

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Confirmation studies at Trinity Lutheran Church!!!! When we were/are baptized into God's family these words are spoken from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal, "... to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *them* among God's faithful people,
bring *them* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in *their* hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture *them* in faith and prayer,
so that *your children* may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace."

Each of us as parents, sponsors, and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, make a promise at this time to support and teach the faith which has been passed down to us from generation to generation.

Students:

The Confirmation years are a time where we seek to further fulfill these promises that have been made by all at baptism. And so for our Confirmation students, we are anxious to work side by side with your family, as you grow in your knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. It is our prayer that these years of instruction will produce a solid foundation for living out the Christian life now and in the years to come.

Parents:

This is a great opportunity for you to not only set a great example but also to learn and grow along with your child by talking with and working your child(ren) about what they are studying this year. You are welcome to come to any large group session that we will be having throughout the year, in some ways I am still shaping what this year will look like and will have some better thoughts and ideas after the parents meeting.

Questions:

Why Do I Have to go to Confirmation?

Most common answer to this is my parents are making me go.

What can I get out of Confirmation?

- Preparation for life in the church as an adult
- A solid grounding in the basic Lutheran Christian beliefs
- A good look at the Bible and all it has to offer
- A chance to spend quality time with other Christian young people
- A regular pattern of worship
- An opportunity to develop an active prayer life
- An understanding of your own particular gifts and how you might use them in service to others

What am I expected to do?

- Sermon notes (Amount varies by grade) to promote regular attendance at worship service with the entire congregation.
- Attend times of instruction, as this is the time where we can dig into what we hold to be true as Lutherans when it comes to the Christian faith.
- Service projects both individually and as a group.
- 6th, 7th and 8th graders will acolyte at worship services
- Criteria established using the concept of the following categories: We Learn It, We Live It, and We Believe It

What happens during the time of instruction?

- Large group instruction
- Small group sessions (Would like some help to break the kids into some groups to talk more freely about what they understand and what is taking place in their lives.)
- Worship/Fellowship/Service time

How come I have to do all this work?

First and foremost, no one has to do this work alone, as we will walk through this process working together as fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. The work that is asked of each of you is not to judge or to try put faith on some sort of scale to monitor your growth; however, it is a tool used to show your commitment to the church.

Confirmation is not a graduation; it is a statement of faith. Confirmation is meant to be a springboard for our faith journey, which is life long. Confirmation is not a right, but a privilege granted to all who show their commitment to Christ, no different than Jesus did when he held his first disciples accountable for their own growth and understanding of the faith. Each student and parent will be asked to sign a confirmation covenant for showing their commitment to the Confirmation program at Trinity Lutheran Church.

We also will need a medical and permission form on file for each child at the start of confirmation, as that will accompany us on any off-site activity in case any emergency should occur.

We also need parents as mentors. If you are interested please contact the church office. Co-mentors is a good option, as schedules can get full throughout the year.

If you have any questions please feel free to call or e-mail, as I will pickup my voice mail and e-mails on a daily basis. Church office (701)797-3611 Pastor Mike's Cell Phone (701)789-1857 or pastormikejake@yahoo.com

Blessings,



Michael T. Jacobson