



January 24, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This summer, the youth at Bethlehem have the opportunity to attend the *Higher Things* youth conference in Maryville, Missouri. The mission of *Higher Things, Inc.* is to assist parents, congregations, and pastors in cultivating and promoting a Lutheran identity among youth through retreats, publications, the internet and conferences such as the one we will be attending in July. *Higher Things* is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

What happens at a Higher Things conference?


Three distinctive things take place at the conference: Worship, work, and play. Higher Things conferences have a very strong emphasis on worship - normally holding three services each day from the daily prayer offices (Matins, Vespers, Evening Prayer, Compline, etc.). A lot of time at conferences is also devoted to solid Biblical teaching in both plenary and sectional sessions on topics of catechetical interest to youth by speakers skilled at connecting with them. And there is always healthy mix of fun for teens too. Each locale provides different opportunities for youth to engage in a variety of fun and recreational activities together and during free time. Students who have attended in the past have greatly enjoyed the conference and found it educational.

Destination → Higher Things Conference - Marysville, Missouri

Bethlehem Youth will be attending the Higher Things conference in **Marysville, Missouri, July 2-7, 2012.** The current plan is to drive down to Marysville on July 2nd and return on July 7th. Below are some important details that you should know:

- Only youth who have been confirmed, or are currently in confirmation class may attend *Higher Things*.
- The registration fee is \$325 per youth. A **non-refundable** deposit of \$100 is required at the time of registration. The balance of the registration will be covered by Bethlehem Youth.
- Transportation to and from the conference; and additional lodging (two nights outside of the conference) will be covered by individual youths. **However, there are fundraising plans to cover these costs.** More details to come on this.

We'd like to encourage all youth to attend *Higher Things* regardless of their financial situation. Please see Kim Ulmer, Margie Kennelly, or Pastor Raddatz if you would like to attend but may need assistance. These conversations will be kept confidential.



IMPORTANT
DATE!!

Individual Registration Form and \$100 **non-refundable** deposit is due by **Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2012.** Checks can be made out to Bethlehem Youth.

Sincerely,

Bethlehem Youth Parents