



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



You are receiving this email because you have signed up to receive updates for the ELCA Youth Gathering. If you do not wish to receive any future updates, visit [this link](#) to leave the list. Visit the same [link](#) if someone forwarded this gNews to you, and you'd like to receive your own updates in the future.



Planning team application

The ELCA Youth Gathering is primarily planned and led by amazing volunteers who serve on 15 planning teams. We are now accepting applications from individuals who would like to participate in the planning process. Applications will be accepted until July 1, 2016.

[Click here](#) to learn more and start your application!

2018 Gathering timeline at a glance

April 1, 2016 – [Planning team application](#) opens

July 1, 2016 – Planning team application closes

Sept. 15, 2016 – Planning team members notified

Nov. 2016 – Theme and logo announced

Nov. 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](#)

The tAble

The Definitely-Abled Youth Leadership Event (DAYLE) has been a part of the Gathering's ministry since the late '90s. In January, a group of youth and adult stakeholders gathered to discern DAYLE's future direction and purpose. In this conversation two things became clear: 1. The original hope that the language of "Definitely-Abled" would catch on did not occur. Nowhere else in the church or the world is this term used to describe people with disabilities. The language is often cumbersome and confusing. 2. Leadership development is often not the reason youth come to DAYLE. While leadership development certainly happens in intentional and unintentional ways, the primary purpose is to gather and build a community of youth with disabilities and their adult companions. Because of these two reasons, and others, the name and focus of this ministry is changing for 2018 and beyond. The team chose the name "the tAble" which emphasizes not only the "ability" of all versus "DISability," but is also rich in theological imagery and meaning. The tAble will continue to be an important part of the Gathering's and the ELCA's ministry for years to come.



[Learn more](#) about attending the tAble in 2018.



Fun facts about Houston

- Fourth most populous city in the U.S.
- Most diverse U.S. metropolitan region, surpassing New York City.
- If Houston were an independent nation, it would rank as the world's 30th largest economy.
- Six flags over Texas refers to the flags of Spain, France, Mexico, Republic of Texas, the United States, the Confederate States of America and back to the United States after the Civil War.
- More than 90 languages are spoken throughout the metropolitan region.
- 92 countries have consular offices in Houston, the most outside of Washington, D.C.
- At 655 square miles, Houston could fit the cities of New York, Boston, San Francisco, Seattle, Minneapolis, Miami and Washington, D.C., within its borders.
- Nearly a quarter of Houstonians are between 5 and 19 years old, making it one the “youngest” cities in the U.S.

Gathering blog

The new Gathering blog will be starting up this month. In addition to reflections from the Gathering Director, there will be guest bloggers each month to share their experiences and insights with the Gathering. As we plan the writing schedule, we want to know – what's important for you to hear or know from Gathering leadership and stakeholders? Who should be a guest blogger? Email your thoughts to gathering@elca.org. And be sure to [sign up to receive the blog](#) (which is a different list from the gNews).

The diaper project

We're still in awe of the generosity shown through our Diapers for Detroit drive! You donated more than a million diapers and gave more than \$100,000 to support those in need in Detroit. Because of your gifts, there is now an ongoing diaper distribution ministry in Detroit that is led by Lutheran young adults.

Learn more at the [Southeast Michigan Synod](#) website.



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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 Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631.

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