

May 4, 2017

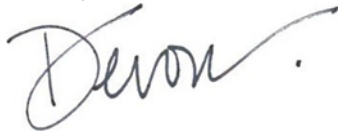
Dear Trinity Parents of Youth 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade (as of September 2017):

Trinity will be participating in the White Earth Mission Trip for the fifth summer in a row.

Below is all (or most) of the information you will need to discern whether or not your youth(s) will attend this program, and the parent “to dos” necessary to become involved in getting our delegation organized (“many hands make light work”) and ready to go.

Please e-mail me with your questions that are not answered here: [devon@trinityexcelsior.org](mailto:devon@trinityexcelsior.org). It’s hard for me to give you good answers to questions 3 minutes before worship on Sunday morning. Please e-mail me! I can give you better information in a more focused way. Except for Mondays (my day off) I check my e-mail several times per day and will be prompt in my response to you.

Peace,



### **About the White Earth Mission Trip**

For those of you who are new to the program – the White Earth Mission Trip as we know it began as a partnership with the White Earth Nation and three Episcopal congregations: Trinity, St. David’s Minnetonka and Epiphany Plymouth (the youth refer to the combined congregations as “St. Triphany”). The project began several years before St. Triphany joined in through the incredible leadership and vision of Valerie Red Horse in cooperation with the White Earth Nation, several commercial contractors, and an Episcopal Church in Darien, Connecticut.

The project seeks to serve White Earth enrollees (members of the tribe) who do not live on the reservation. The week usually consists of several building projects (building new roofs on homes, bathroom installation, painting, and a Vacation Bible School offered to the indigenous community at Cass Lake). Our youth live together for that week, along with adult leaders from Trinity, and work on the various job sites or all week at Vacation Bible School. During the week the large group gathers for cultural education, feasts, and fellowship. The trip is a ministry, a partnership, an education, and a chance to build relationships with each other all rolled in to one weeklong event.

**Dates:** Saturday, July 30 – Saturday, August 4, 2017.

**Departure:** The group will meet at Trinity Church on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am to load cars, take a group photo, and get organized. The caravan will leave at 8:45 am.

### **Lodging:**

Youth Hostel at Itasca State Park (3:40 minute drive)  
27910 Forest Lane, Grand Rapids  
Phone: 281-266-3415

<https://www.hiusa.org/hostels/minnesota/park-rapids/mississippi-headwaters-hostel>

## **Adult Chaperones (with cell phone/contact information)**

Chris Commers: 952.215.7747 commersc@gmail.com

This will be Chris' fifth time chaperoning the White Earth Mission Trip. Chris is a long-time member of Trinity Church. In his professional life, Chris is a high school teacher and is now the elected leader of a local teacher's union.

Kathy Ericson: 952.201.4572 kericson2313@gmail.com

This summer is also Kathy's fifth run with this trip. Kathy raised her own girls (now grown) at Trinity, and her daughters were very involved in youth ministry both at Trinity and in the wider diocese. Kathy is a "guest star" at youth ministry events for senior high at Trinity throughout the program year (she was one of our overnight chaperones for Maundy Thursday this past Holy Week) and knows most of the youth pretty well. *Kathy is also an RN, so if there are medications or any medical concerns for your young person, please contact Kathy directly.*

Mark Hurley: 612.432.8623 mhurley72@msn.com

You may know Mark as Jeannie's Dad. Or, you may know Mark as one of our faithful adult leaders for Sunday night Senior High Youth Group. This summer will be Mark's second voyage with the White Earth Mission Project. Mark is a professional contractor, and is working with the St. Triphany Team to secure the building sites for this year. Mark will be the project manager for the specific construction site our Trinity youth will work on this year – and he is committed to safety and oversight.

Alan Wright: 612.590.8639 tapari98@gmail.com

This summer will be Alan's first chaperone-gig for the mission trip, but Alan has been supporting this effort for four years, when his daughter Taylor began attending. Alan has also been representing Trinity at the St. Triphany White Earth Mission Trip planning meetings.

### **Cost: \$300/person**

Checks should be addressed to "Trinity Episcopal Church" with youth name and "White Earth" written in the memo line. There is an on-line charge option. Please contact Sarah Kimmelman in the office ([office@trinityexcelsior.org](mailto:office@trinityexcelsior.org)) to pay this way.

