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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

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LETTER TO PARENTS

Confirmation is about finding one's own voice of faith to express doubts and fears as well as affirmations and certainties. It is an opportunity to explore faith and learn why we do what we do as Christians and believe what we believe as Lutherans. It is summed up: "What do you believe and why?" Culminating with Affirmation Worship where each Confirmand stands before God, their parents, and the congregation and claims boldly "this is my faith, and my faith alone."

No program can have such an impact on any person's life without the support of their parents. We are convinced that *parents can make the largest impact in their children's faith formation*. Basically, we have your children for about 2 hours a week, you have them the other 168 hours of the week. When parents are involved with the life of the church and talk about faith at home, their children will come to understand their own faith better and what it means to truly trust in God. As Proverbs 22:6 says: "Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray." That is the entire point of Confirmation! These three years are about intentional faith formation. Confirmation is about learning what it means to be an active member of a faith community. And it is about claiming the faith which your children were raised in as their own. This will only be successful with your help and support. For this reason, we want to encourage parents to be engaged in the Confirmation program along with your children.

There are a few specific needs we have from parents to make our Confirmation program possible.

- 1) The first is to spend time every Wednesday evening on your drive home discussing what was presented at Confirmation that day. And then take the conversation deeper by connecting that evening's topic to your life as a family. Spending just 5 minutes doing this will help you grow closer to God and closer as a family as you share your faith with your child and hear them express theirs as well.
- 2) We need your help to make this program work!
 - a. **Provide \$10 for snacks for the year:** Your kids are hungry after school! This will enable us to have a good variety of healthy snacks waiting for them when they get to confirmation.
 - b. **Assist with special events** such as SWYG Service Projects, Turkey Dinner, Pizza Party, Lenten Meals, and End of Year Gathering.
 - c. **Volunteer as a small group leader, mentor, prayer partner or chaperone a special event!**
 - d. **Usher at two Sunday worship services with your family.**
- 3) Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, we need you to pray for your children. Or better yet, pray *with* your children!

LETTER TO STUDENTS

Confirmation is about claiming your own faith and owning what you believe. It is about affirming your baptism and the promises of Christ Jesus in your life. At the end of these three years, you will stand before the congregation and make these baptismal promises:

- 1) to live among God's faithful people,
- 2) to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper,
- 3) to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- 4) to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- 5) to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

We believe that these things are what Christians do as a joyful response to the Good News that Jesus died and rose again for our salvation.

These three years of Confirmation are about spending intentional time learning the basic, core, and fundamental beliefs of the Christian faith by asking a lot of questions and seeing how we live out our baptismal promises. Confirmation is not the end of religious instruction but the beginning of an adult life of faith in the Church. Experience has proven that little challenge results in little growth. Therefore, we approach Confirmation with a level of seriousness. Confirmation is a program of spiritual discipline (prayer, devotion, serving, worship, etc.). Below are the expectations of Confirmation which will help keep us on track and challenged to grow. They are designed to assist you in growing as a disciple so that by the end of the program you are able to confidently claim this faith as your own.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SCHEDULE

- 3:30 snack and fellowship
- 3:50-4:15 Large Group Activity
- 4:15-5:00 Small Group Meetings
- 5:00-5:30 Closing Worship in Sanctuary

We meet EVERY WEDNESDAY unless there is no school.

Confirmation events are also canceled if school is canceled or dismissed early due to weather.

Confirmation program is divided into 2 Semesters to encourage yearlong engagement.

- Semester 1 runs September thru December
- Semester 2 runs January thru May

SWYG

Second Wednesday Youth Group is exactly that. The second week of every month we will gather for fellowship, service projects, and group activities that focus on building relationships with one another and with God.

EXPECTATIONS

Worship Involvement:

- 18 Worship reflections – 9 each semester (18 total)
- Acolyte 3 times during the year for Sunday worship
- Provide 2 scripture readings (in-person or recorded) - 1 each semester (2 total)
- Serve along with family at 2 worship services as ushers/greeters – 1 each semester (2 total)
- Evening Mid-week Lenten Worship service:
 - Attend worship services
 - Serve one meal with your family
 - Assist with worship by serving as reader, greeter, sound, or acolyte

Participate in the life of FLC:

- Participate in 3 Congregational events and turn in 3 reflection sheets. Suggested events are:
 - o attend one Church Council meeting, help with Sunday School for one quarter, help with Turkey Dinner, help with WELCA Bazaar, participate in Christmas decorating, help with streaming, run media computer for a worship service, etc.
- Participation in service type events can also be turned into the school and applied to the Golden Bear Paw award!

