

**“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**

## **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION**

**Opens September 15, 2017**

Early bird registration opens Friday, September 15 and continues until November 15. Registering early not only saves the church in funds, it also helps the Gathering staff plan and have the info they need to house our synod congregations together.

### Registration dates

September 15, 2017	Registration opens	Early bird rate \$350
November 16, 2017	Registration continues	Regular rate begins \$390
February 16, 2018	Registration continues	Late rate begins \$440
May 15, 2018	Registration closes	All payments due

### Registration Webinar

The Gathering staff is hosting a registration webinar Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 7 PM CST. This webinar and up-to-date information are posted on the Gathering website: [www.elca.org/gathering](http://www.elca.org/gathering) and on the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering Facebook page.



### Additional Registration Notes

- ◆ There is a non-refundable \$175 deposit due per participant at the point of registration. The Gathering does not take credit cards, payment is to be made by check. Upon completion of on-line registration, detailed instructions will be provided for deposits.
- ◆ An ELCA Congregational ID number is needed for the on-line registration process. Check with your church office secretary or pastor. If you are unable to locate, please contact the synod office, 217.753.7915. You will need this ID number throughout the year when making payments and confirming housing arrangements, etc.
- ◆ If you have questions before, during, or after you register, please contact CSIS Gathering Coordinator, Jill Goldhammer. If your congregation has not yet notified Jill of your plans to register for the Gathering, please send her your primary leader's contact information as soon as possible. She will provide Email updates directly to primary leaders throughout the year ahead should there be additional information or changes.

**Continued...**

# AND THE WINNER IS...

## JUST IN !!!

During early bird registration, your congregation will be entered to win one of the following prizes. Winners will be notified by the Gathering staff after the Early Bird Registration closes.

- ◆ Community Life Priority Pass
- ◆ Interactive Learning Priority Pass
- ◆ Meet and greet with Mass Gathering band
- ◆ Meet and greet with Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
- ◆ One free Gathering registration
- ◆ Your choice of seats for one night of the mass gathering
- ◆ Photo shoot with your youth group at NRG Stadium
- ◆ Doughnuts on your service-learning bus
- ◆ Emcees will wear your congregational group T-shirt one night

## Travel Arrangements



There are no plans at this time to coordinate a synod bus or buses on this trip although some congregations are making collaborative bus arrangements in specific areas of the synod. For example, the Northern Conference (Peoria area) will be sharing a bus or buses. There is also a group traveling together from the St. Louis area. Please keep our Gathering Synod coordinator informed via email if you are coordinating a bus or buses from your area or if your group is interested in sharing travel by bus. If necessary we will coordinate a synod bus plan.



## Synod worship day musicians needed

Please contact Patrick Riley [rileyp76@hotmail.com](mailto:rileyp76@hotmail.com) or 618-791-1586 - if you have musicians (instrumentalists, vocalists, percussionists) who wish to be involved in our synod day of worship at the gathering.

## Update – Gathering Volunteers



Nearly 850 individuals applied to be volunteers at the Gathering during the May 15<sup>th</sup>-July 15<sup>th</sup> open application session. Applications are being reviewed and individuals will be contacted in September. The application portal is now closed, but individuals who missed the deadline are welcome to email [gathering@elca.org](mailto:gathering@elca.org) to be added to a waiting list in case more volunteers are needed at a later date.

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](mailto:jgoldhammer@salemofpeoria.com)

