

# SYNOD NEWS

## Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

### **Bear Creek Camp 2018 – This Changes Everything!**

It's been a great summer at Bear Creek Camp as the campers and staff continue to grow, celebrate, and explore God's amazing creation!

Campers (Youth and Families) have a great week all over the camp's nearly 3,000 acres (Largest in the ELCA) by hiking, swimming, zip-lining, and enjoying many large and small group activities. The experiential opportunities created at the camp make relationship building a priority. Each camper has an unlimited amount of time to build friendships with the other campers as well as their counselors. In those relationships God's grace is seen, felt, and experienced; and lives are changed. Campers are sent home to be vessels of this grace and to share it with those in their families, congregations, and communities.

This summer Bear Creek Camp will see its attendance rise for the 6th straight summer with a growth rate of over 75% since 2012. Because of the support of the two partner synods (the Northeastern and Southeastern PA Synods), congregations, families and individuals, this ministry is thriving and raising up leaders for the church.

Your support for BCC is not just a donation, it's an investment in the leadership development of our church, and those investments are needed now and always.



## Update from Assembly 2018

One of the service projects at the 2018 Synod Assembly, held at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre, was an opportunity to donate jars of peanut butter and jelly to The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Food Bank.

Recently a "Thank-you" arrived, acknowledging that 634 pounds of peanut butter and jelly were received from our Assembly.

The donation was primarily used to supplement the many summer children's lunch programs throughout the 5 county area of northeast Pennsylvania.

Overall, the Weinberg Food Bank works to ease the pain of hunger in the elderly, children, and people who need nutrients; and by doing the Food Bank works to grow, learn, work, and give hope for a brighter future.

## Always Being Made New Sunday - October 7

As the Campaign for the ELCA approaches its final year, let's focus on finishing strong. Congregations are encouraged to receive a special offering for the campaign on October 7, or conduct a special appeal for the campaign on or near that date.

For details about the campaign, or to order campaign envelopes, check the ELCA website at <http://elca.org/Campaign-for-the-ELCA>.

## ELCA National Youth Gathering Houston, Texas



On June 27 more than 30,000 ELCA youth and adults, including nearly 600 from our synod, came to Houston for the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering under the theme: "This Changes Everything."

Each day there were opportunities to participate in a variety

of events: Community Life, Service Learning, Interactive Learning, and Bible Study. Then in the evening, everyone gathered at NRG Stadium for a **Mass Gathering**, which featured music from the house band and several guest artists.

**Community Life** events included games, live stages, and a place to connect with others and generally relax. There were also **bible studies** led by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Rev. Tuhina Rasche, Rev. Aaron Fuller, and Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber.

**Service Learning** events provided an opportunity to join with one of nearly 100 service learning partners and engage in a service project in the Houston area, including minor home repairs, community gardens, graffiti abatement, painting the homes, murals, landscaping, window washing, power washing, mulching, trimming, lawn cutting, and other services.

**Interactive Learning** events invited participants to encounter God through a variety of learning styles and sensory experiences inside the over 700,000 square feet Interactive Learning space. From sports to creative expressions, service projects to quiet meditation, Interactive Learning offered something for everyone.

**Over 40,000 books** were collected and then distributed at community book fairs, camps and other events around the city. The Sunday morning offering was split among the Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, Prison Congregations of America, and ELCA Global Ministries. And a **special offering of over \$200,000** was collected for ELCA World Hunger's Global Farm Challenge.



Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA  
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View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org/publications/synod-news>.