

threads



August 15-19, 2018  
**Thunder Bay, ON**

## **Pre-Gathering Information**

Everything you need to know  
to prepare for and travel to CLAY.



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## GREETINGS



Thank you for registering your Home Team for the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering, *Threads*. As a Home Team Leader (HTL), *whether you are the Primary Home Team Leader or attending as a secondary Home Team Leader*, you are a very important part of our team in preparing and planning for the gathering. You have a great deal of responsibility before, during, and after the gathering.

This booklet is meant to provide further information about the gathering, and to assist you in the Home Team building process. We ask you to share all of it with your Home Team. You are welcome to print as much of it as you wish to distribute to your youth and their parents. As materials in this booklet will be important for you while you are in Thunder Bay, you may wish to print and bring this booklet with you to CLAY.

If you have any questions about the gathering, please contact:

**Home Team Leader Coordinator: Philip Penrod**

**Email:** [askCLAY2018@gmail.com](mailto:askCLAY2018@gmail.com)

Be sure to visit our website at [claygathering.ca](http://claygathering.ca) for continuous updates and information and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We encourage you and your Home Team to pray, sing, worship, and grow together, as we prepare to gather at Threads in Thunder Bay, ON.

## GATHERING GOALS

- To proclaim the grace and faithfulness of God revealed to us in Jesus Christ.
- To respond to God's grace and faithfulness in ways that are intentional, practical and meaningful.
- To celebrate that, by the grace of God, we are children of God.
- To celebrate the Full Communion relationship of the ELCIC and the ACC and encourage youth to live out that relationship in their home contexts.

These goals will be accomplished:

1. By providing a youth-centered program that will develop leadership.
2. Through varied worship experiences that help youth connect word and sacrament to their daily Christian life.
3. Through sharing of what has been learned and experienced with others.

# HOME TEAM LEADER 101

As a HTL, you play an integral role in the Youth Gathering. The National Planning Committee relies heavily on you as a valued partner in making the gathering successful and appreciates the time and energy you put into this vital position. As a HTL, you will need to take an active part in all of the activities that are scheduled to take place at the gathering. Your enthusiasm and the example you set goes a long way toward creating a memorable experience for the youth. You will become actively involved with your youth and their experiences before, during, and after the gathering.

## EXPECTATIONS OF A HOME TEAM LEADER

- To help youth prepare for CLAY, travel with them to and from the gathering, experience the gathering with them, and help them share their experiences when they return home.
- To be attentive to the needs of youth in the following ways at the gathering:

### **As a friend**

Someone who is available to youth; someone who is concerned about youth and can consult freely with them.

### **As a listener**

Someone who can listen to and be aware of what others are saying, feeling, and doing; someone who can respond to problems as they arise.

### **As a supporter**

Someone who can encourage and provide moral support to young people and fellow Home Team Leaders.

### **As a spiritual leader**

Someone who can help youth in their faith development, lead Bible Studies (pre- and post-gathering), and lead the group in prayer – before, during and after the gathering.

### **As a facilitator**

Someone who can communicate with youth and gathering leaders about activities, procedures and rules.

### **As a supervisor**

Someone who offers leadership to ensure healthy and respectful participation by all members of the Home Team.

## HOME TEAM LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

As a Home Team Leader, you will be a full participant in the gathering. You are fully responsible for the youth in your Home Team from the time they leave their parents/guardians at the beginning of the trip until the time you return them to their parents/guardians upon their arrival back home. You will also ensure that the youth in your care are safe at all times and respect others and property while in your care. This means making sure that each facility they use (residence rooms at Lakehead University, as well as any dwelling while traveling to and from the gathering) is left in as good (or better) condition as they found it.

