



Everything to know about Confirmation

Welcome to this exciting discipleship process, Confirmation! Don't let it overwhelm you - the next two years are filled with relationship building, new friendships, learning and faith development. Not only your child, but your entire family will be enriched through the work of the Holy Spirit in our youth. Confirmation will provide your child with a firm foundation of Biblical teachings as they journey forward in becoming young adults. Join us for the journey!

WEEKLY TEACHING SESSIONS

FORMAT: (5:30-7:00 pm) In the Family Life Center (gym)

Kick-off opening game or thought - Kaitlin Unruh

Teaching Time – Interactive learning experience led by: Pastor Luther, Pastor Dan, Pastor Jack, Pastor Max, Kaitlin, or Mr. B (45 min)

Team Time – Faith coaches help lead discussion in small groups around church

- includes worksheet discussion – prepared in advance by staff and pastors
- personal application of "teaching time" - activity
- Prayer time – by the students

LEADERSHIP:

Kaitlin Unruh is our Director of 5th-8th grade Ministries. Kaitlin is the full-time staff person who is administratively responsible for Confirmation. She is also responsible for the training, encouragement, and supervision of the coaches. Kaitlin is also in charge Junior High Sunday school, fellowship and servant events. Contact Kaitlin for anything Confirmation/Junior High questions.

Pastors Luther/Dan/Jack/Max will share most of the teaching and content development. This is done with power points leading the youth through the catechism, Bible and playbook (see playbook).

Mark Borcharding, our Director of Education, Family, and Sports Ministry will assist in the teaching and opening "kick off" activities and be on the teaching rotation.

Faith Coaches are parents of Confirmation students. Each coach will work with the same team of 5-7 students through the next 2 years.

Parents are still the primary teachers of the faith. You can help with encouragement, support, prioritizing schedules, and helping with **"heart learning" (memory work)**.

TEAMS (small groups):

- Each team will have a parent faith coach with them to help them through sessions. Each student is placed in a team of 5-7 students of their own grade with a faith coach. We work diligently to see to it that each person already is a friend with at least one other teen in the group, but also will have an opportunity to make new friends.
- Each person will sit at a table, with their team and faith coach during the Teaching Sessions in the gym each week, starts at 5:15 pm
- Each person in the team will be responsible to help the others participate and learn the material being taught and discussed.
- The coach is responsible for the team's attendance so **be sure you let your faith coach know when you will miss!**
- Building caring relationships for now and the future is a major goal of these teams.
- When a faith coach cannot attend a session they will need to call upon another parent in the group to fill in.

PARENT INFORMATION

A. MATERIALS:

As with all of our Christian instruction, **the Bible** is the source for everything we teach.

Students will be expected to bring a Bible with them. Again, this year we are strongly encouraging 7th graders to purchase a "Concordia Self-study Bible" for \$35. If this price is a burden please talk to Kaitlin Unruh about scholarship help. It is ok to use a personal Bible, though with varying translations it is harder to follow along with the group. This Bible will be used extensively in our Sunday morning Bible class. **Luther's Small Catechism** is the guide that is used for studying the Word of God. When you sign-up for Confirmation, a catechism is included in the price you pay for the 7th grade year (see expenses section towards the end).

B. TEAM FELLOWSHIP & SERVANT SESSIONS

Various times during the year (see the calendar for dates) there will not be a teaching session on Sunday but each small group team will have the chance to sign-up for a service project (Blitz service days in fall, winter and spring). The purpose is to expand Confirmation into a Discipleship process which includes relationships & service (Acts 2:46, 47 & Matt. 25:31-36, 40). The events will be scheduled and then teams may choose a project and follow-up with details. These are as important as the teaching session and attendance will be taken.

