

March 3, 2010

If you're reading this letter you're either...

- a. registered for the National Youth Gathering;
- b. a parent of someone registered for the National Youth Gathering; or
- c. someone who steals people's mail and reads it. If that's the case you should be ashamed of yourself. Who does that? Does your mother know what you're doing?



### **Meeting, March 28**

Our first pre-Gathering meeting is Sunday, March 28. We'll meet in the Bridge from 5:00-6:30 for some community building, some information sharing, some planning and preparing. Your attendance is expected; please plan to be there.

### **Air Transportation**

We're booked with AirTran for our flights. Lots more information will be coming about flights, but for now just know that we're booked!

### **Payments**

In this mailing you'll find a card with your current balance.

### **Fundraising**

- Garage Sale: Held in May, this is always a big fundraiser for those willing to work.
- Sunday Donuts: Sign up to sell donuts on Sunday mornings.
- Parent's Night Out: Once a month, see calendar. This event is for those who love children. You can earn \$\$ or service hours.
- Other options: If you would like to organize a fundraiser please talk to Joel

### **Service Hours**

Remember, part of the covenant was to complete 10 hours of service. Two opportunities are available in March:

- Project Home: during March WLC is hosting families overnight. Find out how you can help: [www.woodburylutheran.org](http://www.woodburylutheran.org), follow the Project Home link

### **Adult Leaders**

I'm thrilled to announce our adult leadership team for the Gathering:

Terri Albrecht (a Gathering veteran!), Amy Lanz, Brian Ingram, Jeff Linert, Rico Lopez and me (Joel ☺). We're excited to be going on this adventure with your sons and daughters.

## Financial Update

- Our pre-Gathering service through Camp Restore is being underwritten by a fund with money remaining from our work with Katrina Relief. This saves each participant \$150 plus two hotel nights.
- Our airfare came in a bit higher than planned, but local transportation came in lower.
- The last big expense unknown is which hotel we'll be in. Once we know we'll have a firm handle on the actual cost of the Gathering.
- For now it looks like we'll be at least \$150 lower than the original estimate.
- On the enclosed postcard the 'balance due' line still reflects the original cost of the trip. Once all the figures are in we'll adjust the bottom line.

## Preparing

- Keep your eyes on [www.lcmsgathering.com](http://www.lcmsgathering.com), the official Gathering site, for lots of information about the Gathering
- Join WLC - NYG on Facebook, if you haven't already. Lots of information will be available there. Post your thoughts, ask your questions...
- Keep your eyes on [www.wlcyouth.org](http://www.wlcyouth.org) for information about events, fundraisers, meetings etc.
- Keep in mind that part of the covenant was your participation in Sunday morning and/or Wednesday evening youth activities. Your presence at these events is vital to building the community that will make this Gathering a success.
- Communicate anything to me (Joel) early and often. Issues, questions, concerns, please bring them to me as soon as they arise.

## Pray

- For our adult leaders as they prepare to lead on this event.
- For the Gathering planners, some 200 volunteers, that make it all come together.
- That God will already prepare your heart for a time of growth.

One last word on payments: at this time we've made non-refundable deposits of \$160 per person for Gathering registration, airfare and ground transportation. If, for some reason, you need to cancel this trip we can only refund to you the amount you have paid less the \$160 we've paid out.

I hope you're getting excited about this trip. I know I am. I'm looking forward to our time together on the 28th as we begin the countdown together.

God's blessings,



Joel Symmank, DCE  
Youth Minister

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