

February 3, 2014

Dear Youth and Parents:

Happy New Year! According to my records, your student has registered to participate in our annual Confirmation Retreat (see participant list below). Our 5th through 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat that is coming up on Friday, February 21 and Saturday, February 22 at Salem Lutheran Church in Tomball, Texas. Together, we will be attending EPICENTER: A Middle School Youth Gathering planned by the youth leaders of Salem Lutheran in Tomball and Trinity Lutheran in Spring.

WE **WILL NOT** BE HAVING A MEETING...HERE IS ALL THE INFORMATION. Please read through everything thoroughly and if you have any questions please let me know.

The following information regarding EPICENTER is included in this mailing:

- *Housing Information
- *Travel Plans
- *What to bring/NOT to bring
- *Tentative Schedule
- *Participant List
- *List of guidelines that all youth and adults will abide by

Please read through all the information and if you have any questions, contact me @722-1609 or dcekristy@sbcglobal.net

Charter Bus leaves promptly at 4:30pm on Friday, February 21!

Love Always in Christ,

Kristy L. Witek
Director of Christian Education
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Schedule for Epicenter 2014

Friday February 21st

7:00–7:30 Check in at Salem, put gear in designated rooms - Gameroom & Gym Open (CC Atrium)

7:30–9:00 Main Session 1 (CC Second Stage)

9:00-9:30 Snacks (CC Atrium)

9:30–10:30 Crazy dress dance (CC Second Stage)

10:30-11:00 Closing devotion with acoustic music (CC Second Stage)

11:00 Go to rooms for devotions with church group (CC)

12:00 Lights out

Saturday February 22nd

8:00-8:30 Breakfast (CC Atrium)

8:30-9:00 Crowd Game (CC Second Stage)

9:00-10:15 Main Session 2 (CC Second Stage)

10:30-11:30 Sectional 1 (CC Second Stage, Rec Room, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, Clubhouse)*

11:45-12:30 Lunch (CC Atrium)

12:30-2:00 Playtime - dodgeball, inflatables, video games (CC Gym, Rec Room, Atrium)

2:00-3:00 Sectional 2 (CC Second Stage, Rec Room, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, Clubhouse)*

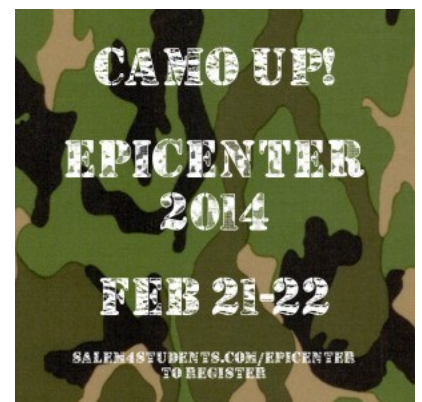
3:00-3:30 Cleanup (CC)

3:30-5:00 Main Session 3 / Closing (CC Second Stage)

**Miss Kristy will be leading a Sectional this year called "I HATE TESTS."*

We hope you will consider attending her sectional!

FYI: Be sure to bring your cell phone to Miss Kristy's sectional too!



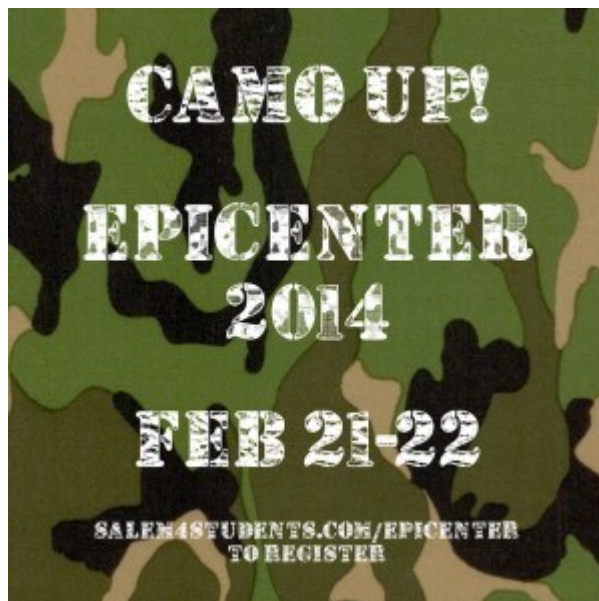
5th & 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat

