

# h2h

## Confirmation Ministry

### St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

### 2009/2010

#### What is Confirmation?

The Rite of Confirmation is a time for people to confirm or affirm the promises made to them by God in their Baptism. This is also a time to publicly announce the understanding of our responsibilities as Christians, knowing that we live under the forgiving power of the risen Christ and how we are called to spread the good news of God's love in Christ by loving and serving others.

#### What are Confirmation Classes?

Confirmation "class" is a place where young people learn about the promises God has made, why He has made them and how this impacts our lives today. In order to understand this we need to look deeply into the Bible, as a complete book, in order to see how God has worked throughout history and still continues to work today.

#### What Grades are involved?

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The grades all meet together for Theme Events. These theme events will cover the entire Bible, Sacraments and Catechism over a 3 year period, once a week during the school year.

**Year A: LIVING LUTHERAN** - Martin Luther, Apostles' Creed, Baptism, Communion, and Lutheran Life

**Year B: LIVING FAITH** - The Ten Commandments, Lords Prayer, and Hot Topics

**Year C: LIVING SCRIPTURE** - Old Testament, New Testament, and Life of Christ

#### How are the classes taught?

Well, in our program we have done away with a class so to speak. We strive to teach young people in a way that will make the material relevant, fun and go to their heart. This is why we call this program h2h (**HEAD TO HEART**). Studies show that lecture based confirmation classes are not as effective in our current society. With the influx of technology, television programming and the Internet, young people respond more favorably to an interactive program. Of course this is a generalization; however we find that more often than not, students learn by participating in theme-based activities than by sitting listening to a lecture. Therefore this program is based on a three-legged stool approach. Our goal is to get young people connected; to God, to each other and the church.

## Three legged Stool?

A three-legged stool never wobbles and more importantly the stool will fall over without all three legs firmly in place. Our program has three legs:

1. **THEME EVENTS:** Every Tuesday evening (check the schedule closely) during the school year we will hold theme events in the Steidel Building. These Theme events include music, stories, skits, projected video and any other creative way we can present the theme for the night. Also, at certain times in the event students break into small groups of 6 and with their assigned Faith Mentor (GUIDE) they will discuss the theme for the day, pray together, review scripture and plan activities for their small group to participate in as required in the next two legs of our the stool.

There are 33 events this year, students may miss 6 events.

2. **SERVANT & FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:** Throughout the year there will be planned opportunities for youth be involved in acts of service around the church. These events are designed to foster group building and also reveal the value of servant hood to the students. Also, through out the year there will be planned fun, fellowship events. This activity is designed to foster relationships within the group and help build the community of God into a family.
3. **WORSHIP LIFE** – Students are required to regularly worship with their families throughout the year. Regular worship attendance is crucial for spiritual life as we try to help young people know the love of God. More information about this will follow in the parent orientation.

## What kind of parental involvement do you require?

As much as you can give! Parents, whether we wish it to be or not, will ultimately be the primary faith builders in a child's life. No question! So the more you can help the better the team will be to foster faith building in your child. We do understand that families are finding themselves increasingly busy. We encourage parents to attend any of our theme events. We also ask parents to be involved in their child's homework assignments. Please see below.

## Is there homework?

Of course! But this homework is unlike any other we have assigned in past. We will not call this homework, we call this a **Family Check-in**. After every theme event, your child will receive a Family Check-in sheet. With the sheet we ask families to:

1. **Check- in daily** – share your Highs and Lows of each family member's day with each other
2. **Read & Reflect** on the daily Bible Passage. Your child will be asked to highlight this verse in their Bible and bring it with them to the next theme event.
3. **Pray together.**

This assigned Family Check-In should take no more than 10-15 minutes per evening. We ask parents to sign their child's check-in sheet and send it with them to the next Theme Event.

## Cost?

There is a \$40 per student Tuition fee, that helps us cover the cost of materials, supplies, and helps us recognize the volunteers. Please make checks payable to St. John Lutheran Church. If a family finds themselves unable to pay the fee, please speak directly to Michael Berg or Pastor Kirkup directly.

## What else?

The three legged stool will only work if all three legs are firmly in place and at the top of the stool is WORSHIP. There are approximately 42 weeks during the Confirmation/school year (September through June). The goal is that you and your children worship at least 32 of those weeks. Please be sure your child signs in at worship in the narthex. **This is the only record that we have of the students attendance.** Remember that if you are away on vacation, family outing, Scouting, etc. and attend a religious service, bring in the service bulletin and receive credit for that week.

All the above goals are designed to help young people stay connected to their “FFC” (Faith, Family, and Church). With so many competing interests consistency is the goal.

We understand that schedules are busy if you have a problem completing the above requirements please contact Pastor Kirkup or Michael Berg to discuss other options.