

## **Synod Youth Ministry Team 2017 Report to Area Gatherings**

**CLAY 2016 Youth Gathering and Pre-Gathering Trip** - Thanks to Tammy Kirkwood, St. Paul's Lutheran, Ellerslie and Rev. Anna Thede, Hosanna Lutheran, Edmonton who worked together to coordinate the ABT Synod Pre-Gathering Trip, August 13- 17, 2016 through Nova Scotia prior to the CLAY Gathering in Charlottetown. Much fun was had - highlights of which included a trip to Peggy's Cove, Lunenburg, Tidal Bore rafting, Cow's Ice Cream, lobster dinner at the Shore club and much more. Approximately 60 youth and leaders attended the ABT Synod Pre-Gathering Trip. Youth and adults were very pleased that Bishop Larry and Cathy were able to join us on the Pre-Gathering trip and CLAY Gathering.

The next **CLAY Gathering** is being held August 15-19, 2018 in Thunder Bay, ON, with the theme of "threads". A Synod Pre-Gathering Trip is being planned by Tammy Kirkwood and Krystle Plant for August 11-15, 2018 in and around Toronto, ON and area, it is hoped we will be able to see Niagara Falls. Stay tuned for exciting new details.

**National ELCIC Convention 2017** - There were two youth delegates to the National Convention this summer in Winnipeg. Chad Garson from Grace Lutheran, Edson, and Nyajuok Kulang from Lutheran Church of the Cross, Calgary attended with 25 other delegates from the Synod.

**Synod Youth Gathering** - A Synod youth gathering, *Freely Given*, took place May 5-7 at Camp Kuriakos, Sylvan Lake with 47 youth participating (64 participated in total, which included home team leaders, staff, and planning team representing 10 congregations). This year the gathering was a joint event (as was 2015) between with the Synod and Mulhurst, Kuriakos and Hastings Lake Lutheran Bible Camps. The gathering theme, reflecting the 500th commemoration of the Reformation; the keynote presentations by Rev. Richard Reimer; drama and Sunday preacher Jacob Rempel; workshop leaders; and the ministry of the gathering band all worked together well in proclaiming the reality of the theme. We were pleased that Bishop Larry was able to join us and to lead in a workshop.

Thank you to those who planned the gathering: Tammy Kirkwood, Rev. Erik Sorenson, Krystle Plant, Wayne Hoff, Kyra VanVeen and, from Camp Kuriakos, Kendra Freeland and Paul Kopjar!

We are anticipating a 2019 Synod Youth Gathering hopefully to be held at Hastings Lake Lutheran Bible Camp.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Wayne Huff  
Tammy Kirkwood (Chair)  
Krystle Plant  
Rev. Erik Sorenson  
Kyra Van Veen