February 21-22, 2014

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Group Guidelines

- Participants will have a positive attitude and be flexible when things go wrong or the schedule changes.
- Participants will use words that “build” people up, avoiding put downs and sarcasm at all times.
- If and when we make a “pit stop” all youth will return to vehicle quickly.
- Participants will be on time for all scheduled activities (this is why participants need a watch.)
- All youth and adults must sleep in the room they are assigned.
- Participants will be tidy in rooms and considerate of others sleep needs (not staying up all night talking.)
- If there are complaints of excessive noise in a particular room, counselors will immediately make appropriate room changes.
- Participants will have lights out, in rooms, and be sleeping on or before 1am each night.
- There is NO use of illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco.
- There is ZERO TOLERANCE for substance abuse (alcohol and other drugs) or other major problem (theft, property damage, etc.): Police may be involved and the youth will be sent home at parent’s expense.
- If a participant fails to follow these guidelines, he/she may be asked to spend part or all of a day under the direct supervision of an adult counselor.
- Adult counselors will follow the same rules youth have to follow!
- *Please keep track of your money and valuables...DO NOT LEAVE THEM LYING AROUND.*
- Cellphones are allowed, however, should be used for emergencies only and if they become a problem, we will take them up during the day.



5th-8th Grade Confirmation Retreat EPICENTER

Friday, February 21 -Saturday, February 22 in Tomball, Texas

Housing Arrangements:

Salem Lutheran Church
22601 Lutheran Church Road
Tomball, TX 77377

Phone Number: (281) 351-8223

Travel Plans: We have reserved a 38-Passenger Bus.

Please meet in the Family Life Center parking lot and be ready to leave Friday, February 22 @4:30pm.

**Please pack your stuff in your car BEFORE school, so you can be ready to travel to FLC immediately when you get released from school!*

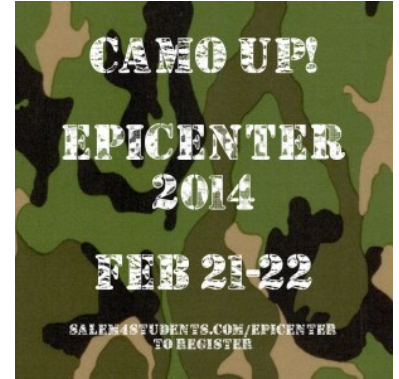
What to bring: Each person will only be able to bring 1 SMALL suitcase.

1. Casual clothes (shirts, jeans, etc) – no short shorts or skimpy tops.
2. Comfortable shoes
3. Toiletry items (Please coordinate with others)
4. A cellphone (with time) or a watch (youth will be responsible for being on time)
5. **Bible**
6. Air mattress, pillow &/or blanket/SLEEPING BAG
7. \$ for souvenirs
8. Clothes for “Crazy Dress Night” (ie: wear clothes backwards, wear mismatched clothes, wear crazy hair, etc)

**Reminder: Please bring some snacks, in case you get hungry between meals. We will not be able to go off campus to get extra food.*

Please **DO NOT** bring:

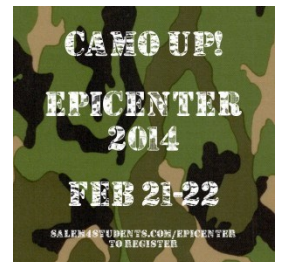
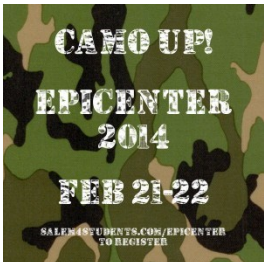
1. CD player/walkman/radio
2. Expensive jewelry, expensive cameras or other valuables
3. Stuffed animals or unnecessary things that take up space.



