

## 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:

- ◆ Worshiping regularly
- ◆ Practicing faith at home

Households are equipped to practice faith at home using the blue Taking Faith Home sheet as a tool.

## 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:

1. Ten regular worship notes or radio worship notes.
2. Ten Taking Faith Home check-in sheets.
3. Two special worship notes from an Ash Wednesday or a Holy Week service at St. John or another congregation.  
*\*Worship notes and Taking Faith Home check-in sheets are located in the narthex and at [www.stjohnehc.org](http://www.stjohnehc.org).*  
If this particular requirement is not met, households will be required to complete a “Book (of the Bible) Report” by May 1st.
4. Book (of the Bible) Report – **All students/parents need to complete one of these reports by December 31.**

### *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 27 & 28 (Please note date change)**

### *Faith Experiences*

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

## **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.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade students** are asked to choose three ministry areas in which to serve.

### Serving Opportunities for Students:

- \* Help with Church School on Wednesday
- \* Operate the laptop and projector during worship, with the help of a parent or older 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

### **SERVING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY**

Each year, every confirmation household will be required to do a service project outside of the church. You may take part in “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.

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 attend Youth Group on Sunday evenings.

## **Disciplinary Action**

**Two Steps:** 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 Jodeen Myers informed of any discipline problem so they may provide support and ideas for handling the situation.

## **Confirmation Calendar**

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### **Instruction**

Classes are held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. on the following dates:

September 6 (Meet Your Mentor night); October 4; November 1;  
December 6;  
January 3; February 7; April 4; May 2

## **Mentor Groups**

Mentor groups are held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. on the following dates and student are expected to attend all of them:

September 13 ~ October 11 ~ November 8  
December 13 – Fun Night!  
January 10 ~ April 11 ~ May 9

## **Faith Experience**

Faith Experiences will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. on the following dates. Students are expected to attend all of the Faith Experiences:

September 20 ~ October 18 ~ November 15  
January 17 ~ April 18

## **Rehearsal & Rite of Confirmation for current 9<sup>th</sup> graders**

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

Wednesday, October 25, 2017 7:00 p.m.

Rite of Confirmation for students:

Sunday, October 29, 2017 10:30 a.m.

## Contact Us!

We hope Confirmation helps to weave faith into your family's identity and daily life. Please call or email us if you have concerns about your Confirmation experience, questions about schedules or worship notes, or if there is anything else you might wonder regarding your student's life of faith.

Pastor Joe Natwick [inatwick@stjohnelc.org](mailto:inatwick@stjohnelc.org)  
Pastor Lisa Lewton [lewton@stjohnelc.org](mailto:lewton@stjohnelc.org)  
Jodeen Myers (Program Secretary) [myers@stjohnelc.org](mailto:myers@stjohnelc.org)

Jodeen's office hours: Tuesday: 9am – 12pm & 1 – 3:45pm  
Wednesday: 9am – 12pm & 1-4pm  
Friday: 9am – 12pm & 1-4pm

St. John Lutheran Church  
146 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. West  
Dickinson, ND 58601

Phone: 701-225-6747 Fax: 701-225-3069

### Office Hours: **Fall**

Monday – Friday: 9am – 12pm & 1-4pm

### **Summer:**

Monday – Thurs: 9am – 12p & 1-4pm

Friday – 9am - noon

[www.stjohnelc.org](http://www.stjohnelc.org)

Find your congregation on Facebook ~  
"St. John Lutheran Church

# Confirmation Handbook



2017 – 2018

## FOUR KEYS for daily living<sup>1</sup>

1. Caring Conversations
2. Devotions
3. Service
4. Rituals and Traditions

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<sup>1</sup> The Four Keys were developed by Vibrant Faith Ministries, a non-profit organization that encourages individuals and families to grow deeper into our faith by practicing faith in our homes.