

Confirmation Program 2022-2023

Expectations and Requirements

1. Orientation: Confirmation students, their parents, and small group leaders will meet with staff for an orientation and registration session on Wednesday, September 7th, 2022, at 6 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. *“Here We Stand,”* our core curriculum for confirmation. A Student Book, bible, and a binder are our required primary teaching tools this fall.

2. Large Group and Small Group Sessions: Confirmation students are organized into small groups of 3-5 students. Each small group has an adult leader and or co-leaders. Large Group Sessions take place in the Fellowship Hall. The schedule is as follows with a few exceptions.

*Large group sessions with the pastor/deacon will start at 7:00-7:20 and 7:40-8:15. All the groups meet for a small group preparation time from 7:20 – 7:40PM.

*Small group sessions students meet with their small groups only. These sessions will be used for service projects and/or community building and fellowship. Small group nights are just as important as large group nights, ATTENDANCE IS EXPECTED. It is highly recommended that small group leaders contact parents of their group before attending a movie to gain parental approval.

3. Parents’ Nights and Large Group Service Nights:

In addition to the large and small group sessions described above, there will be:

*Parents Night on November 16th and March 22nd.

All confirmation students and their parents are expected to attend the large group session this evening. It is a time to observe large groups, network with other parents and fellowship together. Parents are always welcome at any large group session. If an inter-church Lutheran family event for confirmation age youth is planned in Bismarck during the term, families will be notified in advance of place, time, and date. Parents are always welcome to sit in on any teaching event.

*A Large Group Service Night will be held on September 28, December 7, February 15, and May 10. On these evenings, all confirmation students and leaders will meet at church to work on several large and small service projects.

4. What to Bring: Students are expected to bring their Lutheran handbook, binder, a Bible, and a pen or pencil to every session.

5. Attendance: Students are expected to attend all large-group and small-group sessions on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:15 p.m. Excused absences, for illness and/or family emergencies, are allowed when a student’s parent calls the pastor/deacon in advance. Make-up work may be assigned if attendance or tardiness becomes problematic.

6. Worship Experiences: Each student in the confirmation program is expected to complete 12 sermon notes between September and May each year. Parents, please sign the sermon notes before the student hands them in.

7. Service Hours: 6th and 7th grade students will be asked to complete 10 hours of service during each year of confirmation. Hours may be completed as a small group service project night, or other events outside of church. No double dipping. Service hours are anything that you do not get paid for or have not counted for something else.

8th grade students will help to serve communion, usher, and attend a council meeting.

A Service Form must be completed and signed by an adult supervisor after each service project. Please put completed forms in Pastor Lisa, or Deacon Janie's mailbox.

8. Summer Camp: Students are expected to attend Bible camp between the 6th and 7th grade year and between the 7th and 8th grade year. The first camp experience will be scheduled at Camp of the Cross, Garrison, ND, and will include some life story time with Deacon Janie. The second experience can be at a Bible camp of the student's choice. Traditionally, scholarship assistance has been given to each student for their camping experience. This money is raised by the students in various fundraising activities throughout the school year, primarily Advent Dinners, and Caramel Roll sales. **Please note that all students must attend camp in both years. Only students with a written doctor's excuse will be exempt from this requirement.**

8B. All confirmation students are expected to help with Advent dinners by bring items asked and serving the meal. A detailed letter will be sent home via email and snail mail a month in advance informing you of when you serve and what to bring. You can not get service hours for advent and lent dinners since you will be receiving a scholarship for summer camp.

9A. Confirmation Retreat: This retreat introduces confirmation students to each other and provides a time of fellowship. This year, we will be attending the LYO gathering October 21st – 22nd Cost is \$50 for each participant.

9B. Eighth-Grade Retreat: This retreat introduces ninth graders to adult membership in the church. It will be held on **Martin Luther King weekend January 15-16. Date may change and place is TBA**

10. Offering: At the beginning of each large group lesson an offering will be taken. It is important that we practice the importance of giving and tithing. Students will be able to pick each quarter an organization to give their offering to.

10. Mentors and Faith Papers: All ninth graders will write a final paper entitled, "What My Faith Means to Me." Each student works on this paper with a mentor of their choice who guides them through an exploration of their faith. These papers are presented to the church council. Individual council members discuss the papers with each student. An overview of the paper assignment and the mentoring program will be given to 8th grade students in the spring.

11. Confirmation Banquet: A banquet will be held for celebration of the 9th graders becoming confirmed. 6th-8th graders are encouraged to sign up and help. This year the banquet will be on Saturday October 29th at 5:30pm

12. Rite of Confirmation: The Rite of Confirmation will take place during the 10:00 a.m. service on the last Sunday in October of the student's 9th grade year (October 30, 2022, October 29, 2023, October 27, 2024, October 26, 2025).