

Confirmation

Grade 8

The Basics of Confirmation:

Confirmation is the process Middle School students go through to become confirmed members of Faith Lutheran Church. Over the course of 3 years of instruction (grades 6 – 8) students will learn basic doctrine of the Christian faith, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and Bible lessons from both the Old and New Testament.

To be confirmed students must meet several requirements throughout each grade. During 6th grade students will need to successfully complete the Family Based Confirmation program. During 7th grade students will need to successfully complete the Family Based Confirmation program as well as participate and complete the 7th grade Communion Retreat held each October. Students will receive their First Communion during 7th Grade. During 8th grade students will need to successfully complete the 8th Grade Small Group program, the Gifts For All God's Children Party and participate in the 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat held in April.

After completion of all areas of the Confirmation program 8th grade students will be confirmed at a special "Confirmation Service" held over Mother's Day weekend in May where they will read what they believe in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

8th Grade Small Groups:

Throughout your student's 8th Grade year they will be placed into a Small Group Bible Study that will meet weekly between September 26th and May 8th. Each small group will cover a variety of topics and activities that will help your student apply their Christian faith into their everyday lives. Our hope is that through these Bible Studies students will grow closer to God, closer to each other, and learn about the Christian faith.

Student Expectations:

Each student will be expected to:

- Attend weekly Small Group meetings
- Participate in a Gift's For All God's Children Party (12/11/09)
- Attend worship service at least 3 times per month
- Attend one of the following at least 3 times per month
 - o Ground Floor (Sundays @ 9:15am)
 - o 2nd Floor (Wednesdays @ 6:30pm)
- Complete the 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat

Weekly Small Group Meetings:

Students are expected to maintain good attendance (average of 3 times per month) at their 8th Grade Small Group. During this hour and half students will engage in various lessons lead by trained Damascus Student Ministry Youth Staff leaders. Each week students will need to bring a Bible to class.

Gifts For All God's Children Distribution:

Every 8th Grade Confirmation student will need to attend the Gift's For All God's Children Party held on December 11th, 2009. Student's will need to arrive at Faith by 8:00am and should plan on being picked up at 12:30pm outside Room 16. During this day student's will work with their 8th Grade Small Group doing various service activities to provide a great Christmas Party for a local Lutheran congregation. All students' will be leaving the Faith campus and will be driven by their Small Group leader and group parents. If you have any concerns please feel free to join us on this wonderful day. More information will be provided during your first group meeting by your student's Confirmation leader.

Church Attendance:

It is our expectation that each student attend worship services on average of 3 times per month throughout the school year. Students may attend worship services at Faith Lutheran Church on Saturday night or Sunday mornings. Attendance is tracked at these services by filling out the attendance card in the Bible rack each week.

Middle School Programs Attendance:

It is also our expectation that in addition to worship, students are attending Middle School Ministry programs at least 2 times per month. Students may attend the Ground Floor (a Middle School only program) on Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the Youth Room (#16). Students may also attend the 2nd Floor (also a Middle School only program), which meets from 6:30pm – 8:00pm on Wednesday evenings in the Youth Room (#16). Attendance at the Ground Floor and the 2nd Floor will be tracked via a computer check-in station inside of the Room 16.

8th Grade Confirmation Retreat:

On March 25-27, 2011 your student will attend their second mandatory Confirmation retreat. During this weekend students will receive instruction on the what it means to Believe and the role they play as members of Faith Lutheran Church. The retreat will be held at Michigan Christian Youth Camp in Attica, MI. Parents are invited to join us as chaperones/drivers for this wonderful weekend. If you are interested in attending as a parent contact RJ Grunewald at (248) 404-6246. During this retreat students will write out their creed (personal belief statement). A portion of this creed will then be collected and read aloud during the Confirmation service in May in front of the congregation. If your student cannot attend the retreat their creed will be completed at a Small Group meeting.

Choosing A Class:

When you register your student for 8th Grade Confirmation you have the opportunity to pick the “best 3” small group choices for your family. Most families determine their number 1, 2, and 3 options based on day of week and location. Unfortunately these classes are limited in space to 10 students each and are filled on a first come, first serve basis. We work very hard to give every family their number one choice but we cannot guarantee that choice. We recommend filling out and turning in the Registration form as quickly as possible so that you can get your student into the best time/location possible. You **will not** receive any information from the Student Ministries department prior to your 8th Grade Small Group Leader’s introduction phone call (see 2-3 weeks before class begins).

Male Groups:

Monday, Location TBD

Monday, 22 & Romeo Plank

Sunday 1pm, 16 & Dequindre

Female Groups:

Tuesday, 18 & Garfield

Thursday, 19 & Schoenner

Monday, 16 & Dequindre

If there is a problem with the group your student has been placed in please notify RJ Grunewald as soon as possible so that we might find a solution for you. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to switch your student but we will work very hard to accommodate to your family.

2-3 weeks before classes begin:

Approximately 2-3 weeks before classes begin your 8th Grade Small Group Leader will call you to begin giving you the basic information about your student's class. They will convey to you the time, location, exact directions, first meeting date, etc about your student's 8th Grade Small Group. Take this opportunity to ask any questions that you may have about the 8th Grade Small Group.

Your Student's First Class:

Your first 8th Grade Small Group class will meet the week of September 26th. Parents will have the opportunity to meet with the Group Leader and spend time looking at the schedule, basic information, and get a chance to ask any questions that you may have. Parents are required to attend the parent portion of this class.

Missed Grade 6 & 7 Confirmation? No Problem!

If your student missed out or did not successfully complete Grade 6 and Grade 7 Confirmation we will work with you to make sure that your student can still be confirmed. 8th Grade students in this situation will still sign up and participate in the 8th Grade Small Group program. Each student will also need to complete one of the following with a parent/guardian:

- Family Based Confirmation Doctrine Curriculum
- 3 Solas Café – 8-week course

The Family Based Confirmation Doctrine Curriculum is a hybrid of the lessons that most students complete during the 6th and 7th Grade Confirmation program. Parents and students will sit down together and work through 21 different lessons on the Doctrine of the Lutheran Church. Students will be tested on the lessons that they work through at the end of the school year. The 3 Solas Café is an 8-week course offered through the Adult Ministries of Faith Lutheran Church. An 8th grade student may take this course with a parent to successfully catch up on the material covered in 6th and 7th grade.

If your student has missed out on the 6th & 7th Grade Confirmation program please feel free to contact RJ Grunewald to discuss the best route for your student so that they may still be confirmed at the special ceremony in May.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments feel free to contact RJ Grunewald, Middle School Minister, at (248) 404-6246 or via email at rgrunewald@faithtroy.org.

For the most up-to-date information on our Middle School Ministry check out www.faithtroy.org/middleschool

Important 8th Grade Confirmation Dates:

September 5 – 12	Phone Call from Confirmation Leader
September 26	First Week of Confirmation Small Group
December 11	Gifts For All God's Children Party 8:00am – 12:30pm
Early February	Parent Letter Mailed Out (This letter contains important information for the remainder of the Confirmation year)
March 25 - 27	8 th Grade Retreat
March 27	8 th Grade Parent Meeting
May 7	8 th Grade Confirmation Service (2pm)

Important Middle School Ministry Dates

September 19	Good Morning Gameshow (9:15am in Room 16)
December 3	Christmas Blitz Party
January 15 – 18	Winter Retreat*
February 16 – 18	Mid-Winter Break Activities
May 27	School's Almost Out Party

* Our Winter Retreat is a tentatively scheduled for these dates, we may change dates in the near future.