### **General responsibilities of a Home Team Leader are as follows:**

- Gather all necessary information from each Home Team Member such as emergency contacts, medical and dietary needs, etc. Register all members of the Home Team for the gathering.
- Actively worship, study and plan together with the Home Team before, during, and after the gathering.
- Have a meeting with the members of the Home Team and their parents to review the expectations of the gathering. These expectations include...
  - *full commitment to participate in all gathering activities.*
  - *full commitment to abide by gathering rules. This includes abstaining from the use of alcohol and/or non-prescription drugs at any time at the gathering. This is prohibited for everyone, including Primary/Home Team Leaders.*
  - *any other expectations you have and those that are in our materials.*
- Check with your Church Council Chairperson/Warden to ensure that your church has adequate insurance coverage for you and the members of your Home Team.
- When you leave for the gathering, bring the names, addresses and phone numbers of everyone on your Home Team and their emergency contact information. Be aware of any medical conditions of the youth of your Home Team before you leave for the gathering.
- Read this booklet thoroughly and complete the pre-gathering bible study material with your Home Team prior to attending the gathering.
- Monitor your group at the gathering. This means knowing the whereabouts of everyone on your Home Team at all times and ensuring the gathering rules, housing and schedule requirements are met.
- Attend all Home Team Leader meetings at the gathering so you can receive up-to-date information, ask questions, and discuss any concerns.

- Meet with your own Home Team and other Home Teams during scheduled times.
- Strive to fulfill the Home Team Leader expectations as outlined.

All of this means that you are much more than a chaperone or a driver. Remember, you are a vital and valued partner to the success of the gathering. Your leadership enables the gathering to fully accomplish its mission.

## CLAY HOME TEAM LEADER MEETINGS

Primary Home Team Leaders are expected to attend all HTL meetings. They are scheduled throughout the gathering and are your opportunity to ask questions and receive important information about schedule changes or procedures. No announcements are made at the Large Group Gatherings (LGGs).

If your group includes additional Home Team Leaders and Leaders-in-Training, they are also encouraged to attend!

HTL meetings will be held in the University Centre, Room 2011. Check the gathering schedule when you arrive at CLAY for dates and times.

## FIRST-TIMER TIPS

Bringing a Home Team to CLAY for the first time? First of all, that's awesome! Thanks for serving your community's youth in this way. We're excited to meet you and we would be happy to help support you along the road to Thunder Bay! Here are just a few tips and tricks. Remember, we're also available to answer any other questions you may have!

**Registrar—Sabrina Buffie:** [CLAYRegistrar2018@gmail.com](mailto:CLAYRegistrar2018@gmail.com)

**Home Team Leader Co-ordinator—Philip Penrod:** [askCLAY2018@gmail.com](mailto:askCLAY2018@gmail.com)

- Everyone registers for the gathering as part of a Home Team. We call the main contact person for that team the “Primary Home Team Leader” or “PHTL”.
- It's in your best interest to register your Home Team as early as possible. There is limited space available at LakeheadU! As a first step, register yourself into the system. That way, the Registrar knows to expect a registration from your Home Team.
- Write down your username and password and keep them somewhere safe and handy!
- Contact the Registrar if you would like to be put in touch with a more experienced HTL in your area!

- It's a good idea to start fundraising as soon as possible. Looking for ideas? Post a question on our Facebook page and we know there will be tons of suggestions listed in the comments!
- Have more than one HTL on your team? Divide and conquer when you arrive at CLAY! Have one leader take "wake-up" duty, while the other takes the "last one asleep" role! Send one HTL to the HTL Meeting, while the other participates in Free Time with your youth!

## HIGHLIGHT VIDEOS OF PAST GATHERINGS

To provide youth, parents and new Primary/Home Team Leaders with a feel for what a CLAY gathering is all about, check out this video of CLAY 2016 highlights including a bus trip to get there:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TxtKycpoAHU>

## PREPARING FOR CLAY

Being a Home Team begins while you're still at home. Here are some ways to connect with each other as you prepare to travel to Thunder Bay:

