



The Cloud 9 Leadership Team would like to invite you to Cloud 9, October 23rd - 25th, 2015. The retreat will once again be held at Camp Michindoh in Hillsdale, MI and is open to middle and high school students.

This year, we are excited to welcome Lauren Befus from Vineyard North in Grand Rapids, MI as our keynote speaker. Lauren came to the Vineyard as an outsider – an outsider to church and faith. After moving to the area in 1997 she was invited to Vineyard, her first church experience. As she began the Christian journey, God immediately began to transform her life and set her course toward ministry. A graduate of Calvin College, Lauren worked for several years as a writer for local newspapers and magazines. As Pastor of Connect Ministry for new guests and members, Lauren loves to help people find their place in the Vineyard community. But the majority of the time she is loving and raising four kids, and figuring out how to be Jesus' presence in her neighborhood.

At its core, Cloud 9 provides an opportunity for students to meet with God through worship, prayer ministry, and teaching, with opportunities to hang out, show off, play, sleep, eat, and laugh thrown in for good measure. This framework provides the inner motivation that makes Christianity an inside-out experience. Within this context, students gain practical skills for hearing His voice and for recognizing promptings from the Spirit that open the door to God's extravagant grace. We'd love to have you and the students from your church join us in receiving the good gifts God has planned for us this fall.

The retreat kicks off on Friday night. Workshops, free time, and a Saturday Night Event are sandwiched by sessions Saturday morning and evening, and the retreat closes with a celebration on Sunday morning. **Online registration will open on August 1st.** The cost is \$99 until September 28th. **Please note that t-shirt sizes will not be guaranteed after Sept. 28th. We are using a new company in order to be better stewards, and our order must be in by the 28th.** The cost goes up to \$109 until October Oct 12th. You will probably still get shirts, they just might not be the right sizes. After Oct. 12th, **ALL** registrations will be \$119, and we cannot guarantee shirts. The registration fee includes lodging, an event t-shirt (see previous notes,) snacks on Friday evening, and meals on Saturday and Sunday morning. You can purchase additional meals on Friday evening or Sunday afternoon for \$6 per person/meal.

**Want more info?** Great! Registration information is available online at <http://www-cloud9retreat.com/>>. Check out our video <http://vimeo.com/52619890>. It might give you a helpful peek at what Cloud 9 is like. Feel free to show it to students, youth leaders, parents, etc. For other questions, someone will be contacting you in the next couple of weeks to check in, make sure you received this letter, and see what registration material you will need. We look forward to seeing you!

Blessings,

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