



Dear Congregational Leaders:

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. **In 2018 we will be gathering in Houston, TX** and we hope your congregation is getting ready to make the Youth Gathering a part of your ministry next year! As a synod, we are busy working to help you be ready for the Gathering and wanted to share some information with you:

REGISTRATION

Registration is **NOW OPEN** at elca.org/gathering. To register, **one primary adult leader** for **each congregation** will log in to the system via your congregational ID number and an email address to enter the information for each registrant. These two basic things – **the congregational ID and the email address** – become the key to accessing Gathering information for congregations. Housing assignments will be posted here and congregational payments will be applied as they come in.

Registration costs are dependent on when you register:

- Early bird registration, Sept. 15-Nov. 15 is \$350.
- Regular registration, Nov. 16-Feb. 15, is \$390.
- Late registration, Feb. 16-May 15, 2018, will be \$440.
- **A \$150 non-refundable, per person deposit is due at the time of registration and must be postmarked within the rate range you expect to pay.** Registration fees are the same for youth and adult leaders.
- **All balances must be paid by May 15, 2018, before you arrive in Houston.**

FINANCIAL AID

There are still opportunities for youth to receive financial aid from both the ELCA and the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. To learn more about financial assistance from the ELCA Youth Gathering directly visit www.elca.org/YouthGathering/registration/financial-assistance. For synod scholarship information, visit <https://goo.gl/forms/dju7ozfP6cITJvHc2>



South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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BUS TRANSPORTATION TO HOUSTON

The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin is offering a great opportunity for congregations to travel to the Gathering by coach bus. The cost is just \$255 per person and includes round-trip transportation along with hotel accommodations and breakfast on the way down. The itinerary is as follows:

<u>Itinerary</u>	
Monday, June 25, 2018	- Depart from several locations across the synod
	- Stop overnight in Little Rock, AR
Tuesday, June 26, 2018	- Arrival into Houston for The Gathering
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Sunday, July 1, 2018	- Depart Houston driving straight through overnight
Monday, July 2, 2018	- Arrive back in South-Central Wisconsin (late a.m.)

To make a reservation for the synod bus, visit <https://tinyurl.com/scswgatheringbus>.

A \$150.00 deposit per congregation is due by March 1, 2018 to reserve your space with the remaining full payment for all participants is due May 15, 2018.

SAVE THE DATE – SCSW SYNOD PRE-GATHERING CELEBRATION! REGISTRATION INFO COMING EARLY SPRING '18

Saturday, April 28, 2018

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

[Optional Overnight Retreat beginning Friday, April 27, 2018]

Lutherdale Camp & Retreat Center

Elkhorn, WI

Saturday Only: \$15.00 per person

- Worship
- Pre-Gathering Bible Studies, Discussions, Games and more.
- Lunch
- Synod Gathering T-Shirt

Overnight Retreat: \$75.00 per person

- Evening Programming on Friday night with more time with our special guest.
- Breakfast on Saturday
- Everything from the Pre-Gathering Celebration on Saturday.

Featuring...



EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING – ARE YOU READY?

If you have questions or need help with anything; please reach out to our **Synod Gathering Coordinator, Jason Xiong** by e-mail at scsw.elcayg@gmail.com or (608) 381-2861.

Thank you for considering the Gathering as part of your ministry!

JASON XIONG
SYNOD GATHERING COORDINATOR

PASTOR TIM HANSEN
GATHERING SYNOD DAY DIRECTOR