

MEMORANDUM

TO: Beginning Teachers (those who are in their **first or second year** in the teaching profession) (or returning to teaching after having not taught for some time) (or New to Lutheran education)

FROM: Dr. Bill Hinz, Director of School Ministry, Texas District

DATE: August 1, 2024

RE: **Beginning Teachers' Retreat – October 6-7, 2024 at Camp Lone Star**

Dear Co-worker in Christian education,

Greetings in our Savior's name. I trust that you are finding in Him the source of strength for the many challenges of your new ministry. Be assured of my concerns and prayers for you, especially during these first days of teaching.

In that spirit **I invite you** to an activity that we have found is much appreciated and very beneficial to first year and second-year teachers or those new to Lutheran education. We have planned a Sunday afternoon to Monday afternoon retreat for **October 6-7, 2024 at Camp Lone Star in LaGrange**. By that time, you will have had enough exposure to school and parish life to experience satisfaction and joy and to raise questions and concerns. We have found that getting together with others who are beginning their ministries in order to share and offer mutual support and to consult with more experienced co-workers in a retreat atmosphere will provide a real boost for you personally and professionally.

Serving as your leadership team will be Vicki Pietsch, Immanuel, Giddings; Daniel Parsons, Prince of Peace, Carrollton; Dr. Amy Boatman, Salem, Tomball, Lya Camp, Concordia High School, Austin and me (Bill Hinz). We look forward to meeting together with you.

Please consult with your principal concerning your attendance at the Beginning Teachers' Retreat. He/she has received a registration form (or has given it to you with this letter). We ask that it be returned to the Texas District office by September 12, 2024. We expect that the school will cover your registration fee of \$125 and, hopefully, your mileage. We plan to send confirmation letters to those who register along with a list of other participants so teachers can arrange car pooling with one another.

Please note the following information:

1. Wear casual attire. We will try to maintain a relaxed, informal atmosphere.
2. Registration will begin on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Program will begin promptly at 4:00 p.m. A map directing you to the Camp will be mailed with the confirmation letter to all registrants.
3. Camp Lone Star will provide sheets, a blanket, pillow, and towels. Please bring a Bible.
4. **Please register as soon as possible but no later than September 12th. We need the information for planning some of the activities and for preparing materials.**
Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/wQLgsq1UhwKwNXCF6>
5. The Retreat will end by 2:30 p.m. on Monday. We ask that you stay for the whole retreat because all parts of the program are important and for your benefit.

Our program will include worship and Bible study; group sharing sessions on your roles in the classroom, school, and congregation; six sectionals from which you will choose; information on District services; and ample time for social and recreational activities.

I look forward to the opportunity to meet you at the retreat and for you to make other acquaintances there. God's blessings on your first weeks in the privileged and exciting role of Lutheran teacher.