

Confirm+Faith 2017-2018

Confirming Faith is discovering more deeply what has always been known and that which was made visible in baptism – that we are God's beloved children. We are excited to walk with you on the journey of faith as this reality unfolds for each of us!

Our goal with Confirm+Faith is for Youth to connect Faith to life, to become disciples/servants of Christ, to gain knowledge of Lutheran traditions and to develop and nurture their relationships with peers, parents and their faith community.

In order to have a full Confirm+Faith experience, each student and parent/guardian are strongly encouraged to make a commitment to the entire Confirm+Faith ministry.

WORSHIP

- To worship with a parent or other trusted adult on a regular basis.
 - Sunday morning worship
 - Offered every Sunday @ 8:00, 9:15, 10:30 a.m.
 - Wednesday evening worship
 - Offered every Wednesday @ 6:30 except Dec 27 & March 28
 - Special Services
 - Thanksgiving Eve (Nov 22 @ 6:30 p.m.)
 - Ash Wednesday (Feb 14 @ 6:30 p.m.)
 - Advent for Prayer Pals, Parents, Youth (Nov 22– Dec 20 @ 6:30 Wednesdays, 5:30 Sundays)
 - Lent for Prayer Pals, Parents, Youth (Feb 21 - Mar 21 @ 6:30 p.m.)

LEARNING

- To attend Wednesday Confirmation Sessions from 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- To attend and participate in the Winter Retreat on January 5-7, 2018
- To participate in Holy Communion Instruction (For students who have not received their First Communion and others who want a review.)
 - First Communion **Instruction**: Sunday, November 5 from 11:30-1:30 p.m. **OR** Sunday, November 12 from 11:30-1:30 p.m.
 - **Receive** First Communion: Wednesday, November 22 @ 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 3 @ 8:00, 9:15 or 10:30 worship

COMMUNITY BUILDING

- To participate in Prayer Pal Activities
- To participate in Service Learning Events
- To attend end of the year Midnight Madness - April 27-28
- To attend Luther Park Bible Camp in Danbury, WI - June 24-29, 2018
 - *Learn about Camp Fun on Wednesday January 3 @ 6:30 p.m.*

SERVICE

- To participate in the three provided large group service learning projects
 - Real Food, Real People with Shobi's Table - October 18
 - CrossCulture: Who Is My Neighbor - Sunday, February 25
 - Meet an Older Friend: Saturday, April 21 (10:00-12:00)
- To participate when small group is assigned to "Youth in Worship" opportunity
- To acolyte when scheduled

TOPICS OF STUDY

6-8 Grade Wednesday Confirmation from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

6:30-7:00 Messy Worship
7:00-7:30 Large Group Presentation & Activity
7:30-8:00 Small Group Connection w/Faith5

YEAR A

The Sacraments
Luther: Reformation
Women in Scripture

YEAR B

Apostles' Creed
Luther: Paradox of Faith
Paul & His Letters

YEAR C

Lord's Prayer
Luther: The Word
The Prophets

Attendance: Please have your son or daughter let Jacob or Pastor Leesa know when they will be absent from class so we can plan accordingly.

Winter Retreat

Year A: ACTS of Prayer
Year B: The Bible as the Living Word
Year C: Ten Commandments

Lent Connection

2017: The Lord's Prayer
2018: Water Marks

Small Group Faith Five

Our youth are split into small groups who are Guided by a caring adult. We will mix together our 6 & 7 graders into small groups, counting on our 7th graders for mentoring. Our 8th graders will form into age related small groups. All of our groups will sit together during our Messy Worship and Large Group. At the end of the night, they will connect what they heard through a process called "Faith Five" designed by Faith Inkubators.

1. Share – share highs and lows from passed week
2. Read – scripture regarding evenings theme
3. Talk – discuss a connection between the scripture story and their story
4. Pray – pray for the group
5. Bless – provide each other with a sending into the week

PRAYER PALS

Each year we ask that the middle school youth ask an adult from the congregation to be their Prayer Pal. *The Prayer Pal can be any adult from the congregation, other than a relative.*

We ask that youth let us know who their Prayer Pal will be for the upcoming year along with their contact information by WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017.