Prayer Partners:

- Each student will be partnered with an adult member of the congregation who will pray for them throughout the year.
- Meet with your prayer partner twice each semester (4 times total) and complete a Prayer Partner Meeting form.

2021-22 CALENDAR (Dates subject to change)

Semester 1

DATE	EVENT
8-Sep	Orientation
15-Sep	Session 1
22-Sep	Session 2
29-Sep	Session 3
6-Oct	Session 4
13-Oct	SWYG - mission
20-Oct	Session 5
27-Oct	Turkey Dinner
3-Nov	Session 6
10-Nov	SWYG
17-Nov	Session 7
24-Nov	No Confirmation
1-Dec	Session 8
8-Dec	SWYG
15-Dec	Prayer Partner Party
22-Dec	Christmas Party
29-Dec	No Confirmation

Semester 2

DATE	EVENT
5-Jan	Session 9
9-Jan	Tent. 8 th Gr Retreat
12-Jan	Session 10
19-Jan	Session 11
26-Jan	Session 12
2-Feb	Session 13
9-Feb	SWYG - mission
16-Feb	Session 14
23-Feb	Session 15
2-Mar	LENT ASH WED
9-Mar	LENT
16-Mar	LENT
23-Mar	LENT
30-Mar	LENT
6-Apr	LENT
13-Apr	SWYG - mission
20-Apr	Session 16
22-Apr	Session 17
4-May	Session 18
11-May	End of Year Party

COMMUNICATION

Our primary means of communication will be via the email address you provided us on your child's liability forms. We will also contact students directly via their school email addresses. You will receive a copy of any email we send to your child.

ABSENCES

Confirmation is a program that requires a high level of commitment that is also run with a high degree of grace. It is expected that all students attend AND participate in every event. But also understanding that life circumstances happen, if a student needs to miss an event please contact Pastor Ron to see what will be missed and if makeup work is needed. We are reminded in the grace of this approach that what is "fair" is not always what is "equal." Our goal is not for perfect attendance and busy work. Our goal is to form disciples and grow in faith. Just as each student is beginning their journey on different levels and advance at different paces, so too are the challenges different for each student to grow in their relationship and love for the Lord.

Because most students walk to FLC after school, if a child does not arrive by start of Large Group, a parent will be called to ensure that the child is home and safe. Please let us know if your child will be absent or running late so we know they are safe.

LUTHER PARK: Recharge Retreat Weekend

Confirmants will be attending the Recharge weekend at Luther Park, date October 22-23. The congregation supports this opportunity by paying half of the total cost. Families are asked to contribute the remaining half. Adult chaperones are needed. Please talk to Pastor Ron if you care to chaperone. Scholarships are available if needed, please see Pastor Ron

CHRIST JAM: Area Synod Youth Gathering

Christ Jam is our Northwest Synod Middle School Youth Gathering. The date for this year's event is TBD. This is a daylong event filled with worship, music, workshops and games. We travel as a group. Please talk to Pastor Ron if you care to drive and chaperone. Scholarships are available if needed, please see Pastor Ron.

LUTHER PARK SUMMER BIBLE CAMP

Confirmants are encouraged to attend Bible camp during the summer of their 6th or 7th Grade year. But they can certainly attend all three years! Our congregation will pay \$200 for one year toward this cost and other fundraising opportunities are available to defray the remainder of the cost.

SUMMER MISSION TRIP

Our middle school youth are invited to travel to Duluth, MN July 10-15, 2022. This trip requires a \$50 registration deposit due by Sept.22, 2022. Contact Staci Marvin MarvinS@baron.k12.wi.us for all the details!

ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

Our eighth-grade students are eligible to attend our ELCA High School National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis July 24-28. Ask Pastor Ron or Valeri Scheps for more information.

8th GRADE CAPSTONE

8th Grade Capstone is where we put it all together and prepare our 8th Graders to affirm their faith. During this time 8th Graders will complete two primary tasks: Faith Statements and Faith Testimonies. The details will be sent in the spring.