

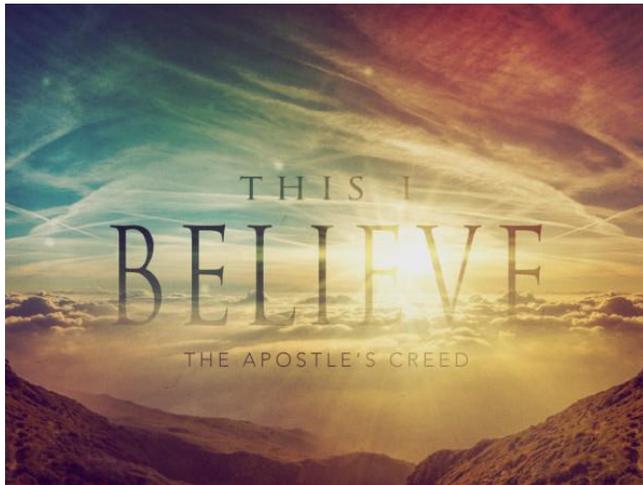


Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear Pastors, Parents, and Youth Leaders,

We are thrilled to invite you and your Middle School Youth to our annual Junior Youth Gathering (JYG) this fall! JYG is a great addition to any Youth or Confirmation curriculum, as middle schoolers explore their faith, meet new friends, and dive into key catechetical topics in engaging, interactive ways. **They'll hear from speakers, participate in small groups and more as they explore key Lutheran topics through a contemporary lens.**



We are excited to announce that this year's theme will be "I Believe", and we will embark on a journey exploring the Apostle's Creed. All youth in Grades 6-9 are invited to attend this retreat as we pray, play, and get to know each other – all while diving into this important and critical question. This year, JYG is scheduled for November 2-3 (ONE Session) at Tel Hai Camp & Retreat Center in Honeybrook, PA.

We are offering an Early Bird discount! *The cost of the gathering is \$105 per person if you register on or before Monday, October 7. After October 7, the cost will go up to \$125.* Scholarships are available for those with financial need and the application form can be found on the Resources page at www.sepayouth.org .

Registration opens September 16 and closes October 14. You will receive an email confirmation upon registration. Please check your spam folder if you do not receive it within a day. You will also receive an email with more information as JYG approaches.

All participants must complete and return a medical release form and a gathering covenant, which can also be found on the Resources page at www.sepayouth.org . Additionally, in accordance with PA law, ALL adult leaders attending JYG must complete and email or mail to the Synod Office a (1) PA State Criminal Background Check, (2) Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Abuse Clearance, and (3) FBI Fingerprint Clearance. If you have submitted these documents to the synod since January 1, 2016 there is no need to resubmit – simply let us know that we should have them on file. Similarly, if you have already obtained these checks for your church, simply send a copy of each check to us at the Synod Office. All background checks are due to the synod office NO LATER THAN October 14, 2019.

To help with the registration process, you will need the following information when you register:

- Participant Name - Participant Grade - Participant Gender
- Adult Email Addresses - Adult Cell Numbers -Dietary Restriction Info.

A \$60 non-refundable deposit will be due at registration. Your initial payment may be made online by credit card or you may mail in a check. Please know that if your registration takes more than 15 minutes to enter, you should group it into batches so as not to time out the system. All payments, documents, and background checks may be mailed to the Synod Office at:

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA Mercedes Lee 7241 Germantown Ave Philadelphia, PA 19119. All registration questions and required documents may also be scanned and sent directly to Mercedes Lee at mlee@sepa.org . I look forward to seeing you at our Junior Youth Gathering as we explore and grow into God's Kingdom journey for us all!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Bradley R. Burke Assistant to the Bishop