We expect the relationship to be reciprocal, where the youth and adult commit to the following:

- * Pray regularly for their "pal" including times of need
- * Recognize their "pals" celebrations like birthday, holiday and awards
- * Attend Prayer Pal Tailgate Party - Sunday, October 22 @ 11:30-12:30
- * Participate in 4 of 5 weekly Advent Connection
 - * Nov 22, 29, Dec 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20
- * Participate in 4 of 5 Wednesday Lent Connections
 - * Feb 21, 28, Mar 7, 14, 21

BIBLE

When your child was baptized, the Church promised to help his/her parents raise them in the faith. In part, this means placing in your child's hands the gift of God's Word – the Holy Scriptures. Good Shepherd will be developing a new tradition of providing each student a new Bible when they enter Confirmation (in 6th Grade). Youth will be given their Bibles at the 6th Grade Welcome on Sunday, September 24.

We are choosing the Common English Bible (CEB) for children and youth to use in our educational programs. The CEB is intended to provide the reader with a more common language without compromising the accuracy of the ancient Biblical texts.

Bibles will remain at church and not be taken home until the student is confirmed in 9th grade. This way we can teach students how to read and use their Bibles, in addition to having them write in them some important questions and underline important passages.

Have your son and daughter **download the app entitled "Bible"**. We will have them use this form of technology at appropriate times during our Wednesday evening worship and class.

FIRST COMMUNION

Any student in our Confirm⁷Faith ministry who has not yet received their first communion is invited and strongly encouraged to attend a First Communion Class on either **Sunday, November 5 at 11:30** or Sunday, November 12 at 11:30. Together we will explore the Sacrament of Holy Communion and what it means to receive this gift. Youth will then celebrate their first communion on Thanksgiving Eve, November 22 at 6:30 and Sunday, December 3 at 8:00, 9:15 or 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY MESSY WORSHIP

6:30-7:00 p.m. is Messy Worship!

Life is Messy... but the good news is that God is with us in the mess! Messy Worship is an opportunity to connect with God in the messiness of our lives through narrative storytelling, experiential prayer stations, and meditative practices. While youth bring energy on Wednesday night, enter the sanctuary prepared for children, youth and families coming together to focus their attention on God's love.

This year Messy Worship will follow a four week rotation, where Sunday's story will be told from a different perspective. The four week rotation begins with Holy Communion & Narrative Storytelling, followed by Lectio Divina, Prayer Stations, and Visio Divina.

Messy Worship is not optional for our students and is a part of the evenings overall confirmation program. It is, however, a great option for parents and younger siblings to worship together. Holy Communion will be served every once as part of the four week rotation.

Special Monetary Offerings will be collected and sent out to make a difference in the world. We encourage children and youth to bring a portion of their allowance or loose change each week for offering. *Research shows that teaching our young people to consider sharing a portion of their abundance/resources early is important to the way they see themselves and their giftedness as they grow older.* Our special offerings for the year will go to Shobi's Table and Lutheran World Relief.

YOUTH & WORSHIP COMMITMENT

Worship Attendance

We know that you have busy schedules and getting to worship is sometimes difficult. We do, however, expect worship attendance more than any other Confirm†Faith component. Worship is that important!!!! *Studies show children who worship beside their key adults are 86% more likely to grow up with a faith that has stuck and is lived out.*

Parents and Students need to plan to attend *at least* 18 out of 34 weekly & Special worship services together. Students will be asked to complete and turn in 18 Worship Reflections that can be found returned to the Inter†Gen desk (Worship Reflections must be signed by a parent/guardian). In addition, we ask Parents, Students and Prayer Pals to attend 4 of 5 of both Advent & Lenten Wednesday worship series.

Worship Leadership

A core component of Confirm†Faith is engaging youth while worshipping on Sunday mornings. Research states *“providing leadership opportunities for youth, alongside adults, is one of the best ways to connect youth to the church more deeply.”*

Throughout the year, youth will have the opportunity to serve as acolytes, ushers, readers, and greeters.

- **Youth in Sunday Worship:** The First & Third Sunday of each month, a confirmation small group will be assigned to participate in our Youth in Sunday Worship ministry at 9:15 or 10:30 a.m. Fifteen minutes prior to worship, they will meet Jacob at the Inter†Gen Desk for their assignment. This ministry begins October 1. We realize that your child might be asked to do Youth in Sunday Worship at a time that you don't regularly worship. We appreciate your flexibility. If they are assigned a Sunday they cannot attend, they can choose to work with a different small group on a different Sunday. *Please let us know if you switch to a different date.*
- **Acolyting:** Youth will get to help pastors lead worship as acolytes. An acolyte schedule will be created by September 27 which will indicate the 1-2 times students will have the opportunity to serve as acolytes at the 9:15 or 10:30 a.m. worship service. If your child is unable to acolyte on the assigned Sunday, we ask you/they make every effort to switch with another student and let the church office know. *Please arrive fifteen minutes prior to your assigned worship time.*
- **Nursery:** The Nursery Team provides a loving, caring, safe and fun environment for children 6 weeks-5 years of age while parents participate in worship or other special activities. The Nursery is open Sunday mornings during worship and Wednesday evenings.

