



Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Living in God's amazing grace

Dear Youth Workers and Pastors,

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod's 2015 Senior High Youth Gathering will take place February 20-22 at the Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia. **Please pass this letter on to youth ministry contacts in your congregation.** A poster is available at www.sepayouth.org for you to download and distribute to your youth or hang in your church. The Senior High Youth Gathering is open to youth in grades 9-12 and their adult leaders.

Our theme is **Dig Deep Build Faith** using Luke 6:48 as the focus text for the weekend *"It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against the house, it stands firm because it is well built."* Through conversation in small group, service projects, worship, prayer and hearing testimonies from our keynote speaker and others, we will encounter and be inspired by ways we can live a lasting faith.



We will be going off-site to serve on Saturday morning and afternoon. Transportation and lunch will be provided. More information about service projects will be shared with congregational leaders as it becomes available.

Registration opens January 2, 2015 and the registration link will be posted on www.sepayouth.org on that date. Registration closes February 6th. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due at the time of registration. Payment will be made by sending a check to the synod office after you register. There will be no online/credit card payments this year. The balance is due at or before check-in at SHYG. You will receive an acknowledgement email upon completing your registration, but be sure to check your junk mail folder for it!

To help you in the registration process, you will need the following information when you register your participants -

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| -names of participants | -rooming preferences |
| -gender | -if any adults want to be small group leaders |
| -shirt size | -special housing arrangements |
| -email addresses (not a requirement for youth participants) | -special needs/allergies |

Save money and register early! We are offering an Early Bird discount. The cost of the gathering is **\$180 if you register on or before January 26, 2015. After January 26, the price will be \$200.** Scholarships are available. You can download the scholarship application form at www.sepayouth.org on the resources page. Email your completed scholarship application to youthministry@sepa.org. The deadline to apply for a scholarship is Monday, January 19th.

All participants must also complete and return a medical release form with a front and back photocopy of their medical insurance card and a gathering covenant which is available online and

will be emailed to you in your registration confirmation packet. **Please mail, scan and then email, or fax your release forms, copies of the insurance cards and covenants to (youthministry@sepa.org or fax 267.323.3777) by February 13th.** Emailing is preferred.

The cost of the gathering includes your housing and program expenses. Please note that **meals are on your own** with the exception of Saturday's lunch. Congregations are able to bring in food for their individual groups, however we as a gathering cannot bring in food from the outside. There is free time over dinner on Saturday. The Crowne Plaza is across the street from the King of Prussia Mall so there are dinner options there or there are many delivery places in the area.

Gathering youth participants will be housed three or four to a room with two double beds. Gathering adult participants are housed two or three in a room. The registration fees listed above are assuming those housing arrangements. Due to suggestions on past years' evaluations, we are offering an additional housing option. If members of your group (particularly adults) desire to be housed with fewer roommates that may be done for an additional charge. For two people in a room there is an additional charge of \$150 per person. If someone desires their own room, that is an additional charge of \$250. Please email youthministry@sepa.org with special housing arrangement requests. The additional fees will be added to your balance due.

According to Synod Safety Policies: Adults are required to submit a national background/child abuse clearance for all overnight youth events. If your congregation is unable to provide this, please contact the Youth Ministry Assistant for details on how to obtain one. Background checks must be received to this office prior to the event.

The annual **Lutheran Youth Organization Convention** will occur during SHYG at which youth will be elected to the Lutheran Youth Organization Board - the group of high school students and adults who tend the vision for youth ministry in our synod. The convention will be Sunday, February 22nd, at the hotel starting at 8:00 a.m. **Even if your congregation is not attending the gathering, you can still send two delegates to the convention at no charge.** If this is the case, please contact youthministry@sepa.org to register your delegates for the convention. Delegates at the convention will be electing conference representatives as well as the youth serving on Synod Council. Most conferences will need to elect new representatives, so **PLEASE encourage young leaders in your congregation to think about running for these positions.** Attendees are also able to bring ideas and questions to the convention and sharing when the time comes.

This year's SHYG will take place in the midst of synod youth ministry staff transition. Because of this we ask that you register on time (by the early bird deadline would be great!), submit paperwork on time and be patient with the email response time as it may take longer than normal to get the answers you need.

Thank you!

The 2015 SHYG Planning Team
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