- Get to know each other! Organize events together just for fun, for study and for fundraising to help you get to the gathering.
- If you have not already done so, have a meeting to discuss travel plans to Thunder Bay and help give everyone more information about the gathering. Read this book carefully prior to that meeting and share all of the information in it.
- If your group decides to spend extra time before or after the gathering in Thunder Bay, check our "Cool Things to See and Do in Thunder Bay" section on page 10. *When you register, you will be prompted for the number of additional nights you want to stay at LakeheadU before/after CLAY.*
- A special "**Leave This Information with Parents/Guardians**" page appears later in this booklet (page 20) for you to copy and give to all parents/guardians.
- Write a group covenant (see pages 18–19 in this booklet).
- Work through the pre-gathering bible study with your Home Team. It is designed to help you prepare for both the theme of the gathering and the speakers' presentations. The pre-gathering bible study will be available on the website in the spring of 2018.

- Work on an activity to help youth learn about the 2012-2018 National Youth Project: Right to Water and to raise funds for this project. Information is available at [www.claygathering.ca/national-youth-project](http://www.claygathering.ca/national-youth-project). Anglicans and Lutherans will conclude the theme of Right to Water at this gathering and the new National Youth Project will be revealed at *Threads!*
- Pray with and for your youth. Pray for the National Planning Committee, the presenters, musicians, drama team, worship leaders, Home Team Leaders and all those preparing to be at the gathering.

### **THINGS TO BRING**

- Bible
- Personal items, prescriptions and toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, soap, face cloth, etc.)
- Casual clothing (ensure you have clothes to layer to be ready for a variety of temperatures)
- Bathing suit and towel, shower shoes
- Rain gear, umbrellas, or ponchos
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sun screen, hat, insect repellent (scent-free)
- Personal spending money
- Camera/phone
- Sunglasses
- Outdoor activity items such as a Frisbee, football, soccer ball, etc.
- Water bottle and travel mug
- Primary/Home Team Leaders should also have a copy of each participant's emergency contact information. That is, the names and phone numbers of parents/guardians.



## COOL THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN THUNDER BAY

If your Home Team is planning on spending extra time in Thunder Bay before or after CLAY (and we recommend it!), we have some suggestions from our local expert to get your started. Be sure to check out [www.thunderbay.ca/visiting](http://www.thunderbay.ca/visiting) for even more.

### **KAM RIVER TUBING - *River Rat Rentals***

Check out their Facebook page; *ph: 807-473-9117*

- 15 minutes west of Thunder Bay
- Grab an awesome burger at the nearby Stanley Hotel

### **EAGLE CANYON ZIP LINE AND SUSPENSION BRIDGE - *Eagle Canyon Adventures***

Check out their Facebook page

- 45 minutes east of Thunder Bay

### **HIKING AT SLEEPING GIANT PROVINCIAL PARK - *Sleeping Giant Provincial Park***

[www.ontarioparks.com](http://www.ontarioparks.com) ; *ph: 807-977-2526 (seasonal office),*

- Short and long hiking trails
- Day use area available

### **FORT WILLIAM HISTORICAL PARK**

[www.ontariotravel.net](http://www.ontariotravel.net)

- Historical fur trade post as it existed in 1816
- 20 minutes from Lakehead University

### **HIKING, SCENIC WATERFALLS, SWIMMING - *Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park***

[www.ontarioparks.com](http://www.ontarioparks.com)

- Programs available through visitor services on the legend of the falls
- 20 km west of Thunder Bay

### **AMETHYST MINES - *Panorama Amethyst Mine***

[www.amethystmine.com](http://www.amethystmine.com) ; *ph: 807-622-6908*

- 60 km east of Thunder Bay

### **TERRY FOX MONUMENT - *Terry Fox Information Centre***

[www.thunderbay.ca/visiting](http://www.thunderbay.ca/visiting) ; 1-800-667-8386

- 15 minute drive from Lakehead University

## **SHOPPING & RESTAURANTS**

Spend some time shopping on Bay Street; have a meal at the world famous Finnish restaurant "Hoito"; take in the Finnish culture at some of the gift shops in the North Ward.

