



Saint John Lutheran Church
Confirmation Program
2017-2018

Parent/Student Guide

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Welcome (or welcome back) to St. John Lutheran's confirmation program! Because you are an integral part in the program, we have created this guidebook to help everyone with basic questions!

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation begins with Baptism. Baptism is our entrance into God's family. It is a gift of new life offered to us by God. In Baptism, our **parents and sponsors promise** to nurture our faith by participating in worship, teaching the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments, by placing into our hands the Scriptures, and by providing instruction in our Christian faith. **The Church promises** to help parents and sponsors in fulfilling this promise. Part of the fulfillment of the baptismal promise is Confirmation instruction. According to The Lutheran Church, **Confirmation is the rite by which a baptized person renews his or her baptismal promise, and publicly confesses his /her faith.**

Confirmation, also known as Affirmation of Baptism, is a time of preparation for baptized Christians to publicly profess that they do indeed believe these things promised for them in their baptism. It is a "passing of the torch" from parental responsibility for faith to personal responsibility.

BAPTISM

If a student has not been baptized, let us know and we will make arrangements for Baptism. Pastor Bob will meet with the student prior to any Baptism.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

At St. John we give instruction on the taking of Holy Communion to the 5th grade Sunday School class.

If you were not attending St. John when you were in 5th grade, and have not had communion instruction, please let us know and we'll get you caught up.

WORSHIP

WORSHIP IS CENTRAL TO OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE. To show your support, Please make every effort to attend worship *with* your student on Sundays at 8:00 or 10:30 am or Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. This shows you are "in it with them." Summer Worship is 9:00 am.

The sermons on Wednesdays will be similar to the sermon on the Sunday before.

CELL PHONES

The use of cellphones and other electronics such as iPods, tablets, etc. are not allowed during confirmation time unless a teacher calls for their use. If a student is using these devices during class time, the device will be collected for the evening. If the problem continues parents will be contacted.

PERMISSION SLIPS

Small groups leaving church will be expected to have signed permission slips from parents.

REGISTRATION FEE

We charge an annual fee of \$35 for each student. This includes curriculum, a Study Bible, a Bible cover, and 8th grade fall retreat, and other materials needed for the program. We try to make the program affordable for each family. If you have more than one student entering the program at the same time, the maximum family cost is only \$50.

ATTENDANCE

Weekly class attendance is required. If a student is going to be absent, please call the church office, 856-4561, or your child's small group leader in advance. If a student misses 3 classes they will need to watch a Bible Based movie and write a one page, single spaced, summary of the movie. The summaries must be turned into the church before April 1, 2017.

WEATHER POLICY

If the Elk River School District #728/Zimmerman Middle-High School lets school out early or cancels after school activities due to weather on a Wednesday when confirmation classes are scheduled; there will not be confirmation class.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

5:15 – 5:45 PM – **Social Time**

5:45 – 6:15 PM – **Large Group Lesson (Fellowship Hall)**

6:15 - 6:50 PM – **Small Group Lesson (Classrooms)**

7:00 – 7:40 PM – **Wednesday Worship**

**Large Group Begins promptly at 5:45pm!

CURRICULUM

We are using a curriculum called “Here We Stand”

(www.herewestandconfirmation.org). It is taught in three units: Old Testament, New Testament, Small Catechism. The curriculum is available to us online, and is continually being updated with music clips, video, slides, etc. to keep it relevant. The curriculum for 2017–2018 is the Old Testament.

J-TERM

In January, we will “step out” of the Here We Stand curriculum.

Parents must attend Confirmation with their student(s) for those 3 Wednesdays. Activities/lessons at this time will be aimed at connecting families. More information will be given as January approaches.

MENTORING

Faith mentoring pairs individual 3rd year students with individual adults of the congregation in order to discuss faith and life issues during Lent, February 14 – March 21, 2018. Young people are free to select any adult in the congregation, with their consent, to be their Faith Mentor. Faith Mentoring packets will be handed out. More information will follow in January 2018.

BIBLES

Each student will be given a NRSV Lutheran Study Bible. These Bibles are kept here at church, so that they are always available. During the large group and small group times, students will be using their Bibles, writing notes, highlighting, marking pages, etc. When they are confirmed, students take home a Bible full of useful notes and markings.

REQUIREMENTS

Each student must complete all of the following by April 1, 2018:

- **WORSHIP NOTES** - Students must complete **20 Worship Notes** each year of confirmation. Use the white forms found in the top drawer of the Narthex Credenza/under the TV. Worship Notes can be taken during any worship service. Worship Notes from other churches are acceptable and should be accompanied by the worship bulletin from the church visited. **If a 3rd year student has not completed 60 Worship Notes by Sunday, April 1, 2018, they will not be confirmed with the large group on May 6, 2018.** Students may be confirmed when they have completed the worship notes.

- **COMMUNITY SERVICE** – Students must complete **20 hours of Community Service** each year of confirmation. Record each project on a form (located under video monitor in Commons area) and have a parent sign it before turning it in.

We encourage students to do their community service hours in a **variety** of ways:

- Within the church as Usher, Lector, Sunday School, VBS, cleaning, work projects, A/V Sunday tech, or coffee server after worship.
- Outside church helping a neighbor, scouts, school...
- Some Community Service events are scheduled as a whole group. *See the 2017-2018 confirmation schedule.*

We are **not** requiring a minimum number of hours from each area. We are hoping that you will help out when a coordinator contacts you to serve, especially as a worship assistant.

Things that **do not count** toward community service are things you do as **part of a family**: helping your parents with yard work or cleaning, doing dishes or any other **regular household chore**.

- **CREATE A PERSONAL FAITH STATEMENT** – Third year students will be required to also create a personal faith statement. This may be written or on video, or a combination of both.