

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION PARENT & STUDENT MEETING

7th, 8th & 9th Grade

Wednesday, August 17, 2016

6:30 p.m.

WHY ARE WE HERE?

Our Confirmation ministry is an important part of the **life-long process of spiritual growth**. During this time, we want to assist parents in their **primary role as teachers of the faith**. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we desire to instill and integrate the basic truths of the Christian faith into the hearts, minds, and lives of our young people. Our intention is for them to continue walking in faith with our Lord Jesus, strengthened in and through the Sacraments (Baptism and Holy Communion) and the Word of God.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

Classes and other activities will begin on following Rally Day on September 11, 2016. 7th & 8th graders will begin instruction on **Sunday, September 18, at 9:30 a.m.** in room 2-6. The 9th graders on **Wednesday, September 14, at 7:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Throughout the three years of confirmation it is our desire for our young people to learn how to use their faith and God's Word as their compass for life now and in the future.

Our main curriculum for 7th and 8th graders will use a curriculum designed by Concordia Publishing House. It will help us present the chief parts of Christian doctrine drawn from the Scriptures and outlined by Dr. Martin Luther in the Small Catechism. New learning for 7th and 8th graders will include a large group class setting taught, by Pastor Bodin, with discussion, memorization, prayer, serving others and assisting with worship outside of class (ie. acolyting). We desire to help these youth be "living catechisms" for others by also discussing the assigned questions and answers in their Luther's Small Catechism. At the end of each class, each confirmand will explain the connection between the lesson and their memory work with their parent/mentor.

New learning for the 9th graders will be in the Fellowship Hall taught by Pastor Gehrke. Our ninth grade year is centered on 'Living as Lutherans.' We will study a variety of topics to help them grow in their faith. He will give them tools to use based on God's Word to live as a faithful child of God.

WHEN IS FIRST HOLY COMMUNION?

All students are expected to complete the First Communion Class before they begin 9th grade Confirmation. First Communion Classes for those in 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades will be offered on Sunday evenings at 6 p.m. They will be held March 12, 19, 26, and April 2. At least one parent must accompany their son or daughter. First Communion will be on **Maundy Thursday, April 13, 2017, at the 7:00 p.m. worship service.**

There is a separate fee for these classes, as students need to have and work through two books: This Is the Feast - Student Book, and My First Catechism Activity Book. These are both published by Concordia Publishing House.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF STUDENTS AND PARENTS?

- 1. Parental Involvement & Support.** This is extremely important. Please lead by example participating in worship and education opportunities as a family. Intentionally talk about your faith and life in Christ each day at home. Develop a time every day when you can share your “highs” and “lows” with her/him. It may be at dinner, riding in the car, or... Your son or daughter is a special gift from God to you. Although they may not show it, they really value what you do and say. The time you spend together creates memories and shows that you love them. You may also be asked to assist with Servant Events, and/or assist with Junior High/Senior High youth group activities.
- 2. Attendance.** A minimum of **80%** attendance on Wednesdays, Sunday worship and Sunday Bible class is necessary for Confirmation. Obviously, this rule will be applied evangelically. Prolonged illness, family situations where the child is with the member parent only a portion of the time, visits to other churches, etc. all will be considered excused from the 80% rule. Even in cases where a student falls below the 80%, provision will be made for “making up” attendance during summer and early fall. We want all of our students to confirm their faith. However, when that day comes and you are asked if you will be faithful unto death, we want to know you have demonstrated a faithfulness to at least regular attendance at these things. In fact, we hope you will develop a greater desire to worship and learn at God’s house. We hope your parents will do the same. **Students are also expected to attend mid-week family services at 6:30 p.m. during Lent and Advent.**
- 3. Acolyting** – Acolyting for worship is a way that all 7th through 9th grade confirmands will serve the Lord and His Church this year. It is an important part of our worship service. If you do not show up, one of the pastors often needs to find a replacement quickly. Acolyte sign-up this year will again be on-line. You will be sent a link to sign up for acolyting via email when it is your turn to sign up. If you do not have a computer at home, you may come to the church office and use one. The 9th graders will be allowed to sign up first. 9th Graders need to sign up for **9*** worship services. This needs to include at least **1*** Holiday (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Holy Week, Advent and Lent). 9th graders should have all acolyting done before the Confirmation Service, April 30, 2017. 7th and 8th Graders need to sign up for a total of **11*** worship services. This needs to include at least **1*** Holiday (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Holy Week, Advent and Lent) and **4*** summer Sundays (June, July,

August) with the rest being regular Sundays. The monthly Trinity Times calendar will show who is serving at each service.

