

Our camping trip at Sherando Lake (about 45 minutes away) is open to all, including guests. We'll begin the afternoon/evening of Friday, April 26, and conclude with worship on the morning of Sunday, April 28. You do not have to be there for the entire time; if you plan to spend only days/meals/one night, just let me know.

The trip includes meals together, activities and crafts, relaxation, hiking and kayaking and such, campfires, singing, and worship. It's open to everyone.

I'm asking **one big favor**. We have some new faces in our congregation, as well as those I may have missed. This email is being sent to (I hope) all those whom have expressed interest or attended the camping trip previously. But I don't want to leave anyone out! **Feel free to forward this**, and invite others to call me with questions.

Please **let me know if you are going**. We have only two group sites this year (the two closest to the bathrooms) so space will be limited.

Campus Ministry! you are invited, there's room, and you can get gear from Outdoor Recreation on campus--but **let me know!** We can probably also get you rides--but **let me know!**

How do I get there?

Take 64 West to Exit 96/S. Delphine/State Road 624
Left onto S. Delphine/State Road 624; becomes Mount Torrey Road
Bear left to stay on Mount Torrey/State Road 664

Here's a Google Maps [link](#)

When should I arrive? Campground gates **close at 10PM** and you can't enter or leave after that! You should **not need to check in**; if they ask at the gate, you are with St Mark's/Paul Shepherd, and we are at the GROUP CAMP SITES 1 and 2. Unless you are an expert tent-setter-upper, before dark is usually a good idea!

Questions? Contact the office as a landing spot for questions and/or concerns 434.293-3311/office@stmarklutheran.org

What should we bring?

for fun...

bikes
canoes/kayaks (with life jackets) (Paul will bring 2 kayaks, but only have 2 adult life jackets)
baseballs/footballs/frisbees
fishing gear (they say you need a license; that usually only applies to adults)
crafts to share
a little wine is always welcome!
guitars, flutes, etc. No pianos or trumpets.

you will need...

tents, sleeping bags, flashlights
bathing suits, towels
comfy chairs to sit around in
hot dog sticks
lunch fixings for Saturday

one or two side dishes to share; (these are uncoordinated, no need to check back with me)
a reusable water bottle (we won't have disposables)
special diet requests may wish to bring a dinner option for Friday and Saturday.

Remember we have **no** electricity. If you have a **camp stove and some percolators that would help**. Same for some kind of **non-electric griddle for the pancakes**. If we don't have that, we'll muddle through.

If you want to **volunteer** to help lead this trip, please do! Let me know! I'll give you a list of what would be most helpful--or you tell me.

WHAT WE'LL HAVE

paper plates, cups, napkins, cutlery
condiments
firewood
serving tables
drinks for meal times (limited selection!)
the food options listed below

THE MENU and AGENDA

this is a previous menu. It is subject to change at this point depending on who volunteers to help!

Friday, when you arrive, we'll have hot dogs, buns, chips, veggies, fruit, and drinks; we'll probably gather at around 7 or 7:30, but some later arrivers might still be setting up camp, or kids might be hungry earlier. We'll have food and fixings out from about 6 to dark.

Saturday and Sunday mornings, we'll have pancakes, fruit, coffee, and juice.

Saturday lunch will be on our own, though folks at on previous trips would often meet up and share fixings.

Saturday dinner will be chili, cheese, Fritos, salad, fruit, and drinks. We'll have S'mores afterward, and sing some songs.

If you have special dietary needs (vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free, low sodium, etc.) please plan to bring your favorite chili/hot dog alternative and a little to share!

We may try to get some organized games together on Saturday--these are voluntary, and would be appropriate for all ages/abilities.

We'll have an worship on Sunday morning, and break camp after.

Emergencies: If you need to be reached in an emergency, cell phones may or may not work. We suggest leaving these numbers with family: Augusta County EOC: 540-245-5501 (Someone would come to the campground with a message.) The campground number M-F (8 AM - 4:30 PM) is 540-291-2188.

How much does this cost, anyway? Let's see afterwards; you'll just make checks out to St. Mark. My guess is that it will be 50-60 per couple/family (free to campus ministry); individuals, whatever seems fit. We won't be keeping track, to be honest, so you can pay what you can--including a little more than that, if you're having a good month. *Please do*

write "camping" on the subject line so we can keep track of how much we are ahead or behind overall!

In the weeds and in the woods,

Paul Shepherd