

Confirmation Covid-19 Style
2020-2021

Description of Confirmation Components

Class Time with Pastor Leesa:

6th, 7th and 8th graders, on their assigned Wednesday, will either safely meet in-person from 7:15-8:00 with Pastor Leesa, in the well ventilated, large Hall, while wearing masks, or from their own home via Zoom.

Class Time Logistics:

- *Drop youth off in BACK parking lot. Youth enter building from back south door, near the Hall. Doors will not open until 7:10. Please do not drop off early and leave kids out in the cold.*
- *Masks are required for in-person class.*
- *If you are comfortable and not sick, we encourage in-person class in order to provide needed human connection, but we understand if that is not possible and you choose the online Zoom option.*
- *We will have less than 20 youth per grade, per session. Youth will be sitting safely, well over 6 feet apart, in a very large, ventilated room, wearing masks.*
- *Youth are encouraged to dress in layers. The room temperature may feel cooler due to ventilation/fan circulation.*
- *If choosing Zoom, you will receive Zoom Invite via parent email prior to class session.*

Prayer Pal Time:

7th and 8th graders, during Advent and Lent, will meet in person or online with their Prayer Pal. Students and Prayer Pals will be provided a discussion booklet to complete together. We hope to do several service projects, in person or online this spring. This spring, we will see how the pandemic/vaccination unfolds before determining which way to do the service projects. 6th graders will not participate in the Prayer Pal ministry this year.

Prayer Pal Logistics:

- *Students ought to contact last year's Prayer Pal in order to inquire if he/she is willing to continue this relationship through this year. If he/she is unable to be a Prayer Pal this year, ask another adult person of faith if they are willing. He/she can be a relative. However, we encourage Prayer Pals to be Good Shepherd members, if possible. Why? This provides the opportunity to deepen our intergenerational ministry within our church.*
- *Email or text Pastor Leesa by November 1 who your prayer pal is.*
- *Prayer Pals and youth will receive a discussion booklet and service project assignments one week prior to Advent and Lent.*

Pastor Leesa Check-in:

Once a month, youth are expected to initiate a check-in with Pastor Leesa either by text, email, call or facetime. Youth will choose one of the assigned days from the schedule. If neither of these days work, youth can choose a different day that week. 6th graders will begin this process in December, after their first class with Pastor Leesa.

At the monthly check-in, youth will share with Pastor Leesa monthly highs and lows and God Sightings from their journal. We ask you to purchase/provide the 'gratitude' journal or a spiral ring notebook for youth to write highs, lows and God Sightings. They will journal every day at a time they can reflect and quiet themselves.

Pastor Leesa Check-in Logistics:

- *Purchase a gratitude journal or notebook.*
- *Every day, each page will entail:*
 - *Date*
 - *Today's Highs (Those good things that happened that I am thankful for)*
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - *Today's Lows (Those hard/bad things that happened that make me sad, mad, hurt, etc.)*
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - *Today's God Sighting(s) (The way I saw God today in a person, an event, a symbol, a word, a song, etc.)*
- *Provide Pastor Leesa with student cell phone number. If they do not have a cell phone, student and pastor can connect monthly via parent phone.*
- *Pastor Leesa's contact information for Monthly Check-in:*
 - *Pastor Leesa Cell: 651-592-2976*
 - *Pastor Leesa Work: 651-451-6255*
 - *Pastor Leesa Preferred Email: pastorleesa@icloud.com*
 - *Church Office Email: admin@goodshepherdigh.com*

Church Donation & Registration:

- *If it is possible to provide a donation of \$25 for our confirmation program experience, it will be helpful to defray costs of Bible, curriculum and supplies. You can do so online. Go to the upper right-hand corner, click giving, click donate now. We are grateful for your generosity and financial support.*
- *Registration is easy! Email Pastor Leesa with the following information:*
 - *Student's name, grade, cell phone number*
 - *Parent's preferred email (We email most of our confirmation information.)*
 - *Prayer Pal Information (for grade's 7 & 8)*

Calendar/Activity

Grade 8:

