

Have you taken advantage of the early bird Gathering registration rate?  
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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



**THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.**  
#ELCAYG2018

# GNEWS

NEWS FROM THE 2018 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING + HOUSTON, TX

Icons: wheelchair, hands, teal ribbon, eye, puzzle piece

# YOU + BELONG

the **†Able**

@elcagathering

## Gathering registration

The deadline for early bird registration is approaching! Make sure to register by Nov. 15 to lock in the \$350 per person rate. Not only will you get that great rate, but your congregation will be

entered to win a few great Gathering giveaways. On Nov. 10 we'll be drawing for a group to have doughnuts on their Service Learning bus, and on Nov. 15 we'll be drawing to have an emcee wear a congregation's T-shirt one night! [Register now](#), and don't miss your opportunity to win these great giveaways!

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## Emcee audition



Are you ready to live your faith out-loud? Can you be a witness for Jesus? Imagine welcoming 30,000 high school students, just like yourself, to NRG Stadium for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. The Mass Gathering team is searching for creative and talented Lutheran teens and young adults to be emcees for the Gathering. If you (or someone you know) are between the ages 15 and 22 and think you would be a great addition to the Mass Gathering stage, consider [auditioning to be an emcee!](#) Auditions close on Nov. 15 – don't throw away your shot!

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## The tAble webinar

Recently, we had our webinar about the tAble, our disability ministry pre-event, where tAble team leader Sara Mayer-Flatt filled us in on all things tAble! Next summer, the tAble will gather under the theme "You Belong." A sense of belonging is not always a truth that the world and culture extend. We continuously wonder: "Where do I fit in?" "Why am I different than others?" "What gifts could I possibly bring?" And yet, we are reminded in Psalm 139, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." We are made – wonderfully – by the very God who names us and claims us as children. We belong to God! At The tAble we believe in the promise that we all, and therefore, YOU belong – to God, at Christ's table, within the church and within our communities. For more information on registration and the tAble schedule, please [watch our webinar](#) or visit [the tAble's website](#).

Next month, we'll be hosting our webinar on Synod Day programming with Synod Day team leader Eric Carlson. Mark your calendars and [sign up here!](#) We'll see you Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. Central.

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## Be a Gathering sponsor

Want to have your own Snapchat filter at the Gathering? Or maybe floor decals in the Interactive Learning space? What about a video highlighting your ministry shown from the Mass Gathering





stage? These are just a few of the opportunities available to you if you choose to be a Gathering sponsor!

Make sure you take a look at our [sponsorship booklet](#) and take advantage of these great opportunities to be present at the Gathering.



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## Extravaganza: Finding Forward

You have taken on the huge task of leading a group of young people to the ELCA Youth Gathering. Thank you for the work you are doing as an adult leader to make this a transformative faith experience in their lives! As you prepare for this role, we invite you to attend the Extravaganza – the ELCA Youth Ministry Network annual conference for volunteer and paid leaders in children, youth and family ministry in Houston Jan. 24-29. We believe the Extravaganza will make you a better leader and help you prepare for the Gathering. You will get to visit Houston in advance of arriving with your group and 35,000 other Lutherans. You will be stretched, challenged and inspired by speakers and workshop leaders. You will learn from more than 700 other leaders as you network. You will be renewed through worship. Gathering-specific workshops will equip you for next summer, or you can go attend "How to Have a Great Gathering." We hope you join us in Houston in January! Learn more at [elcaymnet.org/ext18](http://elcaymnet.org/ext18).



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## 2018 Gathering timeline at a glance

- July 15, 2017** – Financial assistance application opened
- Sept. 15, 2017** – [Registration opened](#) and early bird rate began
- Sept. 15, 2017** – Emcee applications opened
- Nov. 15, 2017** – Emcee applications closes
- Nov. 16, 2017** – Regular registration rate begins
- Feb. 16, 2018** – Late registration rate begins
- May 15, 2018** – Registration closes and all payments are due
- June 24-27, 2018** – [MYLE](#) and the [tAble](#)
- June 27-July 1, 2018** – [ELCA Youth Gathering](#)



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### Contact us

Please [contact us](#) with your ideas and comments. Please forward this email to others who may be interested.  
Mail: ELCA Youth Gathering, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631.

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