

**“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**

**THIS  
CHANGES  
EVERYTHING.**

**2018 ELCA  
YOUTH GATHERING**

Vol 1 / Issue 5  
May / 2017

**Houston, Texas / June 27 – July 1, 2018**

**TRI-SYNOD SPRING RETREAT  
FOR YOUTH LEADERS & PASTORS**

(Metro-Chicago, Northern Illinois, Central/Southern Illinois Synods)

- Who** Youth Leaders and Pastors
- Where** Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center  
Freedom Tree Village  
1834 Illinois Route 2 / Oregon, Illinois / (815) 732-2220
- When** Monday, May 22 at 1:00 PM —  
Tuesday, May 23 at 1:00 PM
- Cost** \$35 per person (Includes 3 meals & overnight lodging)
- To register** contact Audrey at [registrations@lomc.org](mailto:registrations@lomc.org) or call 815-732-2220
- Theme** 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering &  
Other High Impact Trips

This annual retreat is a casual opportunity for youth leaders and pastors to gather and affirm the call of youth ministry, reflect on current trends and network with other youth leaders in a relaxing outdoor setting and fabulous adult retreat facility. Synod Gathering Coordinators from each of the three synods will share the most current information available about the 2018 Youth Gathering in Houston and facilitate a best practices discussion from past Gathering experiences and other High Impact trips. Even if you have already attended a Gathering informational meeting, or you don't have youth going to the Gathering, we encourage you to come and enjoy time away with other youth leaders to share your ministry experiences and insights and get to know other youth leaders.

**Continued...**



## VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 15, 2017

Applications to serve as a Volunteer at the Gathering will be available on the Gathering website at [www.elca.org/gathering](http://www.elca.org/gathering) beginning May 15, 2017 through July 15, 2017. These opportunities usually fill up fast so don't wait! Specific information about volunteer opportunities are available on the Gathering web-site and there also a **link to a webinar** about Gathering Volunteers in the "Details" section.

The Synod Gathering Coordinator is available to help coordinate travel plans if we have a group of volunteers going from our synod. Please contact her if you know of volunteers interested in traveling to Houston together. Note: Volunteers must arrive in Houston on Monday, June 25, 2018.

### Choosing Adult Leaders...

"The Official Gathering Handbook" is available as a free download on the Gathering website or for purchase through Old Lutheran. There are many great ideas for choosing, preparing and supporting adult leaders for the Gathering. For example:

#### Adults leaders considering the Gathering experience might ask themselves...

- ⇒ Am I willing to engage young people's faith questions without judgment?
- ⇒ Can I be vulnerable with young people about my own faith questions?
- ⇒ Do I have the physical and emotional stamina to handle long, hot, full days?
- ⇒ Am I a team player?
- ⇒ Will I be able to focus on the youth and their needs?
- ⇒ Do I have good listening skills?
- ⇒ How do I deal with conflict?
- ⇒ Am I patient?
- ⇒ Do I listen first or do I jump to conclusions?
- ⇒ Am I able to see what needs to be done and pitch in?
- ⇒ Can I develop appropriate, healthy relationships with youth and help them relate to each other?
- ⇒ Where am I in my faith life?
- ⇒ Will I be able to share my faith in positive, encouraging ways?

### Conference Information Gatherings...

Conference informational meetings for the Gathering have been held in four C/SIS during the past month with over 50 total participants from 21 congregations. There is still time to sign up for the tri-synod 24-hour Houston informational retreat for youth leaders and pastors at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Camp. If you would like to schedule a multi-church meeting in your area this summer contact our Gathering Synod Coordinator, Jill Goldhammer, i

## 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)

