$75 application fee
- Volunteers are responsible for their travel to and from Houston and for their onsite parking, if they drive

The Gathering will provide the following for volunteers:

- Per diem or catered meals on days of service at the Gathering
- Complimentary shared hotel accommodations with 6/24 check-in and 7/1 check-out
- Travel stipends of up to \$200 per person

MYLE and THE TABLE (formerly DAYLE)

MYLE - The Multicultural Youth Leadership Event is a pre-event to the Gathering. It empowers young people of color and those whose primary language is other than English to claim their story as a part of God's story.

MYLE's core values include:

Culture is explored
Identity is claimed

Leaders are formed
Faith is deepened

Friends are made

MYLE 2018 will be held June 24–27, 2018 at the University of Houston. The cost for MYLE is \$190 per person and includes all housing, program and some food expenses during MYLE. Theme and additional information for MYLE will be available spring 2017.

The tAble (formerly the Definitely-abled Youth Leadership Event or DAYLE) is a pre-event to the Gathering that blesses and empowers young people who live with a wide range of physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities so that they might grow as faithful, wise and courageous witnesses. The event also gives participants the opportunity to acclimate and orient themselves to Houston and the venues in which the Gathering are being held.

The tAble is open to youth ages 14-18 or engaged in a high school youth group or enrolled in high school or the vocational education equivalent. Youth who attend the tAble must be accompanied by an adult companion. The tAble will be held June 24–27, 2018. The cost for the tAble is \$190 per person and includes all housing, program and some food expenses during the tAble. Theme and additional information for the tAble will be available spring 2017.



Gathering Mission Statement: **FAITH FORMATION FOR OUR YOUTH**



Gathering Synod Coordinator:

Jill Goldhammer, Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Salem, Lutheran, Peoria, IL will serve as the synod coordinator. Jill can be reached by phone at 309-688-9212 or by e-mail at: jgoldhammer@salemofpeoria.com

