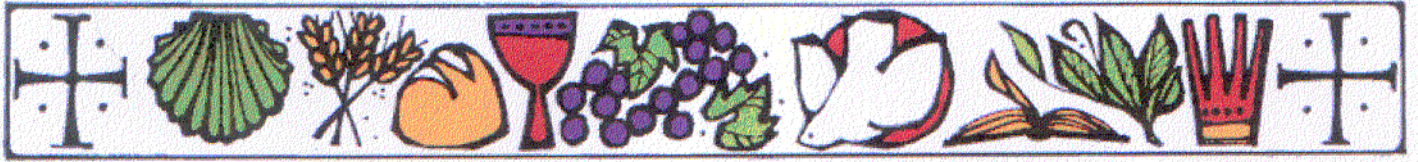


Christ Lutheran Church



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The Rev. John G. Fleischmann, M.Div., Pastor + The Rev. Kenneth Schnepf, Assisting Pastor

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH CONFIRMATION PROGRAM Fall 2023-Spring 2024

Dear Parents and Confirmands,

Greetings in the Name of Jesus our Lord!

Confirmation Classes will begin on Saturday, October 7 from 9:00am to 10:30am at church, in person. Much of the program will be conducted via video online and not at church. Please make sure that you provide the Church with a clear and working email address to which we can send the weekly links. (email name @ domain name . com, etc).

This class is intended for students entering the Seventh Grade through the Ninth Grade. It is a two year program (7th and 8th) with Confirmands being Confirmed on All Saints Sunday, November 5, 2022. Time to be announced.

It is important that you understand the requirements of this program and that you make every effort to fulfill them. This is in order to maintain the integrity of the program and provide you with information that is most important to your Spiritual growth.

The Priority of Confirmation

The famed author, C.S. Lewis once stated, “*Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.*” We take this quote to be absolutely true. And we also believe that Christianity is true- that God the Father loved us so much that He sent us Jesus to live, die and rise again that we might have life in Him now, and eternal life hereafter. Therefore, we feel that out of all of the instruction you/your child receive in school, this class is even more important.

Understanding this, in order to participate in Confirmation, the first requirement is that this class is a *Priority* for you and your child. That means it should become before other activities, including sporting events, or all of the other demands placed on our children today. Occasional absences are certainly excusable, but pattern absences or absences over a long period of time due to other commitments disqualifies a child for this program. Please know this going into the program. You may certainly speak with the pastor if you have special circumstances; this is not to put undue pressure on you or your child, but to stress its priority and importance.

The Importance of Weekly Worship

An old adage that comes to mind is, “If a farmer doesn’t farm, is he still a farmer?” The same can be asked about Christians who do not attend church regularly. Confirmation is intended to *expand* the faith of our children, not create it. True faith can only be received, strengthened and grow by regularly worshipping the Lord each Lord’s Day. Attendance of Confirmands in worship is taken- not to be legalistic, but as a reminder that one cannot complete the Confirmation program without actively participating in worship. Parents are also encouraged to worship with their Confirmand. Not only does this set the example and obey the Lord’s Commandments, but attending will be uplifting and faith-building for you. If you’ve “slipped” in your attendance, there is no better time to come back and join us!

The following requirements apply this year:

In addition to attending Confirmation classes, students are required to attend Worship Services regularly. There are ample opportunities each week: Each Saturday Evening at 5:30pm, and Each Sunday (Time to be announced as the congregation is considering a time change for Sunday Services).

Additionally there are a total of 8 Midweek Evening Services at 7pm during Advent and Lent. Services are listed on the Confirmation Schedule. Ideally you should attend both on Sunday and on Wednesday evenings.

Holy Week is a very special time of the Church year where we trace the steps of Jesus as He goes to the Cross and rises from the dead. Students should attend services during Holy Week. **Attendance at the Great Vigil of Easter, Saturday, March 30 at 5:30pm is mandatory.** Please plan for this now. Much of the liturgy that is used each week in Church finds its beginning at the Easter Vigil—the oldest existing liturgical service that the Church possesses.

Reception of the Eucharist

Additionally, students in Confirmation will participate in the training necessary to begin receiving Holy Communion. Some students have completed this prior to becoming a Confirmand. We have made a change in the date of First Communion since this letter first went out. Confirmands who have not begun receiving will receive First Communion on **ALL SAINTS’ SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 during the worship service.** Please mark this on your calendars now. It is also included on the Confirmation Schedule. Students who have already begun receiving will also attend these classes as a review of our belief and practice of Holy Communion as Lutherans.

While demanding, the Confirmation program is designed to assist in making you/your child’s faith in Jesus Christ the most important aspect of his/her life. Over the years, we have found that these requirements have worked, and have greatly assisted us in meeting the goal given by Jesus to “Make disciples of all nations.”

In Christ,

