

Confirmation Program 2011-2012

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND

Expectations and Requirements

1. Orientation: Confirmation students, their parents, and small group leaders will meet with the pastors for an orientation and registration session on Wednesday, August 24, 2011, at 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary. *“Here We Stand,”* our core curriculum for confirmation instruction has been updated by Augsburg Fortress with some new features. A Student Book will become a required primary teaching tool this fall.

2. Large Group and Small Group Sessions: Confirmation students are organized into small groups of 2-4 students. Each small group has an adult leader. Generally speaking (but with a few exceptions), the schedule is organized as follows:

*On the first and third Wednesday of each month, all the groups meet together for a large group session with the pastor/youth director. Following a 30-45-minute lesson on the Bible/catechism, students break into their small groups for 15-25 minutes to discuss highs/lows and highlights of the lesson.

*On the second Wednesday of each month, students meet with their small groups only. These sessions will be used for service projects and/or community building. Small group nights are just as important as large group nights, ATTENDANCE IS EXPECTED. It is highly recommended that small group leaders contact parents of their group before attending a movie to gain parental approval.

* The fourth Wednesday of each month is generally reserved for adult small-group leaders’ training/support. However, October 2011 has Large Group planned on this evening because of scheduling issues.

3. Parents’ Nights and Large Group Service Night:

In addition to the large and small group sessions described above, there will be :

*Family and Large Group Night on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 and February 1, 2012:

All confirmation students and their families are expected to attend the large group session this evening. It is a time to observe large groups, network with other parents and fellowship together. Parents are always welcome at any large group session. If an inter-church Lutheran family event for confirmation age youth is planned in Bismarck during the term, families will be notified in advance of place, time, and date.

*A Large Group Service Night will be held on Wednesday, November 30. On this evening, all confirmation students and leaders will meet at church to work on several large and small service projects. Some projects include Christmas decorating, baking Christmas goodies, preparing props for the Sunday School Christmas program, etc.

4. What to Bring: Students are expected to bring their *“Here We Stand” Student Book*, binder, a Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version Lutheran Study Bible), and a pen or pencil to every session. The Student Book is utilized in Large Group and Small Group time. Student Books will be available for Seventh Grade at orientation for \$15.00.

5. Attendance: Students are expected to attend all large-group and small-group sessions on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:15 p.m. Excused absences, for illness and/or family emergencies, are allowed when a student’s parent calls the student’s small group leader or the pastor in advance. No more than two excused absences will be allowed for the year. Make-up work may be assigned if attendance or tardiness becomes problematic.

6. Worship Experiences: Each student in the confirmation program is expected to complete 20 sermon notes between September and May. Parents please sign the sermon notes before the student hands them in.

7. Service Hours: Each student will be asked to complete 10 hours of service during each year of confirmation.

*Six (6) of the hours will be prearranged for 7th and 8th grade confirmation students. These prearranged hours consist of acolyting three times and working in the nursery three times. Three (3) of the hours will be prearranged for 9th grade confirmation students. These hours will consist of acolyting three times.

* The remaining four hours (4) of service for 7th and 8th grade and 7 (seven) hours for ninth grade may be completed as the student chooses; however, we strongly recommend that students complete as many as possible with their small group.

**Ninth grade youth are highly encouraged to attend the Western North Dakota Synod Youth Gathering in October during Teachers' Convention from Thursday PM to Saturday Noon. A waiver of 5 worship notes and 5 service hours will be granted to students attending the gathering.*

**All Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth grade students attending the Fall CCM Bash will receive a waiver of 2 worship notes.*

A Service Form must be completed and signed by an adult supervisor after each service project. Service Forms and a drop-off box will be located in the church lobby. A list of possible service projects is also attached.

8. Acolyte/Nursery Responsibilities: Every confirmation student will be expected to serve as an acolyte three times during the year. In addition, 7th and 8th grade students will work in the nursery three times during the year. Schedules for acolytes and nursery work are included in the orientation packet. Service in the nursery is supervised by an adult nursery worker. Acolyting will be supervised by the pastors. **Training for 7th grade will be provided on Wednesday, October 5, 2011.**

If a student cannot work in the nursery on the date assigned to them, or cannot acolyte at the worship service assigned to them, he/she is responsible to find his/her own substitute. Once the change has been arranged please call the church office (223-2986) as soon as possible so we can list acolyte/nursery names correctly in the bulletin. A Service Form must be completed for credit after the student has completed one of these assignments.

9. Summer Camp: Students are expected to attend Bible camp between the 7th and 8th grade year and between the 8th and 9th grade year. The first camp experience will be scheduled at Camp of the Cross, Garrison, ND, and will include some discussion/teaching by the Lord of Life pastors and Youth Director. The second experience can be at a Bible camp of the student's choice. Traditionally, scholarship assistance has been given to each student for their camping experience. This money is raised by the students in various fundraising activities throughout the school year. **Please note that all students must attend camp in both years. Only students with a written doctor's excuse will be exempt from this requirement.**

10A. Seventh Grade Retreat: This retreat introduces seventh graders to each other and provides a time of fellowship. It is held on Friday, September 16, 7:00 PM to 11:30 PM.

10B. Ninth-Grade Retreat: This retreat introduces ninth graders to adult membership in the church. It will be held on **Martin Luther King weekend (January 15-16, 2012) at the church.**

11. Mentors and Faith Papers: All tenth graders will write a final paper entitled, “What My Faith Means to Me.” Each student works on this paper with a mentor of their choice who guides them through an exploration of their faith. These papers are presented to the church council. Individual council members discuss the papers with each student. An overview of the paper assignment and the mentoring program will be given to 9th grade students in the Spring.

12. Rite of Confirmation: The Rite of Confirmation will take place during the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services on the last Sunday in October of the student’s 10th grade year. Students will be invited to sign up for the worship service of their choice in the fall of the year. All requirements, including the Faith paper, must be completed before a student can reserve a place at the service of their choice.