# INSURANCE

## Liability Insurance

The 2018 Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering provides limited general liability insurance coverage for all participants and staff for the period of August 15–19, 2018, through the ELCIC. Congregations should review their insurance needs and coverage to confirm adequate liability protection for their group's travel and attendance at the gathering. In most cases, this coverage is provided through your congregation's existing property and liability insurance policy or available through a policy rider or extension.

## Medical Insurance

The scope of medical insurance coverage varies by provincial plan. It is suggested that groups review their provincial plan coverage and limits in advance of travel. It may be advisable to purchase additional supplementary health insurance coverage when traveling out of province to cover the cost of services not included in the reciprocal agreement between Provincial Medical Service Plans. All participants are responsible for ensuring they have sufficient and appropriate health insurance while attending the gathering.

# TRAVEL INFORMATION

## AIR TRAVEL

For air travel to the gathering, each Home Team must make their own arrangements for booking flights. We encourage you to contact other Home Teams in your area to increase the size of your booking "group" in order to take advantage of the lowest possible group rates offered by the airlines.

### WestJet

In order to obtain a 10% discount off *Econo* fares or 15% off *Plus* fares for travel between Thunder Bay and anywhere WestJet flies in North America, please follow these instructions:

1. Visit [www.westjet.com](http://www.westjet.com) to book flights online.
2. At the time of online booking, use **coupon code ZP9E7QM** to apply the discount. If travel is being booked over the phone, you will need **promo code YQT02** in addition to the coupon code.

### NOTES:

- The travel period begins Wednesday, August 8, 2018 and ends Monday, August 27, 2018.
- If you have questions about how to complete a booking with your discount codes, please check out WestJet's [frequently asked questions](#).

- Changes/cancellations:  
You can change or cancel reservations within 24 hours of booking at no charge. Further changes or cancellations can be made up to 2 hours prior to the flight; please note additional fees or charges may apply for each guest depending on fare class booked and differences in fare. Check out WestJet's [service fees](#) page for more information.

### **Air Canada**

To receive a discount off fares with Air Canada, please follow these instructions:

1. Visit [www.aircanada.com](http://www.aircanada.com) to book flights online.
2. During the booking process, use **promotional code 92MVPKV1** to apply the discount.

### **NOTES:**

- The booking is to be made to Thunder Bay, YQT
- The travel period begins Wednesday, August 8, 2018 and ends Monday, August 27, 2018.
- No discount will apply to Tango bookings for travel within Canada, but please enter the promo code for all bookings to enable CLAY to meet the minimum number of flight bookings required.

If you have trouble using the above travel codes—let us know! Contact **Philip**, our Home Team Leader Co-ordinator, at [askCLAY2018@gmail.com](mailto:askCLAY2018@gmail.com)

### **GROUND TRANSPORTATION IN THUNDER BAY**

If you require ground transportation from the airport to LakeheadU, you may find this list of transportation companies helpful:

<https://www.ridebooker.com/places/yqt/locations/yqt-terminal>

Car rental companies at the Thunder Bay airport are AVIS, Discount, Enterprise, National, and Alamo. Our best source of information says it's approximately \$25 each way to take a taxi.

### **PARKING**

A parking pass can be purchased from LakeheadU's Conference Services for a cost of \$4.50 per day. A parking pass is only required Monday to Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

# AT THE GATHERING

## WHEN TO ARRIVE AT CLAY

Primary Home Team Leaders can drop in to register their Home Team at their leisure between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 15. Dinner on Wednesday is included in your registration fee, which will be followed by a welcome event and then an optional late night worship for the night owls. The gathering concludes at approximately noon on Sunday (a bag lunch will be provided following the conclusion of the gathering).

The duration of CLAY itself is pretty jam-packed with activities (we've got a lot to fit in—LGGs, Special Events, Morning Worship, Meals, Late Night Spots, and more!) so there's not a lot of extra time to explore the area. The Canadian Shield is a beautiful part of our country, and it may be worth setting aside time for travelling around before or after the gathering. You can book extra nights in the LakeheadU Residence on either side of the gathering dates, so feel free to take advantage of that and use the time to soak up what the province has to offer!

