

C O V E N A N T
for DISCIPLESHIP and AFFIRMATION of FAITH
at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 2017-18

WHY CONFIRMATION? Confirmation classes are an extension of the baptismal promises we as parents and the church made to you, our children, when you were baptized into Christ's body. ***Confirmation is a time to deepen our understanding and life of discipleship together***, and continue a process of equipping for life-long following and growing in Jesus, and actively participating in his body, the church.

The Confirmation Rite is actually the Affirmation of Baptism Rite (ELW hymnal, pg. 234). After completing the two-year cycle of classes and wrestling with your faith, you will affirm for yourself the promises made by your parents and sponsors at your baptism.

Confirmation classes are NOT primarily informational, though you will learn a ton over two years. ***Confirmation is primarily relational because it's about you and God, you and other disciples, and you and the world that you live in.*** Because of this, confirmation necessitates time together and your showing up. Just as practice is necessary to grow as a soccer or football team, we gather in confirmation classes to practice and grow in our faith together. Discipleship is not an individual sport. It's always done in with others. In confirmation classes, your team will be your peers, your teachers, your mentors, your prayer partners from the congregation, and especially your parents. ***Parents, know that you are always welcome to sit in on Confirmation classes!***

CONFLICTS & COMMITMENTS We understand that conflicts do arise with school activities, especially athletics. If specific problems do arise with a coach or teacher, please let us know so that we can best assist your family. This year, there are a lot more hands-on classes and field trips to help engage in faith conversations. Missed classes will have some form of make-up work. Confirmation is a commitment for you as a student and for you as parents. ***We encourage you and your family to join with us in making this an important commitment in growing in faith and life together.***

MOM AND DAD This year, we will not have homework sheets. We want you and your student to instead focus on establishing a rhythm of spiritual practice. There are many ways of doing this. Not every practice fits everyone. Yet, ***for this year, we ask that families dive into the practice of sharing highs and lows each day.*** Read more on back.

OBJECTIVES: Our objectives with confirmation are...

1. That you become passionate lovers and followers of Jesus. *(learn our faith story)*
2. That you become passionate about God's Church and active in worship. *(participate)*
3. That you become passionate about the world he loves. *(serve others)*
4. That you become active pray-ers. *(spiritual practices)*

It is a blessing to have this time with your children each year. We are looking forward to another great year of learning together! Peace, Pastor Casey & Pastor Vanicek

EXPECTATIONS: What we want to see is active participation. We believe that a big part of life is showing up and participating, and this is especially true in the life of faith—and we believe it is critical to your formation as disciples of Jesus. Because of this our expectations are participation oriented.

- 1. Participate in Wednesday classes from 4:00pm—5:45pm.** This is holy time together. We will begin with a snack and hang-out a bit, move into class at 4:30pm with a different monthly prayer practice, do some quick bible memory work, then dig into the main part of the class. Mentor time will wrap up the class for the day if not a field trip or special class.
- 2. Participate in Regular Sunday Worship.** Just as we need regular meal times to feed and nourish our bodies, we gather regularly as Christians to nourish our faith. As part of confirmation we encourage you to try on the many parts of participating in worship: greeting, ushering, acolyte, reading the lessons, and being a communion assistant. We will have worship notes for mid-week Lenten worship and special worships (*like Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday*).
- 3. Participating in Service & Final Projects.** We are planning on visiting the Helping Center Garden on Oct 18, and do a service project for Elves for the Elder at Christmas. During Lent, 8th graders are also expected to complete a final project per instructions handed out in February.
- 4. Participate in Spiritual Practices - YEA/NAY/YAHWEH.** Instead of written homework, we want your family to practice sharing highs and lows each day. You can choose when to do this during the day. Dinners/mealtimes are often good times. Just go around the table sharing a high from the day (YEA), a low (NAY), and where you saw God (YAHWEH). This is a great way to practice gratitude and listening to others.
- 5. Confirmation Retreat.** As a class, we will attend the Junior High Retreat at Camp Chrysalis again this year from Oct 20-22. We ask that you attend at least 1 of the 2 years of confirmation instruction. **Cost is \$125.** Let us know if this expense is a burden.
- 6. Prayer Partners / Class Mentors.** A survey by Rollie Martinson of Luther Seminary shows that *one of the most significant factors in a young person staying faithful to God and active in a church in adulthood is having 1 adult mentor BEYOND their parents and pastor.* We seek to provide this in a concrete way with adult class mentors and a team of Prayer Partners who will also be praying for and support confirmation students.

I understand that I am responsible for this journey of faith leading up to the Affirmation of Faith Rite, and choose to actively engage in and participate in confirmation at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. I understand that I do not HAVE to do this, but it is a privilege to do so at this time. I promise to be accountable for my participation in Confirmation and the meeting of the expectations above.

CONFIRMAND SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____

I understand as a parent that it is my responsibility to encourage my child through this confirmation process, and that this encouragement is an extension of the promises I made to my child at the time of their baptism. I understand the objectives and expectations of the Confirmation journey at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, and commit to making this journey not only a priority for my child, but for our family. I realize that in doing so my child will get infinitely more out of this journey than they would otherwise.

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____