



**Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth
Grade Confirmation
Student Handbook
2018-2019
Light of Christ Lutheran Church**

More Like Jesus
Confirmation Curriculum
Light of Christ Lutheran Church

Introduction

Welcome to our confirmation ministry for 2018-2019! We are praying that your confirmation experience will lead you to become more like Jesus. The Christian story is the story of change: God's and our own. Christ became like us in every way, except for sin. Christ did this so that we can be like him, as he now is in eternal glory. That means that on the other side of the grave we will be able to love as Jesus loves.

But Christ isn't waiting until we get to eternal glory to change us. He has given us his Holy Spirit so that we can start becoming more like Jesus. That's what we want to happen to you in your confirmation experience—that you will learn to serve more like him, forgive more like him, tell the good news more like him, pray more like him, and so on.

How do we learn to love more like Jesus? By practicing our faith. It's like learning to play a sport or an instrument. You can watch others play, and you can listen to others tell you how to play. But finally, if you want to get better at playing a sport or an instrument, you have to practice.

Let me give you a simple example. When I was in the third or fourth grade I was watching the NBA game of the week. (Yes, back in the day we only had one game on TV per week). During half-time, Oscar Robertson came on. Robertson was known as the "Big O" and he was one of the best point guards ever to play the game. He's in the Hall of Fame now. He did a video segment on how to dribble a basketball. He said that when you dribble a basketball you want to dribble with your finger tips and not your palms. If you dribble with your fingertips you can control the ball. If you dribble with your palms you'll lose the ball. So he told us to practice dribbling with our finger tips, first with one hand, and then with the other. Once we could do that, he told us to practice dribbling with our eyes closed because we needed to learn to dribble without watching the ball.

So I did. I spent hours in the basement of our house dribbling on the concrete basement floor. I practiced dribbling with my fingertips, first with my right hand, and then with my left. Then I practiced dribbling with my eyes closed. Eventually, I got pretty good at dribbling a basketball.

That's what we'll be doing in confirmation. One of the adult leaders will demonstrate a faith practice or faith skill; how to talk about your faith, or how to pray like Jesus prays, how to serve more like Jesus serves, how to forgive more like Jesus

forgives. Then we will have you practice in your small group, and then we'll have your practice during the week. We grow in our faith by practicing our faith.

Confirmation 2018-2019 Calendar for Confirmands

SEPTEMBER

- 12 Orientation - 7th - 9th Parents & students @ 7:00 PM
10th Graders and Parents @ 7:30 PM
Confirmation Guide Orientation @ 8 PM
- 19 Feed My Starving Children @ 5:15 PM
- 26 Small group gatherings @ guide's home

OCTOBER

- 3 Unit 1: Session 1 - Praying More Like Jesus: Corporate Prayer
- 10 Unit 1, Session 2 - Praying More Like Jesus: Corporate Prayer
- 17 **MEA - No Confirmation**
- 24 Unit 1, Session 3 - Praying More Like Jesus: Corporate Prayer
Confirmation Guide Meeting @ 8 PM
- 31 **No Confirmation**

NOVEMBER

- 3-4 Confirmation Retreat: Green Lake
- 7 Unit 2, Session 1 - Praying More Like Jesus: Personal Prayer
- 14 Unit 2, Session 2 - Praying More Like Jesus: Personal Prayer
- 21 **Thanksgiving - No Confirmation**
- 28 Unit 2, Session 3 - Praying More Like Jesus: Personal Prayer

DECEMBER

- 5 Unit 2, Session 4: Praying More Like Jesus: Personal Prayer
Confirmation Guide Meeting @ 8 PM
- 12 Servant Event - Do It Yourself with small group
- 19 Christmas party
- 26 **Christmas Break - No Confirmation**

JANUARY

- 2 Small Group Gatherings @ Guides' Homes
- 9 Unit 3, Session 1 - Befriending More Like Jesus
Confirmation Guide Meeting @ 8 PM
- 16 Unit 3, Session 2 - Befriending More Like Jesus
- 23 Unit 3, Session 3 - Befriending More Like Jesus
- 30 Unit 3, Session 4 - Befriending More Like Jesus

