

Helping Hands Day 2016

*“Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.”
- Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Exciting things are happening at this year’s **Helping Hands Day**, an event of spirited service in the community! Helping Hands Day 2016 is **Saturday, April 16th**. This is an amazing event where **young people and adults** will worship, share, laugh, eat, work, learn and serve God & our neighbors.

LOCATION

For 2016, Helping Hands Day projects will be located in various locations and contexts across the synod. We will be gathering together at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in King of Prussia for debriefing and closing worship.



THEME

This year’s theme is **ignite** - hearkening back to the story of Pentecost and the Holy Spirit’s coming among us in power and in fire. We’ll focus heavily on the significance of *light* in Scripture, lifting up Martin Luther King, Jr.’s famous quote, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.” With our work this year, we hope to **IGNITE** the fire of the Holy Spirit that burns within us to create a fire of light and hope in communities across our synod. We will proclaim boldly and together the truth of God’s light in the midst of places of darkness.

SCHEDULE

You will report directly to your assigned work site. You will arrive at your work site by 10:00 a.m. and stay until about 2:00 p.m. Each participant should bring a lunch, work gloves and a full water bottle.

Participants should arrive at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in King of Prussia by 2:30 p.m. and will spend time sharing and debriefing their day with their congregation. Closing worship will begin about 3:00 p.m. and HHD will be over by 4:15 p.m.

REGISTRATION DATES AND COST

Registration will be online only and opens March 6, 2016. To register your group, go to www.sepayouth.org and click on the link, or go to SEPA Youth’s Facebook page. Information on how to proceed with registration will be posted there. The registration fee is \$20 per participant, and you can pay via credit card or send in a check after you register your group. A HHD tshirt is provided for all participants. **We have set a firm registration deadline of April 3rd, and ALL adult participants’ Background Checks MUST be received no later than this date!** Background checks may be mailed to the Synod Office or sent via email to youthministry@sepa.org. For more information on the Background Checks now required by the state of Pennsylvania, please click [HERE](#).

REGISTRATION

HHD is primarily for **6-12 graders and adult leaders**, however this year we are also opening it to additional adults age 18+, as long as they have the appropriate background checks submitted. This means that if an older sibling, college student, parent, or grandparent is interested, we encourage you to invite them to join us!

Participants must register by the car load and work site assignments will be made based on those car loads. This is done for two important reasons: 1. Safety First! This way, drivers will only be transporting youth and adults from their congregation 2. This will ensure that each participant has a vehicle to ride in. **Participants may not register without a vehicle to ride in.** Car loads from at least two congregations will be assigned to each site. We assign groups in this manner so that participants can get to know Lutherans outside of their own congregation.

You will need the following information to register your group – For all participants: Name, T-shirt size, grade. For driving adult participants this additional information will be needed: Email address, Cell phone number for day of event, a copy of driver's license and insurance coverage for vehicle being used for event.

Each participant will need to fill out a medical release and covenant and allow their driver to carry it during the entire event on April 16th. A copy of their medical insurance card is also required to be with the driver or individual. The medical release form can be downloaded at any time [HERE](#) (pages 3-4).

If you have any questions about registration, please contact Dionne Jackson at youthministry@sepa.org or 267.323.3752.

DRIVERS (Please relay this important information to all who volunteer to be drivers)

Drivers and their vehicles play an important role in the success of this event. According to synod safety policies, all drivers must be at least 21. ***A photocopy of each driver's license and insurance coverage that is effective the day of the event for the vehicle being operated must be sent in to the synod office by April 3rd.*** (NOTE: Adults under 21 may register as an adult, but may NOT be a driver for the event.)

Drivers will receive information via email about the work site they have been assigned to the week of April 10th.

If a scheduled driver is unable to provide transportation, your congregation is responsible for securing a replacement, reporting the change to the registrar, and submitting the appropriate information via email before the start of the event.

Don't delay! Begin talking to people in your congregation as soon as possible!

A confirmation letter including additional event information will be sent following receipt of your registration.

We are looking forward to providing an opportunity for youth and adults from our synod to serve and get to know each other in the name of God.

Please make every effort to have your congregation participate in Helping Hands Day 2016 – and **IGNITE** the spark of service in your congregation!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Bradley R. Burke

Assistant to the Bishop for Youth Ministry, Young Adults, and Spiritual Formation

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

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