Holy Cross EPICENTER Participant List

1. Albright, Emily	S	Youth
2. Borel, Amber	S	Youth
3. Bruney, Emma	S	Youth
4. Cannon, Chloe	S	Youth
5. Collins, Jaycee	S	Youth
6. Derouen, Keagan	S	Youth
7. Hickman, Brayden	S	Youth
8. Hopper, Maggie	M	Youth
9. Irvine, Chad	S	Youth
10. Irvine, Morgan	S	Youth
11. McGill, Karley	S	Youth
12. Miller, Tatum	S	Youth
13. Shaw, Cain	S	Youth
14. Shuford, Taylor	S	Youth
15. Terrell, Holly	S	Youth
16. Tindel, Mackenzie	S	Youth
17. Torres, Alec	M	Youth
18. Torres, Hannah	S	Youth
19. Wiedenfeld, Jessica	S	Youth
20. Woodall, Piper	S	Youth
21. Woodruff, Mia	M	Youth
22. Zampini, Kaden	S	Youth
23. Zizmont, Savannah	S	Youth

1. Pastor Francis Schroeder	XL	Adult
2. DCE Kristy Witek	L	Adult
3. Carla Derouen	M	Adult
4. Kristin Runnels	M	Adult
5. Amber Harms	M	Adult
6. Kaitlyn Collins	L	Adult
7. Cathy Borel	M	Adult





Middle School Youth Lock-In

**Sunday, March 9 @9pm
through
Monday, March 10 @8am**

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Cost: \$10 per person

(covers the cost of Bowling, Laser Tag and food)

Attention all Middle School (5th-8th Grade) Youth.

You and your friends are invited to join us for our Middle School Lock-In.

More specifics about this awesome event will be coming soon! Mark your calendars!
Contact DCE Kristy Witek if you or your friends are planning to attend.

Adult Counselors/Drivers are Needed!

If you are 22 years old or older, we need your help as an Adult Counselor, to help supervise throughout the evening. Drivers needed to transport youth from Bowling Alley

Adults (22+ years) please sign-up for one of the following shifts:

8:30pm-12:00am; 11:30pm- 4:00am, 3:30am-8:00am



Tentative Schedule

9pm-11pm—Bowling and Laser Tag
at Max Bowl

(3500 Regional Dr, Port Arthur)

Parents should drop off at Max Bowl by 9pm. Please walk them in to the facility and check in with DCE Kristy before leaving!

11:30pm—Return to Holy Cross Family Life Center

12Midnight—8am—Pizza Party, Tons of Games Food and Fun!

Items Need!

Board Games, Play Station 3/4, XBOX, Video games, Movies (G or PG), etc.

What should participants bring?

FRIENDS, Signed Parental Health Release Form, Sleeping Bag/Pillow, Air Mattress (if needed), Extra set of “comfy” clothes, Pajamas (t-shirts and pj pants ONLY), Board Games/Cards (with your name on them)

GIRLS CAMP

Middle School Girl's Retreat

Friday, March 21-Sunday, March 23
Hopper Camp—Dogwood Estates at Toledo Bend

Cost: \$10 per person

All 5th-8th Grade GIRLS & friends are encouraged to join us for a two day, two night retreat in God's great outdoors! This event is for MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRL'S ONLY (5th-8th Grade)! You DO NOT need to be a member to attend this event. Bring your friends! FYI: We will be staying inside in a beautiful cabin on Toledo Bend!

The theme for the weekend is "Sparkle," inspired by the verse "*Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly onto the Word of Life.*" Philippians 2:15 Throughout the weekend we will worship & sing around the campfire, learn more about Jesus, talk about what it means to follow Him, love Him and SPARKLE for Him, eat and make delicious food, have a pajama dance party, eat S'mores, stay up late chatting, pray, & just SPARKLE doing lots of girly stuff!

