



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

**More Like Him**  
**Confirmation Curriculum**  
**Light of Christ Lutheran Church**  
**Fall 2018**

**Rationale**

There are several assumptions built into this curriculum. The first is that the theological underpinning of this approach is the conviction that "Christ became like us so that he might make us like him." The God we know in Christ is a transforming God - the second Person of the Trinity became human, even to the point of death, so that he might transform us and make us as he is now in eternal glory. That doesn't mean we will become little gods. Nor does it mean we will look, or talk, or walk like him. It means, above all, that in glory we will finally be able to love as he loves. However, it is not only the human family, but also the creation itself is in the process of being transformed. The Spirit of Christ is at work to create new creatures, in a new community (his Body, the Church) inhabiting a new creation. The Christian faith and life is centered in transformation - God's and our own.

The second assumption is that transformation occurs by way of practice. There are discrete, identifiable practices, or disciplines, which serve to make us, and the creation, more like Christ. These practices are best learned in a master/journeyman/apprentice model of education -- much like Jesus did with his disciples, like the craft guilds of the medieval period, and like musicians and athletes are educated today. Mastering a craft, a skill, or a discipline does not come quickly or easily. It typically takes ten thousand hours of practice to become a "master." Thus, this curriculum is design to lay the foundation for life-long, sustained growth and transformation.

A third assumption is that the paradigm for God becoming like us is the gospel of Luke, and that the paradigm for being made like Christ is the book of Acts. Luke-Acts is the biblical foundation and vision for the kind of transformation this curriculum engenders. One can use, and needs to use, the entire New Testament to have a comprehensive picture of Christian transformation. But Luke-Acts is especially timely and relevant in our context.

This curriculum begins while our children are in grade school. This is an especially fruitful time not only to beginning laying their faith foundation but also for building relationships with each other and with their adult leaders. It also extends the formal public Affirmation of Baptism (their confirmation day) into the spring of their sophomore year because they are older and more mature at the end of their sophomore year, and thus, more ready to make a public commitment to Christ.

The curriculum is structured around the promises that are made at the Affirmation of Baptism. The confirmands are first asked to confess their faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed. The creed is a formal, public way of confessing: "I believe I am a beloved child of God, who is loving, gracious, and forgiving." Then they are asked if they will continue in the covenant God made with them in Holy Baptism. This promise has five parts: 1) to live among God's faithful people; 2) to hear God's Word and to share in the Lord's Supper 3) to proclaim the good news of God in Jesus Christ; 4) to serve all people following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ; 5) and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. This curriculum is designed to prepare our confirmands to make this profession and promise: I believe I am a beloved child of God, and I promise to strive to live as a beloved child of God.

## 2018-2019 Calendar

### SEPTEMBER

- 12 Orientation - 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Parents & students @ 7:00 PM  
10<sup>th</sup> 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

Take attendance/collect cell phones/ highs and lows/prayer  
Guides make sure the work for the week is finished  
Mark completed work in student binder

*(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 -- assigned tables/seats

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

6:55 Introduction to new faith practice/skill/discipline (I do)

7:10 Announcement Show

*Small Group in Classroom*

7:15 Move to small group time in classrooms



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 our youth director 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)

## **Safe Sanctuary Training and Background Checks**

One of the policies that we have adopted here at Light of Christ is the requirement that every adult who works with our children and/or youth does on-line training on keeping children and youth safe, and also undergoes a background check. We are doing both of these - the training and the background checks - through a company called *Protect My Ministry*

## **Youth Choir**

We'd like to continue to offer a Youth Choir this fall made up of students in grades 7-12. The choir will rehearse on selected Wednesday evenings from 7:45-8:00 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 a 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 Expectations Checklist 2018-2019

This sheet will help you keep track of what you have completed this year. Keep this sheet in your binder, and fill out each time you complete a task. Each space must be filled out with the date and description by the end of next summer. This year begins in September of 2018, and all must be completed by September 1, 2019.

### Sermon Notes - 17 Sundays and 3 Wednesday Lenten Services

Use this space as a checklist when you complete a sermon note. Write down the date as well as the type of Sermon note you completed - Traditional, Interactive, or Family.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Type</i>
1.		11.	
2.		12.	
3.		13.	
4.		14.	
5.		15.	
6.		16.	
7.		17.	
8.		18.	
9.		19.	
10.		20.	

### Acolyte - 4 times

Write down the date you completed each Acolyte service requirement.

*Date*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

**Grades 7-9**

**Wednesday evenings, 6:30 – 8:00 PM**

**Year 1 (2017-18)**

Unit 1	Telling the Jesus 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 ( <i>Personal projects/Lenten worship</i> )	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