Registration fees are due Monday, June 12, 2017. The registration fee includes lodging, food and transportation for the week. Last year we had a few youth who, for work and family reasons, could not attend the full week, but they were asked to pay the full \$300, which will be the policy again this year.

## **Fundraising**

Trinity has traditionally pledged a donation of \$3000 towards home improvement/construction supplies, Vacation Bible School materials. This year we'd like to add to our goal the \$300 for each of the adult chaperones' registration fee (\$1200).

1) *Trinity direct donation campaign:* Sunday, June 11, 2017. Details forthcoming.

2) *School Supplies/Backpack Drive:* this effort gathers school supplies and backpacks for the indigenous children served by the Cass Lake Family Center. The drive will begin Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> and continue through the month of June.

## **Volunteer Roles**

*Every family sending a young person and every adult chaperone on this trip is expected to volunteer for **at least one thing**.* Please e-mail Sarah Kimmelman ([office@trinityexcelsior.org](mailto:office@trinityexcelsior.org)) and let her know how you will be helping the effort.

<b>Volunteer Role</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Team Lead</b> (Devon can serve in this role until she leaves for sabbatical June 4 <sup>th</sup> . After that there will need to be a specific Team Lead. The role is to work with Trinity's administrator to make sure all the balls are in the air.	1.
<b>Registration, Forms, and Payment</b>	Sarah Kimmelman/Trinity Administrator
<b>Fundraising campaign</b> Everyone going to White Earth is asked to participate in the project, but these people would be the organizers, both of the June 11 <sup>th</sup> event and the backpack drive.	1. Jeannie Hurley 2. Kendall Rude 3. 4.
<b>Food planning / purchasing</b> Put together meal and snack menu for the week; Purchase food and execute plan for keeping food cold until arrival at Itasca .	1. 2. 3.
<b>Transportation Coordinators</b> Discern who can drive their car (adult leaders; parents; additional adults as needed) to and from Itasca, and cars for on-site transportation throughout the week; make sure all transport for participants is secured; produce route maps to and from Itasca; if borrowing a van/car, make arrangements for wash/clean upon return; organize gas money for drivers.	1. 2.
<b>Packing List</b> Develop definitive packing list for participants and circulate.	1.

<p><b>Treasurer</b> Monitor the going in and the going out of funds in the White Earth account; cut check for the balance of the Hostel cost; petty cash and gas money for adult leaders/drives; settle accounts at the end of the trip.</p>	<p>1.</p>
<p><b>T-Shirts</b> We have had a Trinity t-shirt for the trip in years past (last year the youth tie-died them before the trip). We don't HAVE to have t-shirts, but if there's a person or 2 who want to coordinate this effort that would be great.</p>	<p>1. 2.</p>
<p><b>Thank You Notes</b> Work with the fundraising team to acquire the names of all those who contributed financially (or with their time) to the fundraising efforts; purchase thank you notes/cards plus postage (Trinity can reimburse you); address and put postage on each envelope; purchase colorful pens; put cards/envelopes &amp; pens into an envelope and give to an adult leader; the youth will sign the cards to donors and send them from White Earth during the week.</p>	<p>1.</p>
<p><b>First Aid Kits</b> Restock the 4-5 first aid kits that go with the group on the trip and to job sites.</p>	<p>1.</p>

### **Parent/Adult Leader Check-List**

\_\_\_\_\_ Read the organizational letter carefully, and in full

\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail any unanswered questions to Devon ([devon@trinityexcelsior.org](mailto:devon@trinityexcelsior.org))

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact Sarah Kimmelman to indicate that you or your young person(s) is planning on attending the White Earth Mission Trip by SUNDAY, May 28, 2017. ([office@trinityexcelsior.org](mailto:office@trinityexcelsior.org))

\_\_\_\_\_ Complete all on-line forms by MONDAY, June 12, 2017 (forms are available by contacting the office, OR via a link included on the weekly update sent electronically each week).

\_\_\_\_\_ Send payment to Trinity Church (\$300/person) by MONDAY, June 12, 2017 (unless you are an adult leader, in which case you do not owe a registration fee).

\_\_\_\_\_ Sign up for *at least one* volunteer duty. Again, all families sending a young person and adult leaders are asked to volunteer for something.