

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD TRIP TO THE LUTHERAN CENTER- MEXICO CITY

June 8 - 16, 2010

WHY THIS TRIP?

The Rocky Mountain Synod/ ELCA is home to many immigrants from Mexico. With the Latino community being the fastest growing minority group in the USA, ELCA congregations will be challenged more than ever to find effective ways of serving their Spanish- speaking neighbors. This 2010 trip to the Lutheran Center in Mexico City will increase our understanding of our neighbors to the south, opening our eyes to the cultural, economic, and political realities of Mexico. The trip is sponsored by the RMS Global Mission Committee.

GROUP SIZE: Minimum of 8 and maximum of 20 participants, high school age and older

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

The Transformational Immersion Program is a program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at the Lutheran Center in Mexico City.

The program is designed as a “reverse mission” process, in which group participants listen, learn, and grow through dialog and relationship with those on the margins of life. The group will go into the city streets, local barrios and rural villages to hear the stories of families and organizations struggling against poverty and injustice. A typical program includes:

Orientation

Program methodology, walking tour of local area, visit historical center of Mexico City and nearby archaeological sites

Experience the Reality

Overview of Mexican history, visits to marginalized communities, testimonies from political refugees, women as family and community leaders

Analyze the Reality

Biblical reflections on struggles of God’s people, presentation on identity and history of Mexican women, simulation exercises, global economics and politics of domination

Experience the Hope

Biblical reflections on God’s reign, visit Basilica of Guadalupe, participation in Christian base community, visits to community projects, introduction to “Theology of Solidarity”, worship

Prepare for Return Home

Spiritual exercise to integrate experience, group reflection, action plans, closing worship

WHAT CAN I EXPECT IF I TAKE PART IN THIS TRIP?

“Program participants will be challenged and empowered as God’s people to experience the world from the perspective of the marginalized, critically reflect on that reality, and return home inspired to become more active agents in promoting God’s reign through solidarity with the poor who are engaged in the struggle, because they realize that their very survival is at stake.”

You will experience the challenges of another culture, including different food, different language, and different customs. You will experience gracious hospitality, as people welcome you into their homes and into their lives.

COST OF THE TRIP: \$600 plus airfare to Mexico City

The \$600 fee per person includes all local transportation, lodging, meals, and program expenses.

WHAT’S NEXT IF I WANT TO GO ON THIS TRIP?

Fill out an application and return it no later than April 15, 2010 to the Rocky Mountain Synod office with a \$200 deposit (refundable until April 30, 2010). At that time, you will receive more detailed information. If you have any questions regarding the trip, please contact the synod office at 303-777-6700.

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APPLICATION

(Return application by April 15, 2010 to Janice Ladd-Horkey, Rocky Mountain Synod/ELCA, 455 Sherman St., Suite 160, Denver, CO 80203. Include your deposit of \$200 per person, with the check made out to the Rocky Mountain Synod-ELCA)

Only one person per application, please.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone: (home) _____ (work) _____

Email Address _____

Home congregation: _____

Please answer the following questions

1. Do you have a current, valid US passport that does not expire before Dec. 2010? YES NO
If NO, apply for a US passport immediately.

2. How would you rate your Spanish speaking ability?

NONE A LITTLE PRETTY GOOD EXCELLENT

3. This trip may involve a one or two-night home stay with a Mexican family. How comfortable do you feel about such a home stay?

UNCOMFORTABLE COMFORTABLE

Comments:

4. Do you have previous international travel experience? YES NO
If YES, please tell us where you have traveled.

5. What questions or concerns do you have about this trip?