## CHECK-IN & REGISTRATION

The Primary Home Team Leader will need to check in for the gathering and accommodations separately.

Please check in to your rooms at the front desk of the Bartley Residence (just like you would at a hotel). Check-in any time between 8:00 a.m. and Midnight on your day of arrival.

Registration for the gathering will be in Room 1001 of the Regional Centre building Wednesday, August 15 any time between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. A late registration time will be available Thursday morning for those who arrive late.

Each Primary Home Team Leader will receive one package for the entire Home Team. This package will contain:

- Identification bracelet for each participant and leader. These will be necessary to attend all aspects of the gathering, including entrance into the dining halls for meals.
- A CLAY t-shirt for each participant!

## NEW FOR 2018—CLAY Gathering App!

At CLAY 2018, there will be an app for that! The app will include:

- Schedule
- Information about and locations for Late Night Spots
- Information about and locations for daytime activities
- Other important information including maps & emergency numbers

Stay tuned to [claygathering.ca](http://claygathering.ca) and to your email in the summer of 2018 for more information about downloading the app.

## STORY TIME TEAMS

Story Time Teams will provide space and time for Home Teams to interact more deeply with other youth and leaders from the wide variety of Threads that comprise CLAY.

Made up of approximately 40 youth and leaders, each Story Time Team is small enough to care, yet large enough to dare. This is the space in which youth will have opportunity to debrief their experiences of the immersive elements of three Education Sessions:

- 1) Our Story—KAIROS Blanket Exercise
- 2) Your Story—Discerning and Sharing
- 3) Their Story—Story Tending as gift and calling.

Finally, Story Time Teams create space for youth to experiment with the practical skills that are part of each session.

To help these groups get familiar with one another, we will put PHTL's from the same Story Time Team in touch ahead of the CLAY gathering. Watch for the contact permissions during the online registration process.

## GATHERING RULES

All Participants shall observe the following:

- a) Smoking and vaping only in designated areas, and only by participants age 19 or older
- b) No alcohol, cannabis or illicit or illegal drugs
- c) Sleeping areas quiet after 11:00 p.m.
- d) All participants must be in their own rooms by 1:00 a.m.
- e) Follow all facility regulations

### Expulsion Policy

The CLAY Chairperson is authorized to reserve the right to expel any participant (HTL, HT participant, guest, etc.) who is engaged in illegal, immoral or unsafe activities, endangering themselves or other participants, or any other activity which violates the rules of the gathering. Youth Participants will be taken to their Primary Home Team Leader. The participant is not eligible for any refund and is responsible for their expense of travelling home. Should CLAY need to fund the initial payment, reimbursement is due within 60 days. The NPC Chairperson will consult with the HTL. In the event a minor is to be expelled, the NPC Chairperson will ensure that the parent/guardian is also contacted. If expulsion of a HTL is being considered, every effort will be made to contact the congregation, parish, diocese or synod to which the HTL is accountable. The NPC will provide assistance to the congregation, parish, diocese or synod in arranging appropriate leadership for the remaining Home Team participants.

## SPIRITUAL CARE

While at a gathering, it can happen that an individual feels confronted with issues that need attention. During the gathering, a volunteer spiritual care team is available to all participants should the need arise. Information will be provided on site for how to contact our spiritual care team.

## EVENT SAFETY MANAGEMENT

There will be volunteer event safety staff on duty throughout various functions at the gathering. Call the Gathering Office phone number if you need assistance. Please note that Primary/Home Team Leaders will be contacted should there be any discipline concerns. LakeheadU Campus Security will also be present at the University.

## MEDICAL

Limited medical assistance will be available on site. Nurses and other first aid responders will be available to assist with emergencies. If anyone in your Home Team requires medical attention, a HTL must accompany the participant to the First Aid Station in the Conference Centre Room of Bartley Residence. There is a hospital within a short distance of LakeheadU.

Our First Aid volunteers at the gathering cannot administer such things as Tylenol or cough and cold medications. If you think you may need items such as these, you are responsible for bringing them along. All prescriptions and medications must be in their original containers.