Tentative Schedule

Friday, March 21

5pm—Leave for Camp
6pm—Dinner @Fast Food along the way
9pm—Settle In
10pm— Make Your Own Ice Cream Sundae's
12Midnight—Bedtime

Saturday, March 22

TBA—Get up
9am—Devotions
9:30am—Big Breakfast—Pancakes, eggs, bacon, etc
10:30am—Camp Fun
Kayaking, Paddle Boating, Dune Buggy, Scavenger Hunt, Trails,
Be Outdoors!
3pm—Early Dinner—Hot Dogs
4pm— Girly Movie Marathon & Popcorn
6pm—Rice Krispie Treat Bar (make your own)
10pm—Campfire Devotions, Star gazing & S'mores
11pm—Games and Movie Marathon Continues

Sunday, March 23

9am—Breakfast—cinnamon rolls and biscuits
10am— Devotions
12noon—Lunch
12:30pm—Clean Up Camp
2pm—Leave Camp
5pm—Return to Holy Cross



Female Adult Sponsors/Drivers are needed!

We are in need of ladies, 22 years old or older to help as adult sponsors/drivers for this very special event!
Please contact DCE Kristy Witek if you are interested!

What to bring?

Signed parental health release form, two sets of extra clothes (*clothes you can get dirty*), toiletries, your favorite jammies, \$10, socks, sleeping bag and pillow & Friends!



6th-8th Grade Mission Trip

Sunday, July 6 through Friday, July 11, 2014

Austin, Texas

"Week of Hope" sponsored by Group Workcamps

www.groupworkcamps.com

Registration Fee: \$262 (non-refundable)

Covers the cost of transportation, housing, most meals

Deadline to Register will be

Sunday, March 2, 2014

Who is eligible to attend?

Middle School Youth who will be entering the 6th, 7th and 8th Grade in the Fall 2014

Adult Sponsors (21+)

What is the Focus of this Mission Trip?

Week of Hope is a great mission experience that our present 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students will never forget! Helping students explore their faith is one of the most important and fulfilling responsibilities we have as church leaders and parents. Research suggests that by the time they're 13, your kids' basic value systems are set for life. Teenagers will learn Christ-like empathy and compassion for others as they meet the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of disadvantaged children, youth, and adults. As students serve in the name of Jesus, they'll develop friendships with the people being served, with teenagers on other teams, with members of their own youth group, and, most importantly, with Jesus. Projects might include: Providing meals to the homeless, Tutoring poor or struggling children, Helping to lead a day camp for kids, Organizing a home or sprucing up a dilapidated home, Painting a room or deep-cleaning a home, Working with disabled children, Sharing stories with a lonely elderly person in an assisted-living facility. Your team's acts of kindness will mean the world to the people you serve. Each day, students will enjoy meaningful, thematic worship and devotion times, plus opportunities for devotions. They'll spend time together and connect more deeply in their Christian faith.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

The completed registration form AND a
\$262.00 NON-REFUNDABLE registration fee,
and UPDATED Parental Health Release Form are due no later than
Sunday, March 2, 2014
(no exceptions)

Spots are available on a first-come; first-serve basis, so turn in your registration forms ASAP.

If you have any questions, please contact DCE Kristy Witek
@722-1609 or via email at dcekristy@sbcglobal.net

6th, 7th, 8th Grade Youth Mission Trip
YOUTH REGISTRATION FORM

Youth's/Adult's Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Grade (fall of 2014): __ 6th __ 7th __ 8th __ Adult

Address: _____

Parent's Home Phone #: _____ Work #/Cell #: _____

I/my youth is hereby committing to attend the Youth Mission Trip to Austin, Texas on Sunday, July 6 through Friday, July 11, 2014 and give myself/son/daughter permission to attend. I understand that I will be responsible for paying the \$262 (non-refundable) Registration Fee for this trip.

Participant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____

The completed registration form AND a
\$262.00 NON-REFUNDABLE registration fee,
and UPDATED Parental Health Release Form are due no later than
Sunday, March 2, 2014(*no exceptions*)

ADULT Counselor Application Form

Adult Counselor's Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Age (as of July 6, 2014): _____ email address: _____

Address: _____

Parent's Home Phone #: _____ Work #/Cell #: _____

I would like to be considered as an ADULT COUNSELOR to attend the 6th-8th Grade Youth Mission Trip on Sunday, July 6 through Friday, July 11, 2014 and understand that there will be a random drawing (of all interested adults) to decide who will be attending the Mission Trip as official Adult Counselors. I also understand that adults do not have to pay a registration fee for this event

Adult Counselor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