SUGGESTED Confirm†Faith FEE of \$100

Oh how we wish doing ministry did not cost us anything, but it does. In order to foster faith, we all need to come together to provide money, time and talents! We call this stewardship of the gifts God has given to us.

We are grateful general church offering pays for well over half of the cost of Confirmation, not including staff. We also appreciate parent's monetary support along with the giving of their time and talents.

Here is a breakdown of confirmation ministry costs PER STUDENT:

Winter retreat -	\$95.00
Retreat Transportation	\$15.00
Service Learning Events	\$20.00
Bible	\$20.00
Curriculum	\$10.00
Supplies	\$15.00
T-Shirt	\$10.00
Prayer Pal & Other Celebrations	<u>\$15.00</u>
Total Actual Cost	\$200.00 per student
	(Your Suggested Fee is \$100)

For Current 8th Graders: LOOKING AHEAD TO 9TH GRADE Preparing for the Affirmation of Faith Ceremony & Celebration (September - October 2018)

We are excited to take the next step and continue to walk with you on the journey of faith as we celebrate your Affirmation of Faith! We have developed a special six-week ministry to help our 9th grade youth prepare for the transition from Confirm†Faith to Adult Membership. These six-weeks lead up to the Affirmation of Faith Celebration on Sunday, October 28, when youth will publicly affirm the promises given at baptism.

Prior to the Affirmation of Faith Celebration, youth will participate in *Dependable Strengths*, a vocational program to help our 9th grade youth prepare for their transition from Confirm†Faith to Adult membership. Youth will meet Sunday mornings at 9:15 am starting in September, where they will identify their core skill, abilities, traits and positive characteristics which make them unique for God's work in the world.

- Week One ~ My Good Experiences
- Week Two ~ Dedication Sunday
- Week Three ~ My Strengths
- Week Four ~ Proving My Strengths
- Week Five ~ Confirming My Convictions
- Week Six ~ Church Council Round Table & Commitment

What Else?

- Team Quest Adventure
- Friday, October 26, 2018: Affirmation of Faith Reception & Rehearsal
- Sunday, October 28, 2018: Affirmation of Faith Worship Celebration

Welcome 6th Graders to Confirm†Faith!

Sunday, September 24 at 11:30-1:30 p.m. join Pastor Leesa and Jacob for a fun-filled afternoon when we will give you a roaring good welcome into our Confirmation Ministry! We want all of our 6th graders to attend! Please mark your calendar for this very important get-together!

We will:

- Play get-to-know each other game(s)
- Eat lunch
- Practice leading worship (usher, read, greet)
- Learn about acolyting
- Receive Bibles and learn some important Bible basics
- Talk about giving back with money and talents
- Answer any questions about confirmation.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS are NEEDED

1. To be a Small Group GUIDE on Wednesday Evenings

We are in need of several loving adults who want to befriend a small group of children either on Sunday morning or Wednesday evening. There is not much planning involved. A guide's role is to facilitate Faith Five, while affirming and caring for our young people. Our Relationship-Centered Confirm†Faith Ministry is not possible without guides.

Guide Training & Check-In

We have learned our guides want some extra TLC and Training, not only in the beginning but also throughout the entire year. We are going to give you what you want and need.

- Monday, September 18 @ 6:30 Guide Training.
- Wednesday, November 8 from 8-9:00 Guide Check-in
- Wednesday, January 24 from 8-9:00 Guide Check-in
- Wednesday, May 2 from 7:15-8:00 Guide Evaluate the Year

2. To participate in Service Learning Projects

Our expectation is every parent will sign-up to help with at least one of our three service learning projects which include Real Food, Real People with Shobi's Table, CrossCulture: Who Is My Neighbor and Meet an Older Friend.

3. To Chaperone/Guide at the Winter Retreat

In order to ensure your child's safety and a fun-filled, faith-filled experience, we need to have 1 adult per 7 youth and a combination of male and female adults.

We appreciate your help!!

4. To help with ongoing needs

We have a number of ongoing needs throughout the year and would love for you to find a way to get involved in one of the following areas:

- Welcome Desk: Give a warm welcome, track attendance as youth come in, collect worship notes, writing "We Missed You" notes, etc.
- Wednesday Meals: Help prepare, serve and clean up Wednesday meals
- Sunday Morning Acolytes: Help acolytes get ready with robes on Sunday mornings.

