

New Jersey Synod



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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Dear Adult Participants,

Greetings! As we count down to YOUTH EVENT, know that many people are hard at work, faithfully preparing for this retreat - this time set apart with brothers and sisters in Christ from all over New Jersey to celebrate being in the active presence of the living God!

Thank you for your willingness to be a part of this important event! This is not only an opportunity for our youth to enjoy a safe, healthy weekend away with friends, but it also can be a time to connect (or re-connect) with the church and come face-to-face with God in their life.

We have many different types of adults at these events: parents, pastors, youth group leaders, confirmation mentors, and more! We ask that all adults serve in three capacities during the event.

As a safe, healthy adult 'presence' for all of the youth attending. We need you to act responsibly and appropriately around the youth, which includes encouraging them to act responsible and appropriately with each other!

As a participant. This event, and all of its activities, are for all participants - both young and old. For those of you who are not serving as a Small Group Leader, you will be a part of our Adult Small Group, led by me. We want you to be spiritually fed and challenged, too! Please remember that the rules, including participation in all of the activities, are for us adults to follow as well!

As a faith-model. Please know that we expect faith models to demonstrate a proper Lutheran faith - someone that has doubts, is imperfect, doesn't know everything, but who is a triple "A" Christian: authentic, available and affirming.

HOUSING

For first-timers, here is a heads-up on the housing situation. The females will be staying in the "Hotel" at Harvey Cedars, an old hotel that has been converted into a facility for this retreat center. The rooms sleep anywhere from 4 to 12 people, mainly in twin-sized, wood-framed bunk beds with a mattress (no box springs). The males are split between two buildings: upstairs in the Chapel, and in the Captains Deck. These have 8 people to a room. We put one or two adult in each room with the youth (usually just one in the case of the males). Sheets, blankets and pillows are provided. Sleeping Bags are NOT PERMITTED.

SAFETY

Safety is our top concern at this retreat. In addition to physical safety, we want to keep everyone's possessions safe as well. The sleeping rooms are **not locked** at any time, so we ask that the youth and adult participants try to leave as many of their valuables at home as possible. So please - no yachts or plasma screen TVs. iPods, cell phones and cash are also easy targets. You may wish to collect room valuables and lock them in your car. I'm also available to hold onto valuables in need.

Shalom

Jason Reed

NJ Synod Youth Ministry Specialist