



## 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation 2021-2022

Welcome to confirmation! We are excited to walk alongside you in your journey of faith and we look forward to the year ahead. Our confirmation ministry is designed to help young people understand that they live each day in the embrace of God's grace and love for them. We hope that during their confirmation experience the students will:

- Gain a deeper understanding of the Bible, Luther's Small Catechism, and Lutheran theology
- Develop relationships with their peers, pastors, and adults at church
- Add insight and skills in using their faith to help make healthy choices regarding the challenging issues they face daily
- Engage in opportunities to serve and lead the congregation

Wednesday evening (6:15-7:30 p.m.) Confirmation classes are held for 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, along with regular mentor nights. On Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. there is a Sunday School class for 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders, while the 9<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to attend Sunday Senior High youth group. In the fall of their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year, students will have the opportunity to affirm the promises made to them in baptism on Reformation Sunday. Prior to their confirmation service that fall, youth will complete a variety of capstone projects including: reflecting on their strengths and passions, stewardship, and expressing their faith, beliefs, and questions in a creative project to share with their mentors and younger confirmation students.

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW & EXPECTATIONS

Confirmation class will be held on **Wednesday evenings at 6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. The class will be taught by Pastor Ali and Pastor Brad throughout the year. This provides an opportunity for connection with both pastors.

**Learning by leading:** Normally, we expect that all confirmation students serve in worship on Sunday mornings as acolytes. However, we recognize that the pandemic has affected our worship life and may not be a place of comfort for all families. If your family is planning on attending worship, we welcome your leadership. Current options include ushering as a family and lecturing. If those families not comfortable at in-person worship, other service opportunities are available - sign ups are available on the church website. It is expected that youth volunteer 5x throughout the year in whatever role they are excited about. Families can volunteer together! (ex/Ushering, Loaves and Fishes, Rezek Meal, etc.)

**Confirmation mentoring** is an important part of the confirmation program. Students are matched with an adult in the congregation, or students may bring an adult from outside of the church to serve as their

mentor. However due to the COVID pandemic, we are pausing this program with hopes of restarting next year.

**During the season of Lent**, confirmation students and their parents partake in serving the congregation by helping with soup suppers. While this program is tentative due to the pandemic, please check the attached schedule for soup supper dates. The suppers would not happen without the support of students and parents!

**In January**, we have an annual confirmation retreat on Martin Luther King Jr. weekend. As we move through fall we will provide updates on if this retreat will continue with the pandemic and what safety procedures are in place. This retreat helps youth understand healthy relationships and sexuality through a lens of faith. This is a required retreat each year. The retreat is a joint effort between multiple Lutheran Churches in the Twin Cities. The retreat is led by a trained sex educator and local pastors, along with adult chaperones from each church. The retreats offer different content for each year – one year will focus on *"Faith and Sexuality"* with workshops on sex and the Bible, language and anatomy of sexuality, gender identity, sexual orientation, and addressing personal concerns about puberty. The other year will focus on *"Faith and Healthy Relationships,"* with workshops on self-esteem, healthy relationships, consent and concern, and values-based decision making with an intentional conversations on media and internet use. Third year content will focus on *"Faith and Justice"* More information about the retreat will be available this fall and a parent information session will be held this winter. Financial scholarships are available.

**Our expectation is that confirmation students and their families will make worship and faith formation a priority in their schedules and will worship regularly, as well as attend youth activities.**

Please keep the attached schedule for your reference. If changes are made, they will be communicated through email and by paper announcements sent home after confirmation class.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Wednesday 9/8</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Info Meeting Courtyard Room</b>
Wednesday 9/15	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday 9/22	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday 9/29	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday 10/6	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday 10/13	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, 10/20	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
<b>Wednesday 10/27</b>	<b>6:15 p.m.</b>	<b>10th Grade Project Presentations, Fellowship Hall</b>
Wednesday 11/3	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday 11/10	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday 11/17	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
<b>Wednesday 11/24</b>		<b>No Confirmation - Thanksgiving Eve Worship @ 7:00 p.m.</b>
Wednesday 12/1	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday 12/8	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday 12/15	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
<b>Wednesday 12/22</b>		<b>No Confirmation</b>
<b>Wednesday 12/29</b>		<b>No Confirmation</b>
Wednesday 1/5	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday 1/12	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
<b>Sat Jan 15- Mon Jan 17</b>		<b>Retreat at Camp Wapo</b>
Wednesday 1/19	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday 1/26	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday 2/2	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday 2/9	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday 2/16	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday 2/23	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday 3/2	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Soup Supper – Meet in Fellowship Hall</b>
Wednesday 3/9	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Soup Supper – Meet in Fellowship Hall</b>
Wednesday 3/16	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Soup Supper – Meet in Fellowship Hall</b>
Wednesday 3/23	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Soup Supper – Meet in Fellowship Hall</b>
Wednesday 3/30	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Soup Supper – Meet in Fellowship Hall</b>
Wednesday 4/6	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Soup Supper – Meet in Fellowship Hall</b>
Wednesday 4/13		<b>No Confirmation – Holy Week</b>
Wednesday 4/20		<b>No Confirmation</b>
Wednesday 4/27	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Sunday 5/4	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Sunday 5/11	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday 5/18	6:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall