



**Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

Dear Pastors, Parents, and Youth Leaders,

We are thrilled to invite you and your Middle School Youth to our annual Junior Youth Gathering (JYG). JYG is a great addition to any Youth or Confirmation calendar, as participants 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, in celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, will be *Mission 1517: Reformation Then & Now*. We will explore the history of Luther, the Reformation, and what it means to be a Reformation people *today!* Your Youth *won't* want to miss this exciting retreat!

All youth in **Grades 6-9** are invited to attend this retreat. **Two one-night retreats** are scheduled for November 10-11 and 11-12 at Refreshing Mountain Camp in Lancaster County. Simply pick which dates work best for you – but remember, space is limited, **so register early!**



**We are offering an Early Bird discount!** *The cost of the gathering is \$95 if you register on or before Monday, October 16.* After October 16, the cost will be \$115. Scholarships are available for those with financial need and the application form can be found on the Resources page at [www.sepayouth.org](http://www.sepayouth.org). **Registration opens September 1 and closes October 23** or when the gatherings are full. 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](http://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 NO LATER THAN October 23, 2017.**



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

- Participant Name
- Participant Grade
- Participant Gender
- Adult Leader Email Address
- Adult Leader Cell Numbers
- Any Special Needs or Dietary Restrictions

A \$50 non-refundable deposit will be due at registration. Your initial payment may be made online by credit card or you will be able to mail in a check. ***Please know that if you your registration will take more than 15 minutes to enter, you should group it into batches so as not to time out of the system.*** All payments, documents, and background checks may be mailed to the Synod Office at:

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA  
c/o Dionne Jackson  
7241 Germantown Ave  
Philadelphia, PA 19119.

All registration questions and required documents may also be scanned and sent directly to Dionne Jackson at [djackson@sepa.org](mailto:djackson@sepa.org).

I look forward to seeing you at our Junior Youth Gathering as we celebrate our Reformation legacy in 2017!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Bradley R. Burke  
Assistant to the Bishop