

ELCA National Youth Gathering 2018
Houston, TX
Monday, June 25-Monday, July 2

This trip is a faith formation event. The days will rotate through Interactive Learning, Service Learning, and a day with our synod. We will also have an opportunity to take part in Community Life programming throughout our time in Houston. Each evening will end with a mass gathering consisting of music and speakers. Much of this programming is still being planned. Information is always available at www.elca.org/gathering. You will also receive an email with this link and a link to sign up for the GNews, which is ongoing news about the Gathering event. The Gathering Facebook page is also an excellent resource for information.

Fundraising (please make a note of these on your calendar)

- Coffee hours available to work on Sunday mornings (email will come with link to sign-up, please only 2 per student to start with)
- Sunday breakfast: Sunday, December 17, 2017 and Sunday, March 25, 2018 (Palm Sunday)
- Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018 silent auction
- Chili Cook-off, Sunday, February 25, 2018 from 2-6pm
- Lenten soup suppers (1-2 suppers, dates to be determined)
- Youth Stock Bonds=Students may sell stock in their trip to members of the congregation, family, friends, etc. Each stock is \$25 and entitles the buyer to a thank you note from the student and a potluck supper later in the summer after our return to listen to a presentation about the trip.
- Education Annual Rummage Sale=hours available to work on May 9-12, 2018, sign-up to come. Students paid hourly based on revenue brought in from the sale. Hourly wage decided by the Education Commission.
- American Legion Burger Nights=Friday, January 19, 2018 and Friday, April 20, 2018.

How fundraising funds are dispersed:

- Money raised at coffee hour is split between the students who work on each Sunday morning.
- Rummage sale money is paid on an hourly basis. There will be an hourly rate set by the Education Commission following the sale and students will be paid for the hours that they work.
- Youth Stock Bonds will be paid to the student who sells the bonds.
- All other fundraising events will be paid as follows: students who work an event or who have a family member sub for them if they absolutely cannot attend will split the money brought in by the event amongst them. If a student does not work an event or does not sufficiently participate they will not receive a payment for that event.
- If a student withdraws from the trip their fundraising money goes back into the general fund to cover group costs. It cannot be transferred to another participant, unless that participant is a sibling.

Other money matters and logistics:

- A non-refundable deposit of \$150 is due by Friday, September 22, 2017. If you need assistance with this deposit, please ask Lindsay for a scholarship form.
- Cost of the trip will range from \$1200-\$1400. The increased expense for this trip is due to the fact that we will be staying in hotels the entire trip and will be covering the cost for our food.
- A budget will be coming in September to layout the approximate amount of income we will bring in (based off previous year's fundraisers) and the amount of expense. Lindsay will be applying for many grants and funds through different avenues the congregation has available. We will also be using budget line item funds from the Youth and Family Budget lines toward travel and other expenses.
- A clearer picture of cost will also be available once it is known how many students will be attending the Gathering.
- All students should be decided on whether they will be attending this trip no later than Nov. 1 so that we can ensure the early bird deposit rate of \$350 per student.
- Hotel rooms will cost around \$150 (plus 11% sales tax) per night. We will be staying 5 nights at this rate. Number of hotel rooms will be decided based on participants.
- We will be traveling with Good Earth Village on coach buses for this event. We will be picked up early on Monday, June 25 and return the evening of Monday, July 2. Cost is \$336 per person, which includes an overnight stay in Oklahoma on the way and way back from the Gathering.
- We will have 3 training and team building sessions throughout the school year to prepare for this trip. Students are expected to attend these sessions. Dates will be determined and sent out by the end of September.

If you have not yet filled out the online form, please do so at www.stjohnskasson.org/youth

Our hope is always that we can keep the cost per family as low as possible, which is why we plan so many fundraising events throughout the year. However, it is not always possible to raise the entire amount. Please be aware that any remaining balance to get to the full amount will be the obligation of each family. Financial assistance is available if you speak to Lindsay early. Financial assistance is also available from the National Gathering, please talk to Lindsay right away if this would assist you. A final total that will need to be raised will be determined by the end of September when the budget for the trip is prepared, again between \$1200-\$1400.

In order to make things financially less constrictive to families there will be 4 due dates:

- Non-refundable deposit of \$150 due Friday, Sept. 22, 2017
- 1st payment due=Friday, December 15, 2017
- 2nd payment due=Friday, April 13, 2018
- Final payment for this trip will be due on Sunday, June 17, 2018.

Amounts for each payment will be determined when the budget is handed out in late September.