



VELC will not be doing a Mission Trip in 2018. We are going to Houston for the ELCA Gathering!!

****Exciting News For VELC**** 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering theme: 'This Changes Everything.'

June 27th—July 1, 2018 Yes, this is for 2018.

Parents please look at your calendars and make a decision by September 1st 2017. The primary Scripture for the Gathering is: Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." Grace is a foundational and distinctive piece of Lutheran Christian theology. This gift, undeserved and freely given, changes lives and perspectives as we realize we are enough because of what Christ has done and we are called into the world to serve our neighbor and share the good news.

The Gathering logo is a visual representation of the theme and the 2018 Gathering experience. It incorporates the coming together of a mosaic to reflect the diverse host city of Houston as well as the idea that we are a church where all are imperfect and incomplete, yet we each belong in God's masterpiece. The cross at the center of the logo is the focus—it is God's grace, through Christ's life, death and resurrection, that changes everything for all people.

All youth desire: • Someone to become • Somewhere to belong • Something to do (that changes the world)

Young people echoed these desires throughout the 2015 Gathering. The Gathering seeks to be a ministry that helps define some of these desires or at least open pathways of discovery. Ultimately, the vision is for youth to understand the fierce love that God has for them, just as they are, and that by grace, through faith, they have been saved. When young people—or any person of any age—claim this reality, it changes everything.

****** Early bird registration opens Sept. 15, 2017. A \$150 non-refundable deposit per person is due at the time of registration. Make checks payable to VELC by September 1st.**

We have a few adults that are seriously considering being a chaperone. Shari Higgins, Laura Pilon, and Dan Henning. We will need more parents. If any other parents are interested in being a chaperone please contact *Shari Higgins 262-547-7872*

We will need support from the congregation. Parents will pay the \$150 deposit. We will ask the congregation for support and we will still do our fundraising to support us. The Gathering is \$350 per Youth plus air fare and car rental for sure at this point.

******Check your calendar and make your reservation. This is one of those events you don't want to miss!!!!******