

Confirmation

Grade 7

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 as laid out later on in this packet. 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 Distribution day 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 about God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Family Based Confirmation:

Throughout 6th and 7th grade students will work closely with parents through the “Family Based Confirmation Curriculum”. Parents and students will be asked to sit down on average of once a week and work through a 30-minute lesson together. Students and parents will complete a total of 20 lessons over the course of each year studying Lutheran Doctrine and Scriptural lessons.

One dad said:

“My son commented this morning (without prompting from me) that one reason he enjoyed confirmation study is he learned more about me through the discussions. I am pleased with the family closeness and the chance to draw closer to Jesus. I am also more in tune to my son’s spiritual growth this way. Without this study, I would have less of an awareness of where he is and what I can work on with him. ”

Student Expectations:

Each student will be expected to:

- Pass 6 tests covering the Family Based Confirmation Curriculum on “Test Days” throughout the year
- Attend worship service at least 3 times per month
- Attend one of the following at least 2 times per month
 - o Middle School | Sundays @ 9:15am
 - o Middle School | Wednesdays @ 6:30pm
- 10 hours of volunteer service at Faith Lutheran Church

FBC Testing:

Throughout the year there will be 6 FBC tests that need to be passed for your student to successfully complete this year of Confirmation. These tests are scheduled on our “FBC Test Days” throughout the year. Students are encouraged to take their tests on the given date. Tests may be taken before the Middle School Sunday class (8:45am – 9:30am), after the Middle School Sunday class (10:30am – 11:00am), or following the 11:00am service (12:15pm – 12:45pm). If a student is not able to complete the test on a testing day a make-up test time will need to be scheduled. For our test day schedule please see the Important Dates hand out. For any student that has not completed all tests by April 29th, 2012 we will hold a special testing day on Sunday, May 20th from 8:45am – 12:45pm in Room 16. All tests must be completed for a student to move on to the next year’s program.

FBC Test Days: October 30, November 27, January 29, February 26, and March 25, April 29

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 on Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the Youth Room (#16). Students may also attend on Wednesdays from 6:30pm – 8:00pm in the Youth Room (#16). Before our Wednesday program, we also open the youth room at 3:30pm, welcoming the students to come, hang out, and have pizza for dinner.

Attendance at the Middle School programs will be tracked via a computer check-in station inside of the Room 16.

Volunteer Service:

While students are in grades 6 and 7 they will be asked to complete 10 hours of volunteer service inside of Faith Lutheran Church. Inside the Family Based Confirmation Curriculum students will find “Volunteer Forms” to be filled out and signed by a staff member at Faith after completion of service. There are many different opportunities to serve in our church. Below are a few possibilities along with the contact person and their phone extension at Faith Lutheran Church. Call (248) 689-4664 and feel free to ask for any of these people to find out how you can assist in their ministries.

Children’s Ministry “Kid’s Inc.” – Cynthia Brown ext. 223

Gifts For All God’s Children – Don Hanney ext. 300

Technical Arts – Gary Richards ext. 241

7th Grade Communion Retreat:

On October 21 - 23 your student will attend the first of 2 mandatory Confirmation retreats. During this weekend students will receive instruction on the basics of Communion. 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. After successful completion of this retreat students will be permitted to begin taking Communion during services at Faith Lutheran Church. There will be a special service of recognition for these students on November 6th. More information will be mailed out to families before the retreat regarding First Communion. If a student does not attend the retreat there will be a make-up session/test held following the retreat.

Family Based Confirmation Curriculum:

Each of the lessons will take approximately 30-minutes to complete with your student. Every lesson is structured in the following way:

- Parent led prayer
- Confirmation Lesson on DVD
- Scripture/Small Catechism readings
- Question and Answer with parents
- Student led prayer

There are a total of 20 lessons for the family to cover throughout each year. Students will learn about Baptism, the Ten Commandments, the Apostles Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Church life, and various stories from the Old and New Testaments.

The Family Based Confirmation Curriculum will be available for purchase in the Resource Center between August 15 and October 30. The following items will be bundled together for purchase:

Student Guidebook

This book will contain the student portion of every lesson. There will be questions, stories, space for answers and more. It is a scaled down version of the Parent Guidebook.

Parent Guidebook

This book will have everything needed for a parent to teach the lesson to their student. There will be all necessary questions, guided answers, stories, ideas and more. This book contains all the material found in the Student Guidebook.

Small Catechism

Each family will need to have one copy of the Small Catechism by Martin Luther. This will be used to help students learn basic Lutheran Doctrine.

DVD Lessons

Every lesson will contain contain a lesson to help highlight and illustrate the important points on a given topic. These short lessons will help begin the conversation that will be had as a family.

* You will have the option to purchase the curriculum without the Small Catechism if you already own one. Additional copies of the Student Guidebook are also available if needed.

** This years confirmation bundles will initially contain the first half of the confirmation lesson curriculum. We will provide the second half to all families to be picked up starting on their November test date.

Family Based Confirmation Parent Training:

We will offer a class on how to use the confirmation material, teaching tips and much more. This class will be offered prior to the start of the Confirmation year. RJ Grunewald will lead this instructional time. You will have the opportunity to view a sample lesson, learn tips and suggestions for making the most out of each lesson with your student and be able to ask various questions about the

material. This class is not mandatory, but highly recommended to help you get familiar with the material before you begin teaching it to your student.

This class will be held from 7pm until 8pm in the Youth Room (#16) on Wednesday, September 7th.

Missed Grade 6 Confirmation? No Problem!

If your student missed out or did not successfully complete Grade 6 Confirmation we will work with you to catch your student up. Most of the time we do this by having your student work through the Family Based Curriculum in both 7th and 8th Grade, as well as completing an 8th Grade Small Group (or during their 7th Grade summer). This is not the only option available so please feel free to contact RJ Grunewald to discuss the best route for your student in their Confirmation journey.

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 the Middle School Ministry check out www.faithtroy.org/middleschool

Important 7th Grade Confirmation Dates:

September 7	Family Based Confirmation Parent Training (7pm in Room 16)
October 30	<i>Test on Lessons 1 – 3</i>
November 27	<i>Test on Lessons 4 – 6</i> <i>***pick up Disc 2***</i>
January 29	<i>Test on Lessons 7 – 12</i>
February 26	<i>Test on Lessons 13 – 15</i>
March 25	<i>Test on Lessons 16 – 18</i>
April 29	<i>Test on Lessons 19 – 20</i>
May 20	<i>Make-up Testing</i>

Testing may be completed before/after the Ground Floor (8:45 -9:30am/10:30 – 11:00am) or following the 11:00am service (12:15 – 12:45pm) in Room 16

Important Middle School Ministry Dates

September 19	Middle School Sundays Kick-off (9:15am in Room 16)
October 21-23	7th Grade Retreat
December 2	Christmas Blitz Party
January 14 – 16	Winter Retreat*
May 25	School's Almost Out Party

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