

Dear Youthworkers and Pastors,

E2 is the new senior high retreat for the Florida-Bahamas Synod, scheduled for May 16-18, 2008 at the Word of Life Retreat Center in Hudson. The theme for the retreat, taken from Ephesians 2:8: is "For by grace you have been saved through faith..." How will you respond? Encouraging Excellence! Youth will sign up to be a part of one of the tracks offered during the event. Each track is designed to challenge youth to grow in faith, identify areas in which they excel in serving God, and encourage them to take ownership of their faith development. Tracks offered are as follows: Developing a Spiritual Life, Faith Formation (formerly EQUIP), Worship, Vocation and Discernment, Faith and Fitness, Leadership, Justice in Our World, What's Next? (for graduating seniors), Peer Ministry and an Adult track. Registration is now open. Early Registration of \$135 will close at midnight on April 7, 2008, Regular Registration of \$145 will close at midnight on May 1, 2008, and Late Registration (with prior approval from the registrar) of \$165 will be in place from that point forward. Fees include housing, t-shirts, all program materials, our Saturday night celebration, a pizza snack on Friday night, all meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday.



For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8

How will you respond? - Encouraging Excellence!

If your group registered for the original date in January: You are still registered for the event in May unless you contacted the registrar to cancel. If someone in your group that was registered to attend in January is not able to attend in May, please contact our volunteer registrar, Amy Monfre, at 727-441-3018 or amymonfre@yahoo.com, to cancel the registration by March 25th (deadline extended). After that date, everyone still registered will be considered registered for the May event and normal cancellation policies will apply. You will receive reminders regarding that March 25th cancellation deadline by email. Those who remain registered after March 25th and who paid at the \$145 or \$165 rates will automatically receive the \$135 rate. The corresponding refund will be sent by check to the congregation after the event.

Track List: In the attached brochure, you will find an updated track list. All tracks offered during the January weekend are available for the May weekend. In addition, three other tracks have been added: Leadership, What's Next? (for high school seniors) and an Adult Track which will include the following sessions: Youth Gathering in New Orleans in 2009, What's Working in Your Ministry and What's Not? and Prayer and Spirituality. Please be aware that in addition to the adult track, adults are also welcome to attend any of the other tracks as well. There will be no session in the Adult track on Sunday morning. Please review the updated list and ask all participants to make their selections. If participants are already registered and their selections remain the same, you do not need to do anything. If they have changed, please contact the registrar to make the

changes. Please note that due to planning purposes and supply orders, participants *must attend the track they registered to attend*. Changes to the track selection may be made until the close of registration. In addition, registrants must also select *three different* track options. During the January registration process, we had many people select the first track option for all three track choices. Please note that we are adding the option, for adults only, Not Attending a Track.

8th Graders: For this year only, since the event is in May and close to the end of the school year, 8th graders are invited to attend. Use this event as an opportunity to build excitement about senior high ministry in your congregation!

E2 2009: Mark your calendars! Next year's date has been set: February 20-22, 2009, at the Holiday Inn in Cocoa Beach with the Pool Boys! Next year is a LYFBOT (Lutheran Youth of the Florida-Bahamas Organized Together) Convention year and will be included in the Leadership Track. Be thinking now of potential leaders to nominate for LYFBOT. We will be electing six youth to LYFBOT to serve our Synod as President, Vice President, Secretary, North Mission District Representative, Southwest Mission District Representative and Southeast Mission District Representative.

Email updates: We will communicate with you by regular mail as well as by email. If you or someone from your congregation does not receive the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Updates by email, then please go to: <http://lists.e-lutheran.com/mailman/listinfo/synod-ym> and sign up. This is one of the main ways we communicate information out to the synod regarding youth and young adult ministry.

Should you have any questions regarding registration, please contact our volunteer registrar, Amy Monfre, at 727-441-3018 or amymonfre@yahoo.com. If you have any questions regarding the event, please contact our volunteer event coordinators, Amy McMullen at 407-399-2387 or amys@cfl.rr.com or Sue Mendenhall, AiM, 727-585-9969 or sue@poplargo.org. We look forward to seeing you in May!

The E2 Team