**Confirmation Packet**

**2021-2022**

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Christ Lutheran Church, Highlands Ranch

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# Our Ministry Partnership

A drawing of a cartoon character

Description automatically generatedThe Wednesday Evening Confirmation & Tuesday evening Sr. High ministries here at Christ Lutheran Church are a partnership between the parents, students, volunteer Youth Leadership Team, teachers, Director of Youth and Family Ministers, pastors ***and God***. This partnership further blesses the relationships that we all share with one another in Christian discipleship. The more we seek to invest into that relationship, the more God blesses it with Gods abundant grace and love.

# CLC Vision for all Youth

**To provide an inclusive community for youth and families with opportunities to safely grow in faith, to build exciting and fulfilling relationships, and to serve other communities.**

# What is Confirmation at CLC?

* CLC uses a curriculum offered by Augsburg Fortress called *“Here We Stand”*. The curriculum works on a two-year rotation and covers the Old & New Testament and the Small Catechism & Luther. This year we will be covering the Small Catechism & Luther, its stories and its meaning to the church.
* The *“Here We Stand”* confirmation Ministry at CLC is a family program. Parents are encouraged to actively participate. Often our youth give us new insights and new perspectives to see things differently.
* “*Here We Stand”* is for 7th & 8th grade youth which begins the fall of 7th grade and ends with the Rite of Confirmation in the spring of 8th grade.
* We meet each Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00p.m., September to December and January to the end of April.

# Expectations of our Confirmation Students

The Students, parents and guides all covenant to work together with Gods help and wisdom. Deuteronomy 4:31 (NRSV) Because the Lord your God is a merciful God, he will neither abandon you nor destroy you; he will not forget the covenant with your ancestors that he swore to them.

The 7th & 8th Grade expectation of the Students includes:

* Attend the Orientation (Sep. 1st @6:30pm or 5th @12: 00pm)
* Attendance – There are approximately 20 scheduled classes throughout the year, with intentional planning and consideration given for various events, holidays, and breaks throughout the year. With that reason, we ask that attendance remain a regular commitment for every youth firmly encouraged by the parent(s).
* Participation in worship by being Acolyte, helping with AV, Ushers, Greeters, and others 4 times per year. Sign up for these on sign up genius under the Volunteer tab at clchr.org.
* Participate in service events or activities during the 2021-2022 ministry year. After each service event, complete a Service Event form and place it in the ‘Completed Confirmation Notes’ box.
* Select an adult mentor by Feb 16th ; attend the mentoring kickoff (March 2nd) event and meet with your mentor 5 times during Lent.
* Be faithful to the terms of your Confirmation Covenants.
* Last, but not least, we will begin doing a new WORSHIP QUESTION, where Confirmands will be required to write a question they have every service they attend. They will be put into the Question Jar after each worship they attend, and these questions will be used in our Confirmation Classes on Wednesday nights. Each youth will be required to fill out 12 WORSHIP QUESTIONS by the end of April.

# Expectations of our Confirmation Parents

Recalling the baptismal covenant made between God and their child: **Bring** them faithfully to church, **Participate** in all of the Youth Christian Education experiences, **Serve** as a Christian mentor, be an Adult Leader and driver as requested, **Encourage** them in their faith journey, **Pray** for and with them, **Engage** them in caring conversation, and **Live** as a Christian example for their family. *Parents are warmly invited to attend any of the Wednesday Confirmation Classes.*

* Bring your child to church **20 minutes prior** to the start of worship when they are **scheduled to participate/lead in worship**
* If your child is absent from a Learning Event, remind them to make-up the missing lesson and send completed back to confirmation guide via email, for review and discuss the lesson.
* Support and affirm all the volunteers at learning, fellowship and service events.
* Seek support in the nurturing of your child's faith development when necessary.
* Pray for this ministry and your involvement in it. Be an example of Christ in the world.

# Expectations of our Confirmation Leaders

* Prepare with prayer and devotion, accepting the responsibility placed before you.
* Attend Learning Events, Small and Large Group Events, Retreats, Guide/Team Huddles and other Confirmation events as you are able.
* Value each student and respect the diversity of everyone in their emotional/physical development, their faith journey and their backgrounds. Do not assume or assess but remain open-hearted.
* Present the best ministry possible to actively involve adolescents and their parents, encouraging families in communicating and sharing faith in their daily lives, challenging them, uplifting them, and motivating them.
* Seek support when needed.
* Model faithful behavior by worshipping and serving with families. Greet and acknowledge confirmands and their families. Follow all guidelines from our “Safeguarding God’s Children” policies!
* Meet and get to know the parents/guardians of the confirmands.
* Pray for the Confirmation ministry, families, volunteers, youth and yourself. Be an example of Christ in the world.

