

**Vocation: To Love and Serve**

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.

1 Peter 4:10

**Youth Retreat FAQs**

WHO: Youth in grades 7 to 12 (or ages 12 to 18), their leaders, and adult volunteers (iBods)

WHEN: 7:00 pm on Friday, April 19, to 12:30 pm on Sunday, April 21, 2024

WHERE: St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Leduc, and the Best Western Denham Inn and Suites, Leduc

**How much will it cost?**

$75 per youth, leader, and iBod volunteer. This includes accommodations at the Best Western Denham Inn and Suites in Leduc, programming, and five meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday, and breakfast and lunch on Sunday). Fees are not refundable – once you’ve registered online, we’re counting on your attendance and your registration fees. However, a registration transfer may be allowed at the Registrar’s discretion.

**How do I register?**

***See the enclosed ‘Registration Checklist’ for more information.*** A registration package is available for download from our website, and **the** **final registration deadline is midnight, Friday, March 15, 2024**. Once your youth and leaders have completed their forms and returned them to you, **register your group online at** [www.lutheranyouthretreat.ca](http://www.lutheranyouthretreat.ca) **no later than midnight on March 15** You are required to bring with you to the retreat all original copies of the parental permission and waiver forms.

**What’s happening at the retreat?**

Eating, sleeping, worship, Bible studies, sessions with various leaders, swimming, games, and a servant event! There will be a tentative retreat schedule posted on the website to give you an idea of the weekend’s activities.

**What about accommodations?**

Participants will stay at the Best Western Denham Inn and Suites, around the corner from St. Peter’s Lutheran Church. Cost is based on four youth per room, and two leaders per room. Everyone will be accommodated on the same floor for ease of supervision. Breakfasts are at the hotel. Time is allowed in the schedule for swimming in the hotel pool.

**Who’s the speaker?**

There will be study leaders from various walks of life in the Church who will lead us through four sessions on the topic of Vocation – our service as Christians both in the Church and in our daily lives.

**What is a 7+1 Leader?**

Every group that attends must have at least one leader who is responsible for a maximum of 7 youth. This means if 7 or fewer youth attend, 1 leader must accompany them. If 8 attend, 2 leaders must accompany them, etc. 7+1 Leaders are responsible for the care and nurture of each youth in their group throughout the retreat. Leaders are expected to attend all retreat activities and participate fully with their group.

**Who can be a 7+1 Leader?**

A 7+1 leader must be a confirmed member of Lutheran Church—Canada, be at least 21 years old at the time of the retreat, be approved by their pastor/elder/church worker for their role as a Youth Leader, and submit an original police check that is not more than one year old. *(We strongly discourage congregations from sending leaders under 21. However, if another leader over 21 is attending and will co-lead, an exception may be made. Please contact the committee to discuss.)*

**Do I send a male *and* a female 7+1 leader if I have more than 7 youth?**

No! You are only required to send one leader for every seven youth. However, we recommend that you consider having a 7+1 leader of each gender.

**Can I come if I’m not a youth or a leader?**

There are opportunities for volunteers, ‘iBods’ (adult volunteers), to attend the retreat. These volunteers assist as needed with kitchen duties, leading games or Bible studies, and other jobs. iBods (adult volunteers) must be 19 years or older, and provide a police check, as well as a reference from a pastor, church worker, or church elder. Please see the iBod (Adult Volunteer) registration form for more information.

**What’s the deal with police checks?**

All adults (persons over the age of 18) attending the retreat must provide a police check to the planning committee. Confirm with the registrar that you have a recent police check (not more than one year old) in your possession. This is done out of a desire to protect our youth and see to their safety to the best of our ability. Check with your local police department – some of them will give you a discount on the fee if you provide a letter from your church.

**Do I *have* to get a police check?**

Yes! All adults (people over the age of 18) attending the retreat as leaders or iBods must provide an original police record with vulnerable sector screening done within the last year! The original document will be returned to you after the retreat, and we will keep a copy for our records.

**How do we pay our registration fees?**

We accept cheques only. Cheques should be made payable to ‘Foothills Lutheran Youth’. Please bring just one cheque for the whole group.

**Why do you want all of these original police checks and paper forms with signatures? Can’t we just go paperless?**

We need all the paper registration forms with original signatures on file for seven years, for legal reasons!

**What if I (or my youth) can’t attend the whole weekend?**

Contact the retreat committee to discuss the situation. However, if you register a youth who will not be present for the whole weekend, you must notify the registrar regarding when the youth will be absent. (We do not offer a discounted rate for only a portion of the weekend.)

*Leaders must be present for the whole weekend, and must supervise their youth at all times.* ‘Switching’ leaders in and out is not permitted without special permission from the committee for extraordinary circumstances.

**Other questions?** Contact the registrar, Deacon Miriam Winstanley (miriam@foothillslutheran.com), or the committee chair, Grace Henderson (bitb@telus.net).