

Are you Ready for Confirmation?

What is Confirmation? Confirmation is an opportunity for our young people to CONFIRM their faith. As Lutherans (or as those who have grown up in a mainline protestant church), we were baptized as infants. It was a decision our parents made for us and now as adults (OK – Jr. Highers are almost adults), we have the opportunity to AGREE with what our parents did on our behalf.

Here at Hope: Our Confirmation Program is one component of our youth and family ministry. I like to think of it like this: kids have grown up in church, they've heard the stories, they've watched their parents live some form of the Christian lifestyle, but they've been allowed to stay fairly passive – “just go with the flow.” In Confirmation we ask, “so little Johny, what do you think?” We ask them to make a decision to make this faith their own, but we want them to know what they're getting into.

I would like to say to you and your child, “I believe that the Christian life is an incredible adventure and that a life lived with Christ at the center will be more rewarding and more fulfilling than any other kind of life, but don't just take my word for it – come try it out! Be a part of our youth ministry program and see what happens if you take 2 YEARS of your life and place your Christian Faith at the top of your list of priorities. I know this is a big commitment, but I can assure you that you're only going to get out of it what you put into it. I'm not just talking about coming to class and listening to sermons, there's a lot more.

I like to use the analogy that being a Christian is like being part of a sports team. Sitting in class, going to Sunday School and listening to sermons is like running and lifting weights – it's not always particularly exciting, but it helps to build up your muscles and get you into shape so that you are a valuable part of the team. Fellowship events, retreats and trips are like practices and scrimmages. They can help to build your muscles too, but they're also a time when you get to know your teammates and you get to enjoy the benefits of being part of the team. Mission trips and service projects are like playing a game and competing. They're a chance to put all your hard work into action and to work alongside your teammates toward a common goal. If you were on a sports team and you did all the running and all the weight lifting, but you never went to practice and you never played in a game, I would expect that your sports career would be rather short-lived. If, however, you choose to take advantage of all the benefits that the team has to offer, I know it will be a life-changing experience.

I'm a 9th Grader and I'm ready to be Confirmed:

First of all, congratulations.

Second of all, you need to work on finding someone to be your MENTOR. Please refer to the resource entitled “Confirmation Mentor Program” (*Pink Sheet*) for more information.

Please note the following important dates:

Wednesday, September 7 6:15-7:30pm Community Center Confirmation/Mentor Meeting

Each Confirmand should attend with a parent and their mentor.

Sunday, October 23 4:00-6:00pm Worship Center Confirmation Rehearsal & Dinner

Sunday, October 30 11:00am Worship Center Confirmation Sunday