



INFORMATION PACKET

ADVENT RETREAT

December 6-8, 2024



ISAIAH 9:6

THE GIFTS OF ADVENT

LOVE, JOY, PEACE AND HOPE

"FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN, AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ON HIS SHOULDERS. AND HE WILL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE."

- ISAIAH 9:6

Experience the profound beauty of the Advent season as we celebrate its timeless gifts: Love, Joy, Peace, and Hope.

Together, we will delight in the warmth of God's love that binds us together. We know that God IS love, and therefore love flows from God and within each of us. We rejoice in knowing that we are fully loved and fully known, and we seek to share that love with everyone we encounter.

Secondly, we will find solace in the peace of Christ. God's peace is like a sanctuary amidst the chaos of our often fast-paced world. It is a peace that passes all understanding, offering respite to weary souls and nurturing a sense of harmony within our midst.

Third, we will revel in the contagious joy that fills our hearts. Unlike happiness, which is fleeting, the deep joy that we find in Christ is ever present. Like the melody of a familiar carol, it uplifts our spirits and fills us with a sense of childlike wonder.

And lastly, we will embrace the unwavering hope that lights our path forward. As we prepare for the coming of Christ, we rest in the hope of God's presence that guides our journey forward. It is a beacon of light in times of uncertainty and a promise that continuously opens our hearts to the ways in which the kingdom of Heaven is both here and now, and to come.

As we gather in the glow of flickering candles and the sound of familiar carols, let us remember the true meaning of this season: to love one another, to spread joy wherever we go, to cultivate peace in our hearts and in our communities, and to hold onto hope as a beacon of light in times of darkness. Together, let us cherish these timeless gifts and let them be a reminder of the greatest gift to come...the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Arrival: Please arrive between 3:00pm and 6:00pm on Friday. Check-in will be in the Christ Lodge. Upon your arrival, take the first right into the parking lot of Christ Lodge. You will receive lodging information and a weekend packet at this time. Dinner will be provided and is scheduled for 6:00pm Friday evening. If you plan on grabbing supper before heading up or anticipate you will arrive later than our scheduled dinner time, please let us know ahead of time. There is a section of our registration form for this retreat that asked about arrival and departure times.

Departure: Departure will be at 11am Sunday morning following our closing worship service. Please make sure all your belongings are going down the mountain with you. Check that the heat is off, all windows are closed, lights are off, and doors are shut behind you. Thank you!

DIETARY NEEDS AND RESTRICTIONS

We can accommodate most types of food allergies and preferences. Sky Ranch operates with an “allergen aware” policy. Our food service staff are trained and certified in the best practices of food preparation, handling, and preventing cross contamination. Unfortunately, due to the limited size of our facilities and variables outside our control we cannot guarantee anything to be 100% free of a particular allergen. If you or your child has a serious allergy, please contact our office, and speak with Jeff Fairfax, our Operations and Property Director who oversees food service at camp.

LODGING PREFERENCES

You will need to prioritize your housing preferences and will be assigned accommodation based on your registration date. Available housing for this weekend is Christ Lodge rooms, cabins, and campground sites both with and without electrical. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions regarding housing or has specific need is regards to how you are assigned.

DESIRED ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEKEND

We want this retreat to be what you need. As a part of the registration process, you can let us know what you are hoping for, activities you'd like to do, songs you want to sing, and a camp meal you're looking forward to. We want to hear from you!

PAYMENT

During registration, you will need to choose between two payment methods. The first option is to pay your registration fee by check made out to Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp, and the second is to request an invoice to your provided email to pay by credit card. If you have questions about payment options or scholarships, contact Ingrid at ingrid@skyranchcolorado.org.

HELPFUL PACKING TIPS

Fall is an exciting time of year to be on the mountaintops! In addition to being beautiful with the changing colors of the Aspen trees, you can expect for the weather to be unpredictable. Here is what we suggest packing to come prepared for all the possibilities – rain or shine.

- ✓ **CLOTHES - PLAN TO LAYER**
A light weight and heavier jacket as well as rain jacket/poncho
- ✓ **TOILETRIES AND CARRIER**
Bathrooms are not attached to your lodging so you will either be walking from your cabin to the shower house or a short distance from your lodge room to the bathrooms off the main meeting space in the Lodge. Don't forget towels
- ✓ **CLOSED TOED SHOES**
You will have to wear closed toed shoes if you plan to do High Ropes or Service Projects offered during this weekend retreat.
- ✓ **SUNSCREEN, BUG SPRAY, CHAPSTICK, WATERBOTTLE AND FLASHLIGHT**
- ✓ **BEDDING**
A pillow, sheets and blankets or sleeping bags.
- ✓ **DAY HIKE ESSENTIALS**
A small day pack if you are hoping to join a day hike. Again, we suggest closed toed shoes for this activity.






REMEMBERING THE TRUE MEANING OF THE SEASON: LOVE, JOY, PEACE AND HOPE

We are excited for you to experience the beauty of the Advent season on the mountaintops. Celebrating together, delighting in God's love, finding comfort in Christ's peace, reveling in contagious joy, and embracing unwavering hope. As you depart at the weekend's end, may your hearts be filled with cherished memories and the promise of new beginnings. Remember to carry the transformative power of these gifts with you always. The mountaintops may fade from view, but the time in fellowship and love will guide you through the canyon ahead until you join us again on these beloved mountaintops.




Retreat Contact Person:

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