

Dear Family,



We are writing to cordially invite you to participate in the Midwest Region Family Retreat. We had a great time at the retreat last year and hope that you and your family will be able to join us for this one! In an age when families are being pulled apart by so many things, we need something to pull us back together and give us a place to relax, play, renew, and grow spiritually.

Family Retreat will be held January 25-27, 2008 at Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp in Story City, Iowa. In past years many Winter Retreats were held at this facility before they were moved to Minnesota. We are making this move because the previous campground in Minnesota can only accommodate 80 for meals and they were also experiencing difficulties in management that were causing the rates to change. The Riverside campground has been updated and many new buildings have been built in the past few years, including a large dining facility that seats 300 and a recreation area under the dining room. It is our prayer that this facility will be a blessing to your church families and position the Retreat for growth. It is a place where they can come to relax, play, renew, and grow spiritually. (Check out the facilities under the Rentals>Housing Options link on their website at <http://www.riversidelbc.org/index.html> .)

Everyone is welcome and will be able to participate in one of the retreats as this weekend will be 3 retreats in one: a Youth Retreat (youth 12+), a KIDS Retreat (ages 4-11), and an Adult Retreat (you know who you are!). Please note that children younger than 4 are welcome to come and there will be child care provided during classes and services - there is just not a separate retreat for them. Also, any children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult with the parent's written permission.

If you are a family of 4, 7, 12 or 1 or 2 - you are welcome! Family Retreat is for **everyone** and you need not feel that you need to have a spouse or young children along to attend. There will be something for everyone.

Here are some things to know:

- Check-in begins at 5:00pm on Friday, January 25, 2008 and checkout begins at 11:00am on Sunday, January 27, 2008.
- The Youth Retreat will be separate from the KIDS and Adult Retreats most of the time. All Retreats will eat together.
- There will be times when the parents involved in the Adult Retreat and children involved in the KIDS Retreat will be together. Parents in the Adult Retreat will be responsible for their kids (that are not involved in the Youth Retreat) during meals, free times and at night for sleeping.
- Female adults and female children aged 4-11 will be housed together as well as any male or female children aged 0-3 years. (Please note that accommodations are based on the family needs. These are just guidelines.)

- Male adults and male children aged 4-11 will be housed together (and other toddlers as necessary).
- Those involved in the Youth Retreat will have separate lodging from the adults and kids.
- You will need to bring your own bedding and any special needs such as a travel crib for the babies. (Most beds at the campground are twin beds/bunks.)
- If you have small children in need of a highchair or booster seat, you may want to bring that also.

Here is some information regarding the costs to attend Family Retreat:

1st family member:	\$80.00
Each add'l family member 13 years or older:	\$45.00
Each add'l family member 4-12 years old:	\$25.00
Each add'l family member 0-3 years old:	FREE

The theme for this year's retreat is "Save the World." "God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world: but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:17) for Jesus came to "seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). He came to save the world and then gave us the command to continue His work of spreading the Gospel. We want to encourage our youth, parents and children to truly have a salvation experience and then to pass it on.

We are so excited about what God is doing and we can't wait to see what God has in store for us during this weekend. Check out the Family Retreat link on the Regional website at <http://www.midwestregioncogop.org/events/winter.html> for more information or to obtain additional applications.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need any special considerations for this retreat weekend as we will do our best to accommodate you. Our phone numbers are 319-362-0551 (home) or 319-431-2562 (Myron's cellphone) or 319-210-0317 (Janyce's cellphone).

We look forward to seeing **you** and **your family** at the **Midwest Region Family Retreat 2008!**

In His Service,

Myron & Janyce Gilbert

Myron & Janyce Gilbert
Family Retreat Directors