C. COORDINATED CALENDAR (Confirmation, Youth Ministry, Sunday Bible class)

This year the Confirmation calendar has dates/information for: Confirmation, Youth Events, Sunday morning Bible class, and parent involvement. We strongly encourage attendance at all these events as it enriches the Confirmation journey. **Your child's faith development takes priority over other extracurricular events.**

D. HEART LEARNING (Memory Work)

A Bible verse for each teaching session or portions of Luther's Small Catechism are used for the purpose of reinforcing the teaching lesson. Each week the front page of the student's "playbook" will have that week's "heart learning" and a place for a parent's signature when the student has successfully recited the Bible verse and section of the Catechism to them. If the student does not show the signed paper to their faith coach at the following Teaching session the student will stay after class until 7:10 pm to learn or recite the "heart learning" to their coach. **This is the parent's responsibility with the student to stay up to date on this.**

E. MAKE-UP

If you know your child will miss a session please call your faith coach before the session. All missed sessions will be made up through written worksheets due in 1 week. The make-up lesson will be mailed to you the week following your absence. Because of the nature of the teaching sessions missing 3 sessions will require special attention by one of the pastors so they can better understand what is happening.

F. WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

The goal of Confirmation is to teach discipleship. Worship and Bible study are vital activities of discipleship and a part of the program. Regular (weekly) attendance at Sunday morning Worship and Sunday school are expected and will be recorded by the coaches weekly - this can be at any Christian church. The content of Sunday Bible class and Confirmation are very different. **As they are growing disciples we expect all students to attend Worship and Bible class.** If your child is sick please send a note for the faith coach to record. If you are out of town please make an effort to attend a church where you are - that will count as attendance. Necessary follow-up will come from one of the pastors.

G. SUNDAY MORNING COMMUNITY LIFE BUILDERS (CLB)

In Sunday morning Bible class we have parents serve as CLB's sitting at a café table with 5-6 youth to listen to the lesson and then help facilitate an activity or discussion at the table. Discussion guides and helps will be sent to you the week before you serve. Please sign up with your teen's Confirmation coach or call Kaitlin Unruh.

H. ACOLYTES

Acolytes are an extremely important part of our worship services. We need 2 acolytes at every worship service in the Sanctuary. We also need acolytes at special services during Advent, Lent, and major holidays. Because we have a variety of services times and places it is impossible to develop a schedule that has your child serving as an acolyte at the service you normally attend. This is an opportunity for service for your child and it may require you to attend a worship service that you do not usually attend. Please help your child honor their commitment by looking at the schedule and putting it on your calendar. If your child cannot serve that Sunday it is **your responsibility to find a replacement.** An acolyte schedule will be put together and sent out in the fall after acolyte training (See calendar for dates).

I. CONFIRMATION RETREAT - SEPTEMBER 24-25

The retreat is a Confirmation favorite – it's a great time for youth and adults to make connections and have fun! A teaching session will be incorporated into the retreat and attendance by each student is expected. The retreat is at Camp Lakeview, near Seymour, IN. Faith coaches and other parents will be attending and driving. The retreat cost is included in the expenses and will not be refunded for not attending. This retreat is one of the most fun and relationship building event your teen will experience.

J. PARENTING TEENAGERS CLASS

While your student is learning about their faith journey you have the opportunity to grow also as a Christian parent. 2 different sessions – 6 weeks in fall; 4 weeks in January led by Mark Borcharding, M.S. Family Life.

K. DROP OFF AND PICK UP OF STUDENTS

Over the years we have found a need to be more deliberate in making sure students are safe and the process runs smoothly. Again this year:

7th graders are to be dropped off at door #4 on the east side of the Worship Center. Parents

of 7th graders are asked to only use the Gray Rd entrance for entering and exiting the parking lot.

8th graders are to be dropped off at door #2 (by the gym) on the south side of the building. Parents of 8th graders are asked to only use the Main St. (formerly 131 st) entrance to the parking lot for both entering and exiting the parking lot.

Both groups. Remember that there are over 80 students coming and going at the same time. Please be courteous and watchful. This policy is for the safety of all of our students.

L. JR. HIGH FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Outside of Sunday night Confirmation, we strongly encourage youth to participate in Jr. High fellowship events that happen weekly/monthly. Each week in the fall, the Upper Room youth group meets for games and devotions – great time to build friendships. Almost each month, a fellowship activity is planned for all Jr. Highers including, ice skating, bowling, a lock-in and more.

M. FUNDRAISERS

Jr. High youth and families now has the chance to serve at 3 different youth fundraisers throughout the year to earn credits towards youth event costs. Fundraisers include: The Italian Dinner, Easter Breakfast and Golf Outing. Family members may also sign-up to work towards their child's credits. Credits can be used for all youth events, retreats and costs.