FEBRUARY

- 6 Unit 3, Session 5 - Befriending More Like Jesus
- 13 Unit 3, Session 6 - Befriending More Like Jesus
- 20 Servant Event
- 27 Tenth Graders - Share Confessions of Faith

MARCH

- 6 Ash Wednesday Worship
- 13 Lenten Service @ 7 PM/ Personal Lenten project
- 20 Lenten Service @ 7 PM/ Personal Lenten project
- 27 Lenten Service @ 7 PM/ Personal Lenten project
Confirmation Guide Meeting @ 8 PM

APRIL

- 3 Lenten Service @ 7 PM/Personal Lenten Project
- 10 Lenten Service @ 7 PM/Personal Lenten Project
- 17 Holy Week - No Confirmation
- 25 Unit 5, Session 1- Romantic Relationships

MAY

- 1 Unit 5, Session 2 - Romantic Relationships
- 8 Unit 5, Session 3 - Romantic Relationships
- 15 Unit 5, Session 4 - Romantic Relationships
- 22 Year End Worship Service
- 29 Fellowship Event - End of Year party
Ninth Graders meet with mentors at 8 PM

A Typical Wednesday Evening

Small Group in Classroom

6:30 Students/Guides check-in in the small groups in classrooms

Pick up student binder
Turn in "Faith Practice" worksheet
Give cell phone to guide
Share highs and lows
Opening Prayer

*(One small group will set up the fellowship hall,
on a rotating basis, as assigned)*

Table Group in Fellowship Hall

6:45 Gather in the Fellowship Hall -- sit at assigned tables/seats

6:50 Opening Prayer (small group)
Theme Verse for the unit

6:55 Becoming the friend you always wanted to have . . .

Introduction to new faith practice/skill/discipline (I do)

7:10 Announcement Show - Small Group

Small Group in Classroom

7:15 Move to small group time in classrooms

Small Group time

Guides/Jr. Guides demonstrate practice/skill (I do)

Confirmands then each do it themselves (We do)

Complete a first attempt/draft/pass

Guides/Jr. Guides assist students

"Faith Practice" for the week explained (You do)

7:35 (A second/different small group as assigned
sets up for service learning activity)

Large Group/Choir in Fellowship Hall/Choir Room

7:40 Service learning activity in Fellowship Hall
(or)
Choir rehearsal in sanctuary or choir room

8:00 Dismissal

(A third/different small group
takes down/puts away tables/chairs. as assigned)

Expanded variety of Sermon notes

This fall, we are offering the option to do three kinds of sermon notes. Humans learn and process information in different ways, and we hope that this variety will help students critically engage in the sermons and be encouraged to discuss questions and comments with others.

1. *Traditional sermon notes*: the sermon notes you are used to. Find the blue sermon note sheet on the bookshelf to the left of the sanctuary doors. Complete the notes during the service and turn in in the hanging file folder near the nursery.
2. *Interactive sermon notes*: directly after the sermon, meet with David in the youth room for about 10 minutes to discuss the *what?*, *so what?*, and *now what?* of the day's sermon. Students will return to the service during the offering. These will be offered about twice a month, and will likely involve a morning treat. A calendar for the interactive sermon notes (ISN's) will be found on the bulletin board near the nursery.
3. *Family sermon notes*: this is a short family devotion that can take place in the car or at the dinner table. Modeled after the FAITH5™ (Faith Acts In The Home) practice, this sermon note involves talking over the sermon with your family. The family sermon notes (green half sheet) can be found on the bookshelf to the left of the sanctuary doors. These must be completed, signed, and turned into the hanging file folder near the nursery.

Sermon Note expectations

Students are expected to complete 20 sermon notes each year, beginning in September of their 7th grade year and ending the September of their 10th grade year. Sermon note counts will begin in September of each year. Out of the 20, we ask that students complete five traditional sermon notes, five interactive sermon notes, and five family sermon notes. The remaining five can be completed using any style of sermon note. During the Lent season, we ask that students and their families attend at least three out of the six Wednesday Lent services.

Acolyte Responsibilities

Light of Christ is now celebrating Holy Communion every Sunday instead of every other Sunday. Because of this change, more communion assistants, and therefore more acolytes, are needed each Sunday. We are asking that Confirmation students acolyte 4 times each year (with the year beginning in September) - once in the fall, once in the winter, once in the spring, and once in the summer. This is an important service opportunity that allows students to participate in worship and serve the church.