COVENANT

Every youth registered has signed and agreed, along with their parents/guardians, to follow the following covenant:

Be RESPECTFUL - I promise to follow God's example and treat everyone with love through my actions and words.

Be RESPONSIBLE - I promise to come to all activities on time, ready to learn.

Be HONEST - I promise that if I don't understand something I will ask for help.

Be POLITE - I promise to listen to my adult leaders and peers when they are talking. When I disagree, I promise to express my opinion in a nice way.

Be ENGAGED - I promise to come ready to participate in all activities with a positive attitude. This includes worship time.

If youth choose to break from their agreement to the covenant Pastor Leesa and/or Jacob will give a verbal warning for a first offense. If negative behavior continues after the first warning, parents/guardians will receive a phone call notifying them of their child's behavior and to make a plan together on how to move forward. If negative behavior needs to be addressed a third time, parents/guardians will be asked to attend on Wednesday evenings with their child.

Cell Phones

We do allow for youth to bring their cell phones to Confirm†Faith activities, and actually hope to use them in a way that is beneficial to our time together. We do ask, however, that with this trust youth (and adults) know when it is appropriate to use their phones. We ask that phones be left face-down on the group table, only to be used when directed. We ask that everyone restrain from using phones during worship, so as not to be distracted or distracting others.

If phones are being used at an inappropriate time or inappropriate manner, they will be confiscated and returned at the end of our time together.

Contact Information

Church Office 651-451-6225

Pastor Leesa pastorleesa@goodshepherdigh.com
Cell: 651-592-2976

Jacob Niewinski youth@goodshepherdigh.com

To receive updated information go to:

Website goodshepherdigh.com

Please follow our activities on:

Facebook good shepherd intergenerational ministry

Instagram goodshepherdigh

Notes

Confirm†Faith Calendar 2017-2018

September

13	6:00	6th Grade Orientation
	7:00	7th/8th Grade Orientation
17		Dedication Sunday
18	6:30	Guide Orientation
20	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Group Building)
24	12:00 - 2:30	6th Grade Welcome
27	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Group Building)

October

4	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Group Building) Prayer Pal Information <u>DUE</u>
11	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Group Building/Cardboard Box Intro)
18	6:30 - 8:30	Real Food, Real People with Shobi's Table
22	11:30	Prayer Pal Tailgate Party
25	6:30 - 8:00	Trunk-or-Treat Night
29		Jubilee Sunday Worship: 500 Years of Reformation

November

1	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Sacrament)
5		All Saints Sunday
	11:30 - 1:30	1st Communion Class
8	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Sacrament)
	8:00	Guide Check-In
12	11:30 - 1:30	1st Communion Class
15	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Sacrament)
22	6:30 - 8:00	Thanksgiving Eve (Prayer Pals & Pie) 1st Communion Celebration
26		Jubilee Sunday Worship: Santa Lucia & Waiting for Advent
29	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Prayer Pals)

December

3		1st Communion Celebration
6	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Prayer Pals)
13	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Prayer Pals)
20	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Prayer Pals)
24		Christmas Eve
25		Christmas Day
27		No Wednesday Activities

January

3	6:30 - 8:00	Summer Activities!
5-6		Winter Retreat
10	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Reformation)
14	1:00 PM	Snow Tubing at Green Acres
17	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Reformation)
24	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Reformation)
	8:00	Guide Check-In
31	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Reformation)

February

7	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Reformation)
11		Jubilee Sunday Worship: Sunday School J-Term
14		Ash Wednesday
21	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Prayer Pals)
25	11:30 - 1:30	CrossCulture: Who Is My Neighbor?
28	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Prayer Pals)

March

7	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Prayer Pals)
14	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Prayer Pals)
18	11:30 - 1:30	1st Communion Class
21	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Prayer Pals)
25		Jubilee Sunday Worship: Palm Sunday
28		No Wednesday Activities
29	6:30	Maundy Thursday 1st Communion Celebration
30	6:30	Good Friday

April

1		Easter
4	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Nasty Women of the Word)
11	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Nasty Women of the Word)
18	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Nasty Women of the Word)
21	10:00 - 12	Meet an Older Friend
22		Jubilee Sunday Worship: Earth Day
25	6:30 - 8:00	Confirmation (Worship & Nasty Women of the Word)
27-28		Midnight Madness

May

2	6:30 - 7:30	Spring Musical
	7:30	Guide Check-In & Review
13		Jubilee Sunday Worship: Mother's Day
20		Pentecost Pancake Palooza

June

24-29		Luther Park Bible Camp
30- Aug 2		Summer Servants