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SMARK
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Maryanne Kehlenbach

Youth & Family Minister

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August 29, 2008

RE: 2008 Affirming Our Faith Retreat
October 3-5, 2008
Word of Life Retreat Center
Hudson, FL

Dear Middle School Parent:

The theme for the 2008 Affirming Our Faith Middle School Retreat is Rooted in Christ & Growing, Our theme scripture for the weekend is John 15: 1-17, with John 15:5 as our theme verse – “I am the vine, you are the branches.” We will be exploring this theme as it relates to what it means to be rooted in Christ in all that we do, growing daily in our faith and love. Our Keynote Speakers/Musicians – **Smallfish** - will be instrumental in leading us in song and large group time studies as together we uncover what it means to be “the branch”. Eric and Evan are from Florida and their musical sound is said to be a cross between “Billy Joel and Dave Matthews with a kazoo ensemble addition to their sound.” They are musical team that always engages with their audience! Your youth will not want to miss this event.

What Will We Do?

In addition to our time spent with Smallfish focusing on our scripture passage and listening to some awesome music, the activities include:

- Rock Climbing Wall with High Ropes and Zipline
- Basketball, Beach Volleyball, Frisbee Golf, Game Fields for large group games
- Crafts
- Inflatable Games

When Is It?

We will leave from the church on Friday 10/3 at 6:00pm. Snacks will be permitted in the van for the ride to Word of Life and a snack will be served when we arrive. We return to the church on Sunday afternoon 10/5 around 1:30 pm and your child will call you to advise of our pending arrival as we near the church.

What To Bring?

You will want to make sure that your child packs clothing appropriate for the season, sport shoes, a camera, a Bible, sleeping bag and/or bedding for bunks, pillow, flashlight, rain poncho, insect repellent, bathroom articles – inclusive of towels and washcloth. Absolutely no tobacco products, non-prescription drugs or alcohol is permitted. Your child can bring a CD player or electronic games player for the van ride only. Note – if your child has a cell phone, it can only be used in the van. A light snack will be provided on Friday evening, with Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner provided on Saturday and Breakfast and Lunch provided on Sunday.

What is the Cost?

The cost to attend the Retreat is \$125 with registrations received by Sunday, August 31st, and St. Mark will assist with the cost of this fantastic weekend with a \$50 sponsorship per youth. That means the cost is only **\$75!** This will include use of all facilities, meals for the weekend and of course – the t-shirt!!! Beginning on Monday, September 1st thru Monday, September 15th registration costs will move to \$135 – which means you will only pay **\$85!!** Registration does close on September 15th so don't delay!!!!

I Want To Go – Now What?

To make sure that you are registered for the Retreat:

- A **Synod Ministry Health Form** must be completed for each youth attending the retreat., as well as the **Youth Participant Covenant**. Please note that the section that identifies Medications Brought to Camp must clearly identify the name of the medication, dosage and timing of the dosage. The medicine dosage must be brought in the original prescription bottle. Any additional directions regarding the administration of those medications to your child would be helpful.
- A Participant Information Form must be completed.
- Include a check made payable to St. Mark Lutheran Church.
- Drop off the completed forms and check at the church office no later than Sunday, August 31st in the amount of \$75, or \$85 if forms are dropped off between September 1st and September 15th.

Chaperones

Our Chaperones for the event are Christa Dallaire and Jerry Rude. I will also be in attendance as the Co-Event Coordinator.

This is going to be a fantastic weekend for our youth! Please feel free to call if you have any questions. My cell phone is 727-599-5946.

Peace,

Maryanne