If you need to find a substitute because you are no longer available for a service, you can swap with another student using the website. Click “swap” button on the date you signed up for, and select the services you could switch with. Then click on “request a swap”. The first person to respond to your request will swap with you and you will be notified via email. If no one swaps with you, you will need to call people and continue looking for a substitute! Acolyte training will be on an individual basis prior to your first acolyting date. The Acolyte schedule will be posted on the monthly calendar as well as the SST on-line calendar, sstwbl.org. ***Please Note: The number of times to acolyte is yet to be determined***

4. **Memory Assignments** – 7th & 8th Graders are expected to memorize the six chief parts of Christian doctrine (teaching) from Luther’s Small Catechism according to the class schedule. This is to be learned and practiced at home before coming to class. At class it will be said to a parent or Pastor Dan before class begins! Memory work for 9th graders will be assigned by Pastor Gehrke. This will be communicated via handouts and email.
5. **Worship Notes** – Ten (10) Worship Notes are required each year. This form helps the confirmand share what she or he has discovered during the service. This year we will closely monitor worship notes by giving out “progress reports”. The progress reports will be given out and discussed at a meeting with the parent(s), youth, Pastor and an Elder, at a time that will be scheduled. These will include information on Sunday School, Worship and Confirmation attendance, as well as the number of Worship Notes. **At least five (5) Worship Notes are to be turned by December 31, 2016. The last five (5) need to be turned in by April 17, 2017.**
6. **Living as Servants** –

The Servant Events this year will be:

- Saturday October 29, 2017, Leaf Raking at Church, 10:00 am -12:30 pm (Pizza Lunch included)
- Wednesday December 14, Christmas Caroling to shut-ins and elderly, 7:00-8:30 pm
- Wednesday February 8, Make Valentines for various SST Disciples, 7:00-8:30 pm, will be delivered by each student individually with a parent/chaperone sometime during the next week.

7th & 8th Grade Confirmands: One of the ways we respond to God’s love is to serve others without receiving anything in return except the joy of serving another person. 7th & 8th Grade confirmands will be required to serve a total of **10 hours**. They must complete five (5) hours by December 16, 2016, and another five (5) hours by April 20, 2017. The main point is that you will not be paid with money but with the satisfaction of having helped someone. This can be done in a variety of ways—helping with childcare for the Young Family Bible Study, mowing or raking a neighbor’s lawn or shoveling their sidewalk or driveway, helping serve with a community service project run by the church—for a few ideas. You will need to see Pastor for approval before beginning any other type of service projects. Parent(s) please initial upon completion of service project hours.

9th Grade Confirmands: To help students learn how to serve in the church on a long-term basis, ninth grade confirmands will be expected to shadow a group, board, committee, position (i.e. sound booth, usher, music coordinator, Anna Altar, a choir) or Pastor Gehrke for a total of at least eight (8) hours – this equates to 1 hour a month until Confirmation. These hours may be accumulated by attending regular meetings, serving with the board, interviewing people connected to the group/board/position and learning what they do. Your time does not need to be focused on one specific area. If you are curious about two or three (or more) boards/positions/areas of service, take time to get a taste for all of them. This is an opportunity for you to explore how you can serve the Lord through different areas of the church.

The time may be spent with one group, or split between several different groups. How you use your time is up to you, as long as you meet these two requirements:

- 1) Get to know the group/board/position by interviewing/talking with a person or people involved with that area. Learn what their responsibilities are, what they actually do, how they accomplish these things, who are they accountable to, etc. This will be completed by literally “shadowing” a member of the group or committee. A 1-2 page (double-spaced) paper talking about the group you chose to shadow, what they do, how they help the congregation, what benefit members of the group receive by participating in that organization, and what you learned about them needs to be turned-in by December 16th.
- 2) After learning about a group, you need to DO something with them. This could be: ushering during a service, singing/playing in one of the choirs, running the sound booth or PowerPoint during a service, reading the scripture lessons on a Sunday morning, helping set up Communion with Anna Altar, doing something with the Board of Properties to fix something around the church, shadow the Trinity Guild and help the ladies do various activities – German Dinner, serving at Bake Sales etc. Or if you have another idea, talk with Pastor Gehrke. A 1-2 page (double-spaced) paper about your experience serving – what you did, what you learned, who it served, how it helped the congregation etc. – needs to be turned in by March 18th. A list of different groups and a brief description of what they do is included with your confirmation material.

Basically, look around the church – see what gets done and dive into something you’re interested in! If you’re not sure what to do, or if you have an idea about what you might like to do but not sure where to begin, talk with Pastor Gehrke.

CONFIRMATION EXPENSES

In order to avoid an abundance of miscellaneous costs throughout the year we are providing you with the years' total cost for the confirmation program.

The cost for 7th and 8th grade confirmation instruction this year will be \$70. This will go toward covering materials, catechisms for 7th graders, and servant projects. This also includes attending the Confirmation Retreat at Camp Omega in April, 2017. Cost for 9th grade confirmation instruction will be \$70. This will cover materials as well as the Confirmation Service on April 30, 2017.

The confirmation fee for the year is due by the first class. Please deposit your payment in the "CONFIRMATION FEE" envelope at the meeting tonight. Make sure the confirmation students' name is on the money if paying with cash. If unable to pay tonight, please turn money into the church office. Please do not leave money with Pastor. We hope knowing the cost up front will be helpful. Thank you for the support of the confirmation ministry for your child. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this fee, please call Pastor Gehrke.