October 7, 21, 28	Class: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
October 7 or 8	Pastor Leesa Check-in
November 4 or 5	Pastor Leesa Check-in
December 2 or 3	Pastor Leesa Check-in
December 2, 9, 16	Prayer Pal Discussion Booklet
January 6 or 7	Pastor Leesa Check-in
February 3 or 4	Pastor Leesa Check-in
February 17, 24	Prayer Pal Service/Discussion Booklet
March 3 or 4	Pastor Leesa Check-in
March 3, 10, 17, 24	Prayer Pal Service/Discussion Booklet
April 7 or 8	Pastor Leesa Check-in
April 7, 14, 21	Class: The Sacrament of Holy Communion
April 28	Class: Faith Stories
September 19, 2021	Affirmation of Faith Discussion (Attendance Required)
October 29, 2021	Confirmation Reception/Worship/Rehearsal
October 31, 2021	Confirmation Ceremony

Grade 7:

October 21 or 22	Pastor Leesa Check-in
November 11 or 12	Pastor Leesa Check-in
November 4, 11, 18	Class: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
December 9 or 10	Pastor Leesa Check-in
December 2, 9, 16	Prayer Pal Discussion Booklet
January 13 or 14	Pastor Leesa Check-in
January 27, February 3, 10	Class: The Sacrament of Holy Communion
February 10 or 11	Pastor Leesa Check-in
February 17, 24	Prayer Pal Service/Discussion Booklet
March 10 or 11	Pastor Leesa Check-in
March 3, 10, 17, 24	Prayer Pal Service/Discussion Booklet
April 14 or 15	Pastor Leesa Check-in

Grade 6:

December 2, 9, 16	Class: Who am I? Whose am I?
December 16 or 17	Pastor Leesa Check-in
January 6, 13, 20	Class: Who is Martin Luther?
January 21-22	Pastor Leesa Check-in
February 17 or 18	Pastor Leesa Check-in
March 17 or 18	Pastor Leesa Check-in
April 21 or 22	Pastor Leesa Check-in

Re: Confirmation Covid-Style
2020-2021

Hello Parents,

You are receiving this letter because you are living with a Child of God who is in Middle School (Grades 6-8) and are members or friends of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church enrolled or soon to be enrolled in our confirmation program.

Like everything else in the world, this year we are making necessary changes to our confirmation ministry. In making adaptations to the confirmation program, we have the following in mind:

- Health safety during Covid-19 and the regular flu season.
- Mental health in a time when our youth and parents are feeling isolated, discombobulated, overwhelmed and anxious, especially with changes to school and the work place.
- Faith development and church connections while living with uncertainty is critical.
- Enriching key relationships with others of faith is important all the time, but may provide necessary comfort in this unprecedented time.

With these in mind, we created a modified confirmation program with fewer components. We chose this path largely with hope that our students and parents will be fully engaged with faith in life, but not overly stressed in trying to accomplish or check a box to meet a requirement at church. With that said, it is still our expectation students and parents attempt to participate fully in each component, as they are able.

Enclosed you will find a description of our adapted program components, which includes class time, prayer pal time and personal check-in time with Pastor Leesa. Each component provides physical safety, relationship building opportunities with peers, adults, Pastor Leesa and God, along with faith learning. If you have questions or concerns after reading descriptions of each component please bring them to my attention.

In addition to a description of each confirmation component, I have included a calendar for each grade. This is where you will see the time commitment 'at' church is less than in years past. While there is probably less faith learning filling our minds this year, I believe, right now, the focus of faith learning that fills our hearts needs to take precedence. Therefore, this year's confirmation program is set up to nurture our spirits, while still teaching important faith concepts.

What now? Review the materials, mark your calendars, purchase a journal or notebook and register by emailing Pastor Leesa your child's name, grade and cell phone number, along with your name, preferred email. Finally, if your child is in grade 7 or 8, begin checking in with their Prayer Pal.

I will see 8th graders on October 7. I will hear from 7th graders on October 22. I will begin intentionally connecting with 6th graders on December 2. I hope very much the later start, especially for our 6th & 7th graders, allows them and you time to adapt to school. Thank you for your patience, as we walk Together on the Journey, Sharing God's Love!

Peace,
Pastor Leesa