Confirmation Binders

This year, all students will be given a 1-inch binder that we will keep at Light of Christ. This binder will compile all writings and notes that the students will create or collect throughout the year. We hope that by the end of their time in Confirmation, this binder will be a keepsake and a faith resource, reminding them of how their faith grew, was challenged, and was lived out on Wednesday nights.

Also in this Confirmation binder will be a sheet for students to keep track of their own sermon notes, as well as how many times they have acolyted. David will continue to collect and count, but this sheet will allow the students the opportunity to be responsible and autonomous for their own assignments and expectations.

Family Service

When the whole family is involved in intentional faith practices and service opportunities, our children's faith is strengthened. We are asking that each family unit help out with an aspect of worship or our Confirmation program at least once each school year. Below are various ideas and opportunities. Contact David if you have any questions.

- Usher/greet/acolyte together as a family
- Drive/chaperone a Confirmation event
- Be a 9th grade Mentor
- Help supervise High School Fellowship (8-9:30pm Wednesday evenings)

Family Devotions

Once again our own Tim Johnson has agreed to write weekly devotions that you are encouraged to use at home. These will be sent to you each week via email.

Youth Choir

We'd like to continue a Youth Choir this fall made up of students in grades 7-12. The choir will rehearse on selected Wednesday evenings from 7:40-8:00 PM. We have divided the rehearsals into four sections during the year. Students in grades 7-9 can sign up to participate in any or all of the sections. We will expect that once student signs up for a section, that he or she attends all the rehearsals and sings the piece that has been practiced in worship on the designated Sunday.

Schedule for Youth Choir Grades 7-12 2018-2019 7:40 - 8:00 PM

Session 1

October	3	Rehearsal
	10	Rehearsal
	24	Rehearsal
		<i>Sing in worship in November</i>

Session 2

November	7	Rehearsal
	14	Rehearsal
	28	Rehearsal
December	5	Rehearsal
		<i>Sing in worship in December</i>

Session 3

January	9	Rehearsal
	16	Rehearsal
	23	Rehearsal
	30	Rehearsal
February	6	Rehearsal
	13	Rehearsal
<i>Sing in worship in March</i>		

Session 4

April	24	Rehearsal
May	1	Rehearsal
May	8	Rehearsal
May	15	Rehearsal
<i>Sing in worship in May</i>		

Confirmation Ministry Overview

Grades 7-9

Wednesday evenings, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Year 1 (2017-18)

Unit 1	Telling the Gospel Story	September/October	3 sessions
Unit 2	The Bible's Big Story	November/December	4 sessions
Unit 3	Telling My Faith Story	January	4 sessions
Unit 4	"Love the Lord your God" in Lent (Personal projects/Lenten worship)	February/March	6 weeks
Unit 5	The Drama of the Creed (The Apostle's Creed)	April/May	4 sessions

Year 2 (2018-19)

Unit 1	Praying more like Jesus/corporate worship (Liturgy, lectionary, church year, hymns/songs, Baptism, Holy Communion)	October 3 sessions
Unit 2	Praying more like Jesus/personal prayer (The Lord's Prayer; the Psalms)	November/December 4 sessions
Unit 3	Befriending more like Jesus (Peer Ministry: becoming the friend you always wanted to have)	January/February 6 sessions
Unit 4	"Love Your Neighbor" in Lent (Personal projects)	March 6 weeks
Unit 5	The Greatest Commandment (The Ten Commandments; romantic relationships)	April/May 4 sessions

Year 3 (2019-20)

Unit 1	Serving more like Jesus (Serving at home, school, church, the wider world)	September/October 4 sessions
Unit 2	Giving more like Jesus (Generosity in time, talent, treasure; Spiritual gifts)	October/November 4 sessions
Unit 3	Healing more like Jesus (Wounded healers: body, mind, spirit. Friends in crisis—depression, suicidal)	January/February 4 sessions
Unit 4	"As You Love Yourself" in Lent (Personal projects: I am a beloved child of God)	February/March 6 weeks
Unit 5	Forgiving/Reconciling more like Jesus (Forgiving others, self, enemies; being reconciled; confession/absolution)	April/May 4 sessions