

HELPING HANDS DAY 2012

Preparations for our annual Southeastern PA Synod Helping Hands Day, an event of spirited-service and creative-celebration, are well under way! Helping Hands Day is Saturday, April 28th. This is an amazing event where young people in grades 6-12 and their adult leaders will worship, share, laugh, eat, work, sing, learn and serve God & our neighbors. This year's theme is *Hand in Hand*. We are looking forward to providing an opportunity to youth from all over the synod to serve and get to know each other in the name of God.

REGISTRATION DATES

Registration opens March 2, 2012. Registration for Helping Hands Day 2012 will be entirely online. To register your group, go to www.sepayouth.org and click the link for the service page. Information on how to proceed with registration will be posted there by March 2. Registration will be online. You can pay via credit card or send in a check after you register your group. We have set a firm registration deadline of April 4th. This means all registrations must be received no later than April 4th. The registration fee will be **\$15 a participant**.

So that this ministry continues to grow, we are offering an incentive to new congregations. If your congregation has not participated in Helping Hands Day in the last five years, your adults can come for **NO CHARGE!** :)

REGISTRATION

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 may continue the rich tradition of getting 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.

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 by April 11th.*** (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 following the close of registration.

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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.

SCHEDULE

Car loads should report directly to their assigned work site. You will arrive at your work site by **10:00** a.m. and stay until **2:00** p.m. We are asking that each participant pack a lunch to eat at their work site.

Participants should arrive at our home base congregation, St. Peter Lutheran Church in North Wales, by about 2:30 p.m. and will debrief with their congregation, enjoy worship and fellowship together. The event will end around **5:00** p.m. Following worship, there will be a celebration/fellowship event, at which refreshments and fun activities will be provided.

OFFERING

An offering will be taken during worship. We are encouraging an offering of at least \$5 per person. Please stay tuned for more information regarding the recipient of the offering for this year's Helping Hands Day!

Don't delay! Begin talking to youth in your congregation as soon as possible! A confirmation letter including additional event information will be sent following receipt of your registration materials. Each participant will need to fill out a medical release and either carry it with them or allow their driver to carry it during the entire event on April 28th. 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 anytime on our web site, www.sepayouth.org.

This is always a fun and meaningful event for youth and adult participants and the organizations we serve. Please make every effort to have your congregation participate in Helping Hands Day 2012!

In Christ,

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