**Oak Grove/House of Prayer Lutheran Churches - Summer Stretch**

**2018 Information Sheet**

**What is Summer Stretch?**

Summer Stretch is a Gospel centered program for those entering 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th grade next fall. Friends are also welcome to participate. Our desire is that this program will help and encourage students to put their faith into action. *We want to nurture disciples of Jesus Christ whose lives make a difference!* Most mornings, participants pray &/or reflect on the Word of God and serve somewhere in our communities. Most afternoons they will do something recreational, (sometimes we flip times.) Over fifty churches in the metropolitan area (and churches in at least 3 other states) have a Summer Stretch ministry. Students have an opportunity to attend Valleyfair as part of Summer Stretch.

**What is a typical day like?**

9:00- Youth arrive at Oak Grove and check in with their small group. *(About our small groups this year. You may pick a buddy to sign up with-who also puts your name on their registration-and we’ll do our best to keep you together ALL summer.)*

9:15- All small groups gather for opening prayer and gospel reading for the day.

9:30- Small groups are driven by adults (over the age of 21) to the various service sites which include: elder care center, food shelf, quilt-making at Oak Grove *(Closed-toed shoes required because many settings require these)*

11:45- Youth return to Oak Grove, (or sometimes, we head right to our afternoon site to picnic!)

12:00- Lunch (included in cost)

12:30- Youth depart for social or recreational activities. Activities may include going to an amusement center, a water park and a beach.

4:00- Youth return to Oak Grove. Summer Stretch ends, youth depart.

**What is the cost?**

A $115.00\* fee covers recreational activities, lunch, a Valleyfair\* ticket and a t-shirt, ($105 early registration bonus by May 6th!) We encourage parents to drive and chaperone twice- during one of the sessions from 9:00 until noon or from 12:30-4:00. (If you have other children, they are welcome on the afternoon activity with you, but you will have to pay their entrance fees.) If you are available for more, please indicate that on the form (we always need help!) This allows us to keep the cost down, and more importantly, it is an opportunity for the young people to perform service projects with more adults and family members.

1. Volunteer drivers/chaperones will need to fill out background check forms and a driver’s check. These two forms need to be done BEFORE Summer Stretch starts. We will fill out the forms at the Parent Orientation Session on Sunday, May 20 OR Wednesday, May16, both at 6:00 p.m. at Oak Grove, so if volunteer drivers come they need to bring: their calendar, a driver’s license number, social security number, employer address and past home addresses. *Yes, of course, parents can come to either meeting.*

Greater details about chaperoning and driving will be explained during the parent orientation meetings. Parents need to attend the orientation; if a parent cannot attend, please contact Mary Kaye Ashley (see the contact information at the bottom of the page). (We will try, but cannot guarantee room for youth who sign up after May 6.)

This ministry will be run this summer by (Pr.) Mary Kaye Ashley (associate member of Oak Grove),Kathie Curry & Julie Tvete, Pr. Brice Eichlersmith of Oak Grove, in partnership with Director of Youth Ministry, Ben Whalen of House of Prayer. We are delighted to be working together! Mary Kaye will be the consistent smiling face every Thursday. May God bless us, and bless thru us!

**(over for important dates)**

**Important Dates:**

Sunday, May 6, 2018 – \*Early Registration Deadline (If your forms are in by this day, you are welcome to pay the early registration fee of $105) (*$ and forms need to be AT Oak Grove, 7045 Lyndale Ave. So., Richfield, MN 55423 call leaders if $ is a concern*)

Parent Orientation Meetings – Parents need to attend **one**

Wednesday, May 16, OR Sunday, May 20, both at 6:00 p.m., at Oak Grove

Thursday, June 14– First Summer Stretch Session

Thursday, June 21 – Second session

Thursday, June 28 – Third session

Thursday, July 5 - Fourth session

Thursday, July 12 – Fifth session

Thursday, July 19– Sixth session

Thursday, July 26– Seventh session

\*Valleyfair- Thursday August 2 (If your child has a season pass to Valleyfair, you may take an additional $15 off their registration, by 5/6, $90; after 5/6, $105.)

For more information call Mary Kaye Ashley, (612) 532-7083 or [carimae24@comcast.net](mailto:carimae24@comcast.net), or

Julie Tvete, (952) 894-2361 [jtvete@comcast.net](mailto:jtvete@comcast.net), or

Pr. Brice Eichlersmith, (612) 998-2128 [brice@oakgrovelutheran.org](mailto:brice@oakgrovelutheran.org),