



St. John Lutheran Church Confirmation Program 2018 / 2019

Why Confirmation?

Confirmation is about baptism, equipping students to “Say Yes!” to the promises made for them in baptism. Confirmation is intended to bring students and families into a deeper relationship with God and others.

Why a “Significant Adult”?

“Faith is not just something you recite, but it is woven into an identity.” Dr. David Anderson from Vibrant Faith Ministries made this remark at a Vibrant Faith Event.

A significant adult, such as a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or neighbor can deepen a student’s experience in Confirmation by weaving faith into your life by:

- Worshiping regularly
- Practicing faith at home

Households are equipped to practice faith at home using the blue Taking Faith Home sheet as a tool (found in the weekly bulletins and on the St. John website).

Caring Conversations:

Talk together about these questions:

Who has influenced your faith life?

What might you be excited about as you think about Confirmation?

Does anything about Confirmation make you nervous?

Parents and grandparents, what is your prayer for your student as he or she goes through Confirmation?

Devotions:

Students spend time learning through discussion and active participation, guided by Scripture and Luther’s Small Catechism.

Classes are taught by pastors and lay people. We request that a parent notify the church if their child will be absent for a class. Homework will be provided for the child and parent to complete together and return for class credit.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Worship Notes & Taking Faith Home Sheets

We believe when a student worships with an adult who is significant in his or her life, faith becomes deeper and more relevant, and a student will continue to worship as a young adult.

By *not* worshipping regularly with a student, parents and grandparents often send a message that they are asking students to learn about something that is not important to them.

The following are requirements to encourage 7th-8th grade households to grow together in faith:

- Ten Worship Notes
- Ten Faith in **ACT**ion Notes *
- Five Lent Worship Notes to be completed at an Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, or any Wednesday night worship service during Lent.
- One Book of the Bible report—All students/parents must complete a report by December 31.

**There will be multiple options for you to choose from this year. Worship notes and FACT sheets are located in the narthex and at www.stjohnelc.org.*

If this particular requirement is not met, households will be required to complete additional work to be determined by May 1st.

MENTOR GROUPS

Because faith is formed in relationships, students will be divided into small groups of 4 - 6 youth and an adult mentor, (who is a member of St. John). Mentor Groups meet once a month throughout the school year. These gatherings are shaped by the Four Keys.

A Mentor Group Retreat will be held every year early in the school year to help build relationships among Mentor Groups. The next retreat *is **October 26 & 27 at Badlands Ministries.***

FAITH EXPERIENCE

Experiential learning is a critical component of faith formation. Because we believe faith is caught more than it is taught, faith experiences will happen once a month. These experiences will usually be offered on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

SERVICE ... *God shapes us to serve God and to serve our neighbor as we practice our faith in our home, work, and play.*

Seventh graders are required to “serve” (acolyte) during worship services on Sunday morning or Thursday evening. Serving times are scheduled, and students are asked to find their own replacement if needed. The church office should be notified of any changes. Seventh grade students may sign up for additional service options if they wish, however, it is not required.

Eighth graders are asked to become more involved in the ministries of St. John. Parents are encouraged to also be involved, either with their child or by participating in other areas of interest.

Eighth Grade students will sign up for three service options, listing them by preference (“1” being the first choice). Generally, items listed as the first and second preferences will be given. However, if several students sign up for the same option, it is possible that a third option will be considered.

Serving Opportunities for STUDENTS:

- * Help with Church School on Wednesday
- * Operate the laptop and projector during worship, with the help of a parent or other adult.
- * Assist with Wednesday worship
- * Assist with Cross Generational Events
- * Help with Day Camp the first full week in Aug.
- * Usher on Thursday evenings or Sunday mornings
- * Bake communion bread
- * Play in handbell choir
- * Provide music for worship
- * Sing in the senior choir
- * Help with Spring Community Clean-Up Event

Serving Opportunities for ADULTS:

- * Help at Jr. High overnight events
- * Help at Sr. High overnight events
- * Teach Church School on Sunday or Wednesday
- * Altar Guild (set up and clean up for Holy Communion)
- * Visit homebound or hospitalized members
- * Money counters
- * Assisting Minister
- * Usher on Thursday evenings or Sunday mornings
- * Bake communion bread
- * Sing in the senior choir
- * Play in the handbell choir
- * Operate laptop and projector for worship

Ninth graders will be confirmed the last Sunday in October. In September and October, households and Mentor Groups will write Individual Faith Statements, and Mentor Groups will decorate stoles. Ninth graders are invited to attend LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization) during NDEA in October and participate in Youth Group on Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm.

SERVING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY Each year, every confirmation household will be expected to do a service project outside of the church. You may take part in the “God’s Work. Our Hands.” event in the fall, the Community Clean-Up Day event in the spring, or volunteer in the community in an area of your choice.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

When a disciplinary problem arises, two steps are to be taken by the mentor leader.

- When the first incident occurs, the mentor leader can refer to the covenant, explaining why his or her action is inappropriate.
- If the student necessitates disciplinary action a second time, the student will be told his or her parents will be contacted immediately that night and will meet with the pastor, mentor leader and program secretary. After the meeting, any necessary further action will be determined.

The intention is to encourage the student to continue to participate in the ministry of the congregation, while at the same time making the parent aware of the challenges created by the student. Mentor leaders are asked to keep Pastor Joe or the Program Secretary informed of any discipline problem so they may provide support and ideas for handling the situation.

~ CONFIRMATION CALENDAR ~

**All activities are scheduled on Wednesday evenings @ 7:00—8:00 pm.
Students are expected to attend ALL ACTIVITIES.**

Instruction

September 5 (*Meet Your Mentor night*)
October 10
November 7
December 5

January 2
February 6
May 1

Mentor Groups

September 12
October 17
November 14
December 12 – *Fun Night!*

January 9
February 13
May 8

Faith Experience

September 19
October 24
November 28
December 19

January 16
February 20
May 15

~ Rehearsal & Rite of Confirmation ~ for current 9th graders

Wednesday, October 24, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m.

A rehearsal, group photo and a reception will be held for confirmation students and parents

Sunday, October 28, 2018 @ 10:30 a.m.

Rite of Confirmation for students