



*Invite all youth and adults who will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering to gather in the center of the assembled people. For example, they could stand in the middle aisle in the center of the sanctuary.*

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And also with you.

**Leader:** Today we bless and send these young people and adults as they leave for the ELCA Youth Gathering [the table and/or MYLE] and encounter the Holy Spirit in new and amazing ways, We know that...

**All:** This changes everything.

**Congregation or Leader:** We thank the Holy Spirit for calling you to travel, worship, serve, learn, and play alongside 30,000 other participants and those you will meet along the way.

**Gathering Participants:** God's call changes everything.

**Congregation or Leader:** In the Old Testament God told Joshua, "...the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." And in the New Testament, Jesus told his disciples, "...remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." We remind you, and ourselves, that God is speaking to us through these verses as well.

**Gathering Participants:** God's love changes everything.

**Congregation or Leader:** The writer of Ephesians tells us, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." When you are challenged through this experience or when you doubt your strength and skills, remember that you are enough because of Christ.

**Gathering Participants:** God's grace changes everything.

**Congregation or Leader:** We already look forward to welcoming you home. As you realize how God has used this experience to transform you, know that we, your faith community, are ready to hear the new hope you have for the world, our community and church. We hope that you will be open to sharing your stories with us and that we will be open to being changed by the stories you tell.

**Gathering Participants:** God's hope changes everything.

**Leader:** Let us pray. Gracious God, we thank you for calling these young people and the adult leaders who will accompany them to the ELCA Youth Gathering. As you have shown your love by sending your Son to live among us, we pray that your Spirit help those we send also be an expression of your presence in the world. We know and we thank you that...

**All:** Jesus changes everything. Amen.