**8th – 12th Grade Students and Parents… Houston 2018!**  

Next summer (2018) the ELCA National Youth Gathering will be held in Houston, Texas. This is a fantastic opportunity to grow in faith, learn more about service and community and experience a fun and energizing worship with 30,000+ other high school students from around the country.

**Gathering Dates and Details:**

* **June 27th – July 1st**. We will leave Decorah on Monday evening, June 25th and be back home early Monday morning on July 2nd.
* Deposit and registration is due by Oct. 15th
* Trip will include service opportunities, fellowship with other Lutherans, and powerful worship experiences.

**What is the National Youth Gathering:**

* Enthusiasm of 30,000+ Lutherans.
* Power and joy of Christian Worship in massive and festive settings.
* Intimacy of our group talking about the experiences of the day.
* Surprise of finding out how big and wonderful the church of Jesus Christ is.
* Dynamic learning experiences through service to others.
* Nationally known speakers who powerfully share God’s love and compassion.
* Opportunity to forge friendships new and old with people from our community and all over the world.
* intentional planning that helps each participant grow in their personal and spiritual lives.

**Costs:**

* **A non-refundable deposit of $250 is due on October 15th.** Checks payable to: Decorah Lutheran youth, but turned into your church.
* The total cost of the trip will be around $850. This cost includes programming, transportation (comfortable motor coach) and housing, but not meals.
* Each individual church will plan their own fundraising strategies.
* All participating area congregations will register as Decorah Lutheran so that we will be housed together and our interaction days will be the same.

**Adult Leaders:**

* We are looking for adult leaders. We will have a 1:7 ratio of adults to youth.
* Each congregation will pay for their own adult leaders and adult leaders will be assigned small groups to be with during the trip.
* Youth and leaders attending the gathering will be required to attend meetings in preparation for the gathering.

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