

Region 9 Puerto Rico Cross-Cultural Immersion Experience

What is it? 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 cross-cultural immersion experience in Puerto Rico.

When is it? December 26, 2007 to January 2, 2008.

How much is it? \$400 + travel

What is an Immersion Experience? This is not a tourist trip. It is an intentional time to live in, experience and be part of a culture other than our own. We will live with, walk alongside, and share common experiences with ELCA Lutherans in Puerto Rico.

Who will attend? Students who will be in 9th-12th grade at the time of the event. Students will be chosen through an application process which is open to all high school youth, however 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.

How do students apply? Each student applying will need to submit an application form as well as a nomination form from his or her pastor. The application and nomination forms are found in this packet and can be downloaded from each Synod's website (information on the Contact Page) or from <http://www.elca.org/synods/region9.asp>.

What will youth do while they are there? Youth will spend time experiencing the culture of Puerto Rico, doing mission work and interacting with their host family and host congregation.

Where will youth stay while in Puerto Rico? 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 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.

I have questions! Where can I get answers? Included with this information, is a list of contacts for each synod as well as the contact information for the Region 9 office.

“Let yourselves be built ...”

1 Peter 2:5

“...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