

Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Youth Participant Covenant

A covenant is a promise and agreement between two or more people.

This Participant Covenant is our commitment to each other for how we will act, interact, and react while worshipping and studying in fellowship together.

LOVE & RESPECT – 1 John 4:7-21

We agree to respect one another as members of God's family by following these accordingly:

- a. No cell phones or other electronic devices are to be used once leader begins Bible Study, Event or any Activity; unless otherwise stated by Youth Leader.
- b. Actively listen to each other
- c. Show concern for other's physical and emotional wellbeing
- d. Use words to "build each other up"
- e. Understand that leaders will sometimes make decisions we don't like, but we must still be supportive.
- f. Have positive attitudes and be flexible when things go wrong or schedules change
- g. Not trying to find "loop-holes" or "sneak out" of commitments made with this covenant

CARE – 1 Peter 3:8-9; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

We agree to care for each other in our group by helping each other in these ways:

- a. Being on time for bible study, or other activities at the time decided upon
- b. Taking care of the youth room, church, and any facility we may be using
- c. Conducting ourselves as a servant of Christ - meaning doing things that need to be done, even before being asked; not for our own benefit, but out of love of others.
- d. When we're angry, hassled, or upset we will talk to the persons involved (Matthew 18) or seek the help of an adult in resolving the problem
- e. We will not use "put-downs" or insults (seriously or in jest).
- f. We give the people around love and respect as discussed in "Love & Respect"
- g. To always inform the adult leaders if you do not feel safe or are not feeling physically well

SERVICE – Galatians 6:2, 10; Colossians 3:17, 23-24; James 2:18b

We agree to come ready to participate in all activities and follow these guidelines:

- a. Use common sense in all issues not covered in this covenant
- b. Dress modestly in all LTF activities
- c. There may be some things the Group does we do not want to do, and you have the choice not to participate - **Challenge by Choice**
- d. When agreeing to be part of an activity we agree to be **100% involved** with the people around us and those leading the activity
- e. If and when someone does not feel safe (physically, emotionally, spiritually, etc.), we agree to **stop** the activity and create a safer situation (see CARE, LOVE & RESPECT)

PRAYER – James 5:16, John 15:16, 1 Thessalonians 5:17

We willingly agree to pray in the following ways:

- a. Adoration - giving praise to God for all he has done
- b. Confession - giving God our sins and realizing our need for the savior
- c. Thanksgiving - thanking God for everything he has done
- d. Supplication - Asking God for whatever we need - for fellow youth needs, wellbeing of LTF and Church, for our own needs and relationship with him, etc.

FELLOWSHIP – Hebrews 10:24–25

It is good for us to have fun and fellowship with one another both on campus and on trips, therefore:

- a. We will show respect and follow Biblical guidelines for Christian conduct with members of the opposite sex, always being concerned for the other person's reputation, feelings, and well-being. (see LOVE & RESEPECT)
 - a. PDA will not go any further than hand-holding
 - b. Opposite genders will not be in rooms alone ever!
- b. If groups are gathering in a room or another location, they will inform an adult leader. Adult leaders need know where members of the group are!
- c. We will not use any tobacco product, alcohol, or drugs - unless prescribed by doctor
- d. We will keep copies of our personal notarized emergency forms with us at all times; in our lanyards when on events
- e. We will observe the rules made by small group adult leaders
- f. We will always travel in groups of at least **3** or more
- g. We will stay in areas the group leaders expect you to be!
- h. We will use common sense and Christian Care when an issue isn't covered by this covenant

For those who could not join us in the activity or event we will:

- i. Keep of journal while on events in family groups
- j. Take lots of pictures and bring them back with stories and other mementos to share
- k. Participate in leading Church presentations about what everyone did while on the event
- l. Show care not to leave those who did not attend out of conversations but encourage them to join us for other youth activities.

CONSEQUENCES – Galatians 6:8, Romans 6:23

When someone refuses to follow this covenant, we will handle the problem with the following:

- a. Youth will hold each other accountable for the rules is this covenant.
- b. Three Strikes
 1. You will be given a warning you are breaking part of the covenant
 2. Second offense parents will be called and it will be their choice to bring youth home, or youth will be asked to spend part or all of the day under direct supervision of an adult leader
 3. If youth does not take **1-2** seriously and continues to ignore other youth or leaders, youth will be sent home at parents expense.
- c. Substance abuse (alcohol or drugs) or other major problem (theft, property damage, etc.): **ZERO TOLERANCE**. Police will be called, parents will be called and youth will be sent home at parent's expense.

Signature of Youth

Date

Signature of Adult Leader

Date

Signature of Parents

Date

Signature of Pastor or DCE

Date