

INTEREST MEETING FAQ



When is the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering?

The Gathering dates are June 27 – July 1, 2018 in Houston, Texas. Our transportation plans are still in development; participants should plan on leaving Lake Crystal on either Monday, June 25 or Tuesday, June 26. We will return on Monday, July 2.

You can find more Gathering information at:

- Official Website: www.elca.org/gathering
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/youthgathering
- Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter: @elcagathering

Check these sites for Houston promo videos and clips from past Gatherings

Who can go on the Gathering trip?

This trip is open to students who will finish 9th-12th grades in 2018. (Space permitting, we may be able to include students completing 8th grade.)

Pastor Andrea will serve as our primary trip leader. We will need additional adult leaders as well (male and female), so that we can maintain a 5:1 student to leader ratio. Please speak with Pastor Andrea if you might be available to serve as an Adult Leader.

We will also be coordinating registration and travel with Epiphany Lutheran Church in Eagle Lake (where Pastor Andrea's husband, Pastor Ronald Myers, serves).

What will we do at the Gathering?

We will gather with 30,000 other ELCA youth and adults from around the country to explore faith, grow in community, serve others, study the Bible, and have fun – lots of fun!! Each evening we attend the Mass Gathering at NRG Stadium for worship, inspiring speakers, and great music. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday we'll have three different events (specific order TBD):

- Interactive Learning Center: a huge playground at the convention center with experiences, projects, art, service projects and chances to explore how God is at work in the world.

- Service Learning Day – we'll do a service project in the Houston community.
- Synod Day – we'll gather with other youth from the Southeastern Minnesota synod for worship and learning.

During the day time, every day, we'll have Bible study, dances, musical performers, the indoor playground, explore Houston, and other fun.

How much will the trip cost?

The total trip costs for registration, hotels, transportation, t-shirts, and meals will be approximately \$1,400-\$1,500 per person. The family contribution toward the trip will be **\$550**, and the remainder will be covered by fundraising. A deposit of \$150 is due at the time of registration, with \$200 due December 1, and \$200 due April 15. (Scholarships are available.)

Participant Covenant and Expectations

Preparing for the ELCA Youth Gathering is a year-long commitment. Your regular involvement in the congregation and your participation in Getting Ready activities and fundraisers is vital to getting the most out of this experience. We need you here so that the whole group is prepared for the trip. Your presence also means that Zion's members can know you and support you in this journey.

Gathering participants are expected to:

- Attend Sunday worship regularly (at least 2x monthly)
- Be fully involved and present in Gathering fundraising activities.
- Serve whenever your family's action Team is scheduled to serve
- Attend Getting Ready sessions that will include Bible study and team building. These meetings will be approximately monthly beginning in October.

How do I sign up?

To reserve your space, submit your \$150 non-refundable registration deposit by Friday, September 15, 2017, together with a signed participant covenant.



The participant covenant
will be available in June.