Large groups present certain risk for the spread of illness. Please be advised that Public Health requires that participants who are feeling ill, or may have contagious symptoms (flu, fever) should remain in their room and rest. This is a matter of community stewardship and health, and is a vital measure to prevent an outbreak.

Please be aware that strobe lighting and/or rapid video projection may be used as part of the LGGs and the dances. If there are any medical concerns related to the use of these items, each person is responsible to take all appropriate precautions.

## NATIONAL YOUTH PROJECT

The theme for the National Youth Project (NYP) 2012–18 was *Right to Water*. It was a partnership between the ELCIC Program for Youth Ministry (PCYM) and the justgeneration.ca Youth Initiative of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF).

Generally, NYP themes change at every CLAY event, but for this topic we decided to do things a little differently. The issue of solidarity with Indigenous Communities isn't one that could be tackled well in a two-year time span, so we decided to expand the time frame on the theme of learning and advocating for water in Canadian Indigenous Communities.

We do hope this issue will be a topic that you won't walk away from. Both the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada are committed to on-going reconciliation work. The learning and transformation that was done through the *Right to Water Project* will flow through our churches for years to come.

Any fundraising done for the current National Youth Project can be sent to the ELCIC or to PWRDF or can be brought to CLAY to be given at the closing Eucharist. Cheques should be made out to either the ELCIC or PWRDF with the cheque memo line as "National Youth Project". We will launch a new National Youth Project at *Threads*. We look forward to hearing about how youth in the ELCIC and ACC can be engaged in learning about a theme that is prevalent in all aspects of Canadian society.

We appreciate your commitment to learning about and engaging in social justice issues that make our churches and the world a better place for everyone.

## AFTER THE GATHERING

### UNDERSTANDING THE EXPERIENCE

A Youth Gathering is an incredibly unique experience for those who attend. It is a place where youth experience community, acceptance and love, where they can discuss their faith openly and are often more open to hearing God's word. It truly becomes a highlight of their lives.

Youth returning home will have a great variety of feelings. Some will be excited and inspired to explore their faith in new ways. Some may keep in touch with their new friends and even gather with others in their area who attended the gathering. Sharing songs and stories in their home congregation is a good way to take the gathering home.

Some youth may need to grieve a little when they return home. Newfound friends may be hundreds or thousands of kilometers away. Coming down from an intense experience, some may feel what could be described as a post-gathering "depression." Acknowledge their feelings of loss and sadness. Encourage them to share with you what they experienced. In time, the feelings of loss will subside.

All of this is meant to say that the many ways HTLs support youth before, during and after the gathering is valuable.

### TAKING THE GATHERING BACK HOME

Plan now for ways you can take the gathering back home with you. Will your youth be expected to share with others some of what they experienced when they return home?

Talking about this before you leave for the gathering can help with your preparation. Here are some suggestions:

- Keep a journal. Encourage journal-keeping during the gathering itself. It is much easier to share impressions if they have been recorded along the way. You may want to create special individual journals as part of your gathering preparations.
- Host a “Thank You” event. Share pictures, stories and songs, and say a big thank you to your congregation/parish for their support.
- Designate a group photographer.
- Plan to lead worship in your home congregation/parish when you return. Have participants share favourite gathering songs and worship experiences.
- Have a “*Threads* Reunion”. Invite other churches in your area that had participants at the gathering.
- Write an article. You may want to submit it to your congregational newsletter, your Synod/ Diocese news or even your local community newspaper.
- Participate in the National Youth Project.
- Start planning to attend CLAY 2020!



# GROUP COVENANT

*\*NOTE: This document is meant to be flexible—make it fit the needs of your Home Team. Feel free to write as much as possible, so that your team can have the best understanding of each other before leaving on the trip.*

~ ~ ~

As believers and followers of Jesus Christ, this is the covenant we make together for the Canadian Lutheran and Anglican Youth Gathering. This represents what we hope to learn, experience, and be responsible for. These are the goals to which we will give our time and energy—before, during and after the gathering.

