

Confirmation 2011-2012

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

WELCOME to confirmation! I am excited to join you and your child on this next step in their faith journey. Confirmation is a special time of study during which we teach the foundation of the Christian faith to young people. At the end of study the students then have the opportunity to “confirm” their faith, or in other words, to say “yes” to what God did for them in baptism when God claimed them forever.

Confirmation is a 3-year program at Lord of Life. During the first and second years, we will study the Bible, the Lord’s Prayer, the Apostles’ Creed, and the Ten Commandments. During the third year, the students will learn about the basic faith practices, explore other faith traditions, and do a service project. Why a three year program? There are two reasons. First, two years hasn’t been enough time cover the areas of study. Second, we want to bridge the transition from middle school to high school. So much change happens for the kids in this time and we can support them through this by maintaining our relationship in confirmation.

In the following pages I will describe what confirmation study involves. I will review the schedule, curriculum, context, parental involvement, and fees. Please contact me if you have questions after reading this material.

CURRICULUM

We will be using *Here We Stand*, the confirmation curriculum from the ELCA. *Here We Stand* engages the traditional teaching in relevant and understandable ways. It also integrates *The Lutheran Handbook*, a humorous, interesting, and fact filled guide to the Bible, the Christian faith and the Lutheran tradition. *Luther’s Small Catechism* is included in the text. Each student will also receive a *NRSV Student Bible* for use throughout the program and beyond.

***Here We Stand* also has a web site that students can use to reinforce their learning and to connect with other people in the program. There are great resources there for us to grow in faith and community. Information about connecting to the site will be forth coming.**

CONTEXT

It is important for confirmation age children that we not only teach them the “information,” but that we teach it in an environment that nurtures their faith and builds their relationship to other Christians.

God created us in community. You’ll notice that almost all Bible stories relate to the whole people of God. Christian faith is not about God and me, it is about God and us and me, in a relationship. Our responsibility is to model this caring community as we learn together. Without the context of community relationship, the information is meaningless.

To accomplish this, each student is a part of a small group for the year. Each small group is led by a mentor(s) who learns with the students and spends time with them in fellowship,

prayer, and service. The small group is a place to care for one another, to listen to each other, and to help each other learn about the faith. In the long run, we hope that kids will build relationships to carry them through their high school years and keep them connected to the Church.

REQUIREMENTS-

- 1. Wednesday Class** – students are expected to attend **all** Wednesday class times and to arrive on time. Deana should be notified of all absences (ahead of time whenever possible). Up to **three** excused absences are allowed during the year. Excused absences include illness, family conflict, or school conflict that cannot be resolved. Make-up work will be given for any absences that will help to keep the student connected to the topic that was missed and will be due the following week. **If there are sports, music, or other activities that will conflict with Wednesday evening class times, this format of confirmation may not work for that student. Please speak with Deana for other options. We are also willing to contact any coaches/teachers, etc. to work out scheduling, if that would be helpful.
- 2. Worship Attendance** - students are expected to be regular in worship. Regular attendance means a *minimum* of 60% attendance at Sunday/Saturday services. If students are out of town and attend a service at another church, he/she should bring in the worship bulletin from that church to receive credit. Students sign-in at the front of church as a record of their attendance.
- 3. Sermon notes** - students are to complete 10 sermon notes over the course of the year. Students turn them in when each one is completed.
- 4. Worship Participation** - students are to participate in 2 different worship roles. In addition to their scheduled acolyte role, students may serve as ushers, greeters, readers, musicians, actors, communion assistants, etc. Students turn in a participation record slip after their service each time.
- 5. Homework** - students will have weekly homework. Homework will be completed at home and returned the following week.
- 6. INNS** – each small group will serve INNS on a Sunday evening between October-April. A schedule will be determined after classes start.
- 7. WeB- WeBelieve** - middle school “Sunday School” class. Each Sunday @ 9:15am they reinforce the confirmation topic and then talk about faith and current events/everyday life.

SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR

On the page enclosed you will find the schedule for the year. Class time is held on Wednesday evenings from **6:00-7:50 p.m.**

Please keep this schedule ready for quick reference. Also note the days off during the year when class does not meet. Students do not meet on Wednesdays when there is mentor huddle time.

RETREAT

An important part of the program is the weekend retreat that we take in the winter at Lutherdale Bible Camp in Elkhorn. From Friday night through Sunday noon, we have the opportunity to spend time with the kids in a setting that lends itself to learning, having fun, and building relationships in a way that does not happen in the Wednesday evening format. It is required that a student attend at least one retreat in their 7th or 8th grade year, though it is so much fun they might want to attend both years. This year the retreat will be held at Lutherdale on December 2-4.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

One person cannot do confirmation ministry alone. For any program to be a success there must be a partnership between Pastor/leader, parents, other caring adults, & students. We must surround our kids with a caring, nurturing community. We need you! Please see the student registration form for ways that you can participate.

However you choose to participate, remember that your child will need your support and influence to benefit from confirmation. If you and your child perceive it as a “chore” rather than as an opportunity for building kids up in the faith, then the time in confirmation will be much less effective. You need to set the tone in your family that confirmation is a priority for them during these three years.

*For First Year
Students &
Parents
Only*

You are asked to attend the first three weeks of confirmation with your child. September 7, 14 & 21. These classes are formally titled, *Surviving Adolescence*, and are a part of the *Faith Stepping Stones* program in our church. You will enjoy discussion around this important time in your family’s life and in your child’s growth in faith and it will prepare you and your child for the confirmation years.

FEES

The *NRSV Student Bible* and the *Lutheran Handbook* cost \$24.99 and come as a set from Augsburg Fortress. We are asking each student to pay \$12.50 toward this cost when the student is registered for the program. The rest of the cost is paid through the offerings given by our congregation.

The winter weekend retreat to Lutherdale will cost approximately \$90 per student. The congregation will cover 50% of the retreat and the student is to pay the other 50% (\$45.00).