

## **ADULT MISSION TRIP TO HOUSTON**

### **February 11 - 17, 2018**

#### ***What is a mission trip?***

A mission trip is a period of time (in this case 7 days and 6 nights) where the group will devote themselves in service for others. We will live humbly and give up some of the luxuries that we are used to having at home. We will be doing a lot of hard work, but it will be a rewarding experience as well.

#### ***What does this year's mission trip involve?***

Hurricane Harvey was the costliest tropical cyclone on record, inflicting nearly \$200 billion (2017 USD) in damage, primarily from widespread flooding in the Houston metropolitan area. It was the first major hurricane to make landfall in the United States since Wilma in 2005. The resulting floods inundated hundreds of thousands of homes, displaced more than 30,000 people, and prompted more than 17,000 rescues.

Messiah will be partnering with Fuller Center Disaster ReBuilders. Fuller Center Disaster ReBuilders is a Christian 501(c)(3) operating as the disaster mission arm of The Fuller Center for Housing (The Fuller Center was founded by Millard Fuller, also the founder of Habitat for Humanity). Their mission is to rebuild houses in a major disaster area, typically hurricane devastation. They serve those without flood insurance and generally at 50 percent or less of the area median income. Priority is given to the elderly, handicapped/disabled, single parents and large families. They use volunteer labor and donated funds and material to supplement what homeowners might have received from their FEMA grant.

Messiah will be taking a group of adults to help with the recovery efforts. The group will go and use their abilities wherever needed. Currently the homes being worked on have been mucked out already so most likely the group will be working on home rebuilding, with the majority of the work being indoors. Both skilled and unskilled volunteers are needed.

The group will stay at a local congregation with other volunteers. There are separate sleeping rooms for males and females. Sleeping accommodations include a cot or a bunkbed with a mattress. We will need to provide our own linens. Most meals will be provided by the congregation. No washers or dryers are available.

## Typical Daily Schedule

6:30 - 7:00AM Breakfast

7:00 - 7:30AM Brief devotions/morning announcements

7:30AM Leave for worksite

12:00-ish Lunch at worksite

4:30-ish Depart Worksite

6:00 - 7:00PM Dinner

7:00PM Evening presentation/Face of God

PLEASE NOTE: A servant experience such as this can be a life-transforming event that helps us to look at our neighbors and ourselves differently. It is vital that all participants enter into this experience with an open-mind and a willingness to work and to grow spiritually. This is NOT a vacation. We will be doing some grunt work, adhering to a strict schedule, and sleeping and eating in less-than-desirable conditions. Given all of this—this is certain to be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life!

### *How much will the trip cost?*

The trip will cost approximately \$700 - \$850, depending on the cost of the plane ticket. This amount will cover all travel, lodging, and food expenses. Each person will also be responsible for 4 meals on their own—lunch on travel days and two dinners out in Houston. If this will be a problem financially, please see Jessica or Pastors Peter and Kathy.

### *How do I sign up for the trip?*

Pay a \$350 deposit (non-refundable, checks written to *Messiah Lutheran Church* with *Houston Mission Trip* in the memo) to the front office or Jessica Potts. If you are interested, it would be helpful if you expressed interest by **January 3** so that our flights can be secured.

### *Other questions?*

Please do not hesitate to call Jessica at church (360.574.7081) or email: [jessicap@messiahvancouver.org](mailto:jessicap@messiahvancouver.org)