## **Our Life Together**

1. We will commit ourselves to treat one another as follows:

2. We will help one another as follows:

3. We expect our leader(s) to:

4. We will treat our leader(s) as follows:

We will handle the following issues as follows:

- a. Bedtime, time in, sleep, consideration of roommates' "sleep rights":
- b. Use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs:
- c. Relationships, couples:

- d. Disagreements, hassles, impatience:
  
- e. Not adhering to the rules of the housing site:
  
- f. Going off into Thunder Bay alone:
  
- g. Matters of sexism and racism:
  
- h. When someone breaks our covenant:

6. How we intend to contribute to the success of the gathering:

7. What we hope to get from the gathering:

8. What our group plans to bring to the gathering:

9. What we hope to have happen to our group as a result of the gathering:

**We agree to help keep this covenant with one another.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signatures:

# AN ORDER OF COMMISSIONING

(for use on a Sunday prior to a gathering)

**Pastor, priest or worship leader:** Sisters and brothers in Christ, you leave this week to travel together for Thunder Bay, Ontario, where you will gather with hundreds of Lutheran and Anglican youth from across Canada. Youth gatherings are sponsored by our National Churches in order that:

- a) the Gospel of Jesus Christ may be proclaimed to you through many mediums and in language and presentations that assist you in applying the Gospel to your daily lives;
- b) you may learn and have the opportunities to respond to God's grace and faithfulness in intentional, practical and meaningful ways; and
- c) you, as part of the Body of Christ, may gather to celebrate the gift of being children of God.

**Leader:** You will be attending *Threads* as members of a Home Team. This Home Team will be your family for the duration of the trip. You will be representing both our home congregation/parish of [congregation/parish name] and your Saviour, who claimed you in your baptisms and whose name you bear.

*(Ask the assembly to please rise)*

May we together profess our faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**Leader:** Will you, the congregation, keep these young people and their leader(s) in your prayers throughout the coming days, asking for God's protection, guidance and loving presence as they journey, experience, celebrate and journey home together? If so, please respond, "Yes, with the help of God."

**Congregation:** Yes, with the help of God.

*(The congregation may be seated)*

**Leader:** Will you, the members and leader(s) of this Home Team, promise to make every effort to live together as a Christian family—bearing with one another's habits, being patient, caring, and considerate? Will you forgive one another as you have been forgiven by God through Christ Jesus? If so, please respond: "Yes, and we ask God's Spirit to help and guide us."

**Group Members & Leader(s):** Yes, and we ask God's Spirit to help and guide us.

**Leader:** Will you seek out the opportunities available to you that you may fully experience all that this gathering offers? Will you make an effort to worship daily, meet new friends and see new places, sing and celebrate Jesus' love, have fun, explore scripture truths, and be joyful? If yes, please respond, "Yes, with God's help."

**Participant(s):** Yes, with God's help.

*(Commissioning may be done individually or collectively depending on the size of the group and time. The Pastor/Priest makes the sign of the cross on the individual's forehead or over the whole group.)*

**Leader:** [Name(s)], Child(ren) of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Response:** Amen.

**Leader:** Go now and tell everyone what God in Jesus Christ has done for you. In the name of the Creator, and of the Christ, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

*(The Pastor/Priest may invite the affirmation of the congregation, having the group turn and face them and receive it.)*

The regular order of service continues.

**(Adapted from the Order of Service for Holy Baptism)**

# LEAVE THIS INFO WITH PARENTS

Here is some important information for you to keep handy while your family member is attending *Threads*.

Home Team Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Home Team Leader's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Home Team Leader's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

The Gathering Office phone number\*: \_\_\_\_\_  
(to be provided in June 2018)

**\*Note: This is an EMERGENCY NUMBER ONLY.**

**If you wish to be in touch with your child, please make arrangements for them to call you.**

**If they do not have a personal cell phone, you may need to spend some time  
instructing them on how to make a long distance call  
or provide them with a telephone card for this purpose.**