## What Confirmation is (and is NOT):

A picture containing indoor

Description automatically generatedConfirmation is a very important step on the life-long Journey in Faith. But it is **NOT** a journey toward a “graduation,” that stops the formation of faith when confirmed. It instead provides the foundations and frameworks that will encourage further spiritual conversations and further knowledge of faith, *for a lifetime.*

## Confirmation is Taking Responsibility for Discipleship:

It is a time of preparation leading to public profession of Christian faith and for our youth to “confirm” their intention to live as a child of God in the covenant of Baptism. The words are some of the most important they will ever speak: “Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the Word of God and share in the Lord’s supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?” Affirmation of Baptism, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, (Augsburg Fortress, © 2006), page 236.

# Ministry Format and Schedule

**Confirmation for youth in grades 7-8 happens each Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:00pm from September to May.**

**During the summer, occasional fellowship events take place. Watch for communications!**

*During Advent,* we shift our focus to preparing for Christmas. Wednesday evenings are a time for congregational activities such as suppers, Bible study, crafts and worship. Participation in these activities becomes our Confirmation ministry during December.

*During Lent,* we have our **Lenten Faith Mentoring** ministry. Youth select an adult mentor to discuss faith and life issues. Mentor pairs attend the Wednesday evening services and meet before or after. Learning Events are suspended, but small or large group service/fellowship events may occur during the Lenten season.

**Retreats** are planned to support faith formation and build relationships in our confirmation ministry. 7th & 8th grade students are encouraged to attend the Rainbow Trail Confirmation Retreat October 15th-17th in Southern Colorado.

**Confirmation Camp** is a summer opportunity to enrich our Confirmation ministry! In partnership with Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, all incoming 6th, as well as 7th & 8th grade students are encouraged to attend Confirmation Camp in June 2022. Getting away for a week to spend time with God and each other in a beautiful setting creates memories that last a lifetime.

**Affirmation of Baptism Service** for those that have completed Confirmation will be Reformation Sunday, October 30th, 2022.

Two Year Curriculum Cycle

## **YEAR A** (2021/2022)

The Sacraments (Baptism-Communion)

Martin Luther & The Reformation, Lutheran Theology

The Apostle’s Creed

The Lord’s prayer

**YEAR B** (2022/2023)

The Ten Commandments

New & Old Testaments

## Learning Materials *(Provided)*

* A black and white sign

  Description automatically generated with low confidenceHere We Stand Bible (NRSV)
* Pencil and Highlighter
* Here We Stand Lutheran Handbook

# Lenten Faith Mentoring

## What is it?

The Lenten Faith Mentoring ministry pairs individual confirmands with individual adults in the congregation in order to discuss faith and life issues and experience the Lenten journey together.

## What is the purpose?

Faith mentoring is intended to:

* Expand each confirmand’s circle of trusted adults in the congregation who will care about them and listen to them.
* Enable each confirmand to learn and see how another adult (besides one’s parents) lives out the Christian faith.
* Offer each confirmand a personalized learning opportunity during the period of Lent.
* Involve broader adult participation in the Confirmation journey and the lives of youth.

## How does it work?

Confirmands ask an adult to be their faith mentor during Lent by February 16th and fill out the mentor form and return to the church office. Wednesday, March 2nd (Ash Wednesday) at 7pm, the faith mentors, confirmands and confirmand’s parents meet for an orientation to kick-off this event. Then, 5 times during the Lenten season, each confirmand/mentor pair will meet for a guided discussion and devotional about faith, Christ, and discipleship. Mentor pairings are to meet after the Wednesday Lent worship service or at another mutually agreeable time if Wednesdays do not work. Complete packets of information will be available in the winter.

## Who can be a Mentor?

Each confirmand is free to choose any adult to be their faith mentor who is:

* an active member or attendee of Christ Lutheran Church
* at least 18 years of age
* not a parent or relatives
* someone they see as a good example of a follower of Christ
* someone with whom they will feel comfortable having “guided discussions” with
* someone who consents to be their faith mentor.

Examples might be the parent of someone in your Confirmation class, a former Sunday School teacher, your baptismal sponsor, a friend of your family, a neighbor