N. EXPENSES

This is the only fee you will pay (unless you want to purchase a Bible) during the entire year. Other fellowship activities will be separate (bowling, ice skating, lock-in)

- 7th grade - \$110 includes: Catechisms - \$26; retreat - \$35; Confirmation dinner - \$49
- 8th grade - \$100 includes: retreat - \$35; Confirmation expenses - \$65 (this includes: banner materials, gown rental, flowers, stoles, crosses, group picture, class gift), Illustrated Catechism.

If these expenses are a financial burden to anyone please let Kaitlin Unruh know to receive a scholarship.

kunruh@carmellutheran.org

Hopefully this answered some of your questions about what Confirmation is all about at CLC. If you have more, please contact Kaitlin directly with your questions! We are always in need of volunteers, teachers and chaperones to – looking forward to serving with you!

Kaitlin Unruh

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TENTATIVE Confirmation Calendar dates 2011-2012 — June, 2011

Aug 21	Confirmation Kick-Off, 5:30-7 pm – Worship Center
Aug 28	Youth Kick-Off (5 th -12 th grade) 5:30 pm
Sept 4	NO CLASS – Labor Day Weekend
Sept 10	Bowling (fellowship event)
Sept 11	Lesson 1 – first Confirmation
Sept 18	Lesson 2
Sept 24-25	Confirmation Retreat – Camp Lakeview – Lesson 3 (NO CLASS SEPT 25)
Oct 2	Lesson 4
Oct 9	Lesson 5
Oct 16	Lesson 6
Oct 23	NO CLASS – Carmel Fall Break
Oct 30	Reformation Day Party - (Servant event - NO CLASS)
Nov 6	Lesson 7
Nov 13	Lesson 8
Nov 20	Lesson 9
Nov 27	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break
Dec 4	Lesson 10
Dec 10	Ice Skating (fellowship event)
Dec 11	Lesson 11
Dec 18	Lesson 12
Dec 25	NO CLASS – Winter Break
Jan 1	NO CLASS – New Year’s Day
Jan 8	Lesson 13
Jan 15	Lesson 14
Jan 22	NO CLASS – Youth Quake Jan 20-22 – Youth retreat in Indianapolis
Jan 29	Lesson 15
Feb 5	NO CLASS - Superbowl
Feb 11	Italian Dinner Youth Fundraiser – earn credits for youth events
Feb 12	Lesson 16
Feb 19	Lesson 17
Feb 26	Lesson 18
Mar 4	Lesson 19
Mar 11	Lesson 20
Mar 18	Lesson 21
Mar 25	Lesson 22
Apr 1	NO CLASS – Spring Break
Apr 8	NO CLASS – Easter (Easter Breakfast Youth Fundraiser)
Apr 15	Lesson 23 (last class)
Apr 22	Confirmation Banquet and Rehearsal - NO CLASS (7 th graders serve instead)
Apr 28	8 th Grade Confirmation Service (Saturday)

Tentative events:

- 8th grade spring retreat – possibly in March
- Jr. High Lock-In – possibly in March
- Spring Break event/game night - April

Confirmation 2011-2012

What's Next?

Confirmation Kick-Off

August 21st, 5:30-7 pm

All incoming 7th graders and parents will kick-off the year on this night. Each small group will be announced and you will get the chance to meet and mingle with group members and parents. Groups will join a pastor or staff member for the Commitment Bible study. You will discuss what discipleship means and how growing in faith will aid our discipleship journey.

Commitment Bible Study will include conversations and written statements about your family's participation in weekly worship, Bible study, fellowship and servant events. Start this discussion now with your family.

What to bring and expect at the Kick-Off

- \$110 (check or cash)
- for 2011-2012 year (includes catechism, Binder, lesson materials, retreat and more)
- fill out 7th grade Bio sheet and turn in same night

detach below

7th Grade Group Requests

If you haven't done so already, please fill in below your child's name and 4 other names to request in their Confirmation group. We ensure at least one choice will be paired up – we do our best to make cohesive groups!

Your 7th Graders name _____ school _____

Parent's name _____

email _____

Group member request:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____