



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

June 4, 2019

Dear Bishop and Synod Staff,

I bring you greetings from the ELCA Youth Core Leadership Team (YCLT) and am excited to share with you their plans for the 2019 ELCA Youth Leadership Summit, taking place October 31-November 3 at Lutheridge Camp and Conference Center in Arden, North Carolina.

The theme is, "Equip to Gift." The YCLT chose a most fitting verse for their theme this year. *The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,<sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,<sup>13</sup> until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13*

The 2019 ELCA Youth Leadership Summit will equip youth leaders through Peer Ministry Leadership Training. They will learn to welcome and include others in all situations promoting diversity and acceptance. They will learn to share God's love and grace through their daily connections, becoming aware of the hurts and needs of those around them while living out the Good Samaritan story. Through the peer ministry training the participants will learn how to be careful listeners, to guide healthy and purposeful conversations, to clarify concerns and values, to ask open-ended questions and make observations, and know when a task is too large and how to ask for help. The youth and adults will be challenged to take home what they have learned at the Summit and to inspire action and teach others what they learned in their own synods, congregations, and communities.

Another priority of this event is to help these high school youth "look toward" their next faith community. We have invited camp staff, a college campus pastor, the local Lutheran colleges and universities, a representative from ELCA seminaries, the ELCA Program Director for Youth Ministries and a military chaplain to share the exciting opportunities within the church that await them.

Each synod is invited to send two youth leaders and one adult to the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit. All lodging, meals, programming, and a bus to and from the Charlotte Airport are provided by a gracious grant from the ELCA. Your synod's responsibility is to provide the flights for the two youth and one adult attending from your synod and any incidentals they might incur during their travels. The registration form and other information is posted at [www.elcayouthministry.com](http://www.elcayouthministry.com). The registration deadline is September 15, 2019.

The Youth Leadership Summit is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and partners with the Domestic Mission Unit, the Faith Formation Team, the SYMBOL Network, the ELCA Youth Gathering, the 65 Synods across the United States, ELCA Disability Ministries, and ELCA Ethnic Specific Ministries.

The Youth Core Leadership Team and I look forward to welcoming participants from your synod to the 2019 Summit! If you have any questions please contact Rachel Alley, at [Rachel.alley@elca.org](mailto:Rachel.alley@elca.org)

In Christ,

Rachel Alley, ELCA Program Director for Youth Ministry