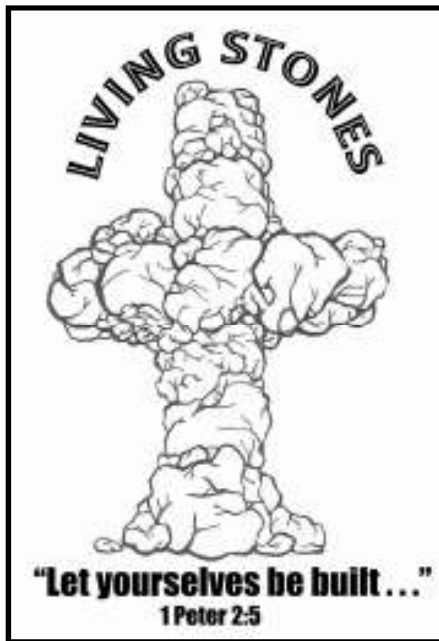


Dear Pastor/Youth Leader:

The Region 9 Youth Ministry Planning Team is excited to share with you a unique opportunity for senior high youth for cross-cultural immersion in the Caribbean Synod of the ELCA. Fifty high school youth from the Florida-Bahamas, Southeastern, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia Synods will join 50 youth from the Caribbean Synod for a Puerto Rico Immersion Experience December 26, 2007 to January 2, 2008.



Students will be chosen through an application process which is open to all high school youth, who will be in 9th-12th grade at the time of the event. Preference will be given to 11th and 12th grade youth. The selection committee will look for young people of maturity, who exhibit a passion for cross-cultural immersion. The registration deadline is March 30, 2007.

While in Puerto Rico, students from the States will be housed with youth and their families from Lutheran congregations in Puerto Rico. A thorough background check will be completed on all families. In addition, students will receive information about their host family prior to the event. A critical part of the preparation for this event is communication between the host family and the sending family as well as communication between the host congregation and the sending congregation. A commitment from host and sending families, as well as from host and sending

congregations, to build relationships prior to the event will be part of the application process. It is our hope that these relationships will continue long after the event has concluded.

Included in this mailing, you will find a student application form, a nomination form, a tentative schedule, a brief overview of the program and information on whom to contact for more information.

Please share this information with the families in your congregation.

In Christ,

Handwritten signature of Susan C. Mendenhall.

Susan C. Mendenhall, Associate in Ministry
Event Coordinator

...like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:5