

The Gathering 2018 theme soon to be revealed.

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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

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## 2018 theme and logo reveal

Keep your eyes on [ELCA.org/gathering](http://ELCA.org/gathering) the morning of Nov. 1 as our new website launches and our 2018 theme and logo are revealed! More information about the 2018 cycle will be available, as well as the second promotional video and our new resource, "The Official Gathering Handbook: Tips and Tricks for Adult Leaders." We are so excited to share all of this with you!

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## Why the Gathering?



As you are discerning about the 2018 Gathering? Maybe you are asking yourself, “Why should we go to the Gathering?” Or perhaps others in your congregation question whether the Gathering is worth all the time, money and energy it will take to get a group to Houston in 2018? Our first promotional video this cycle answers those questions and articulates why the Gathering is a faith formation event like none other. We hope this video makes it clear why the Gathering needs to be on the timeline of your and your youth’s faith journey.

[Watch video.](#)

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## Gathering blog

Our new Gathering blog launched this spring and focuses on telling the stories of the Gathering and sharing the impact it has made on youth and adult participants, volunteers, partners and staff. The Rev. Paul Amlin writes, “Our young people (and me too!) were blown away in seeing thousands of other people just like us gathered together, as Lutherans, to worship, sing, conga and pray. From that moment I was hooked on the ministry of the Gathering as a “game changer” for my ministry. The conversations and kinship of that group extended for years with this common experience as catalyst.”

As the cycle continues, the blog will share Gathering best practices from youth workers across the ELCA, inside scoop posts about Houston and more! Subscribe to our blog via this link so you don’t miss a post!  
[blogs.ELCA.org/youthgathering/](https://blogs.ELCA.org/youthgathering/)

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## New staff

In September, we welcomed **Cody Miller** to the Gathering staff as the Service Learning Project Manager. Cody is based in Houston and has primary responsibility for cultivating relationships with non-profits in the city. His work alongside the Service Learning team will provide Gathering participants the opportunity to engage with locals, serve those in need and learn more about the great city of Houston.



In October, we welcomed Sierra Ronning to the staff as Program Associate for Communications and Administration. Sierra works out of the Chicago office and serves as the “voice” of the Gathering answering phone calls, responding to emails and managing social media. As a former youth director who took a group to the 2015 Gathering, Sierra knows from personal experience the joys and challenges of preparing a group for the Gathering and looks forward to helping adult leaders.



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## 2018 Gathering timeline at a glance

**July 1, 2016** – Planning team application closes  
**Sept. 15, 2016** – Planning team members notified  
**November 2016** – Theme and logo announced  
**November 2016** – Promotional materials available

**May 15, 2017** – [Volunteer application](#) opens  
**July 15, 2017** – Volunteer application closes  
**Sept. 15, 2017** – [Registration opens](#) and early bird rate begins  
**Nov. 15, 2017** – Regular registration rate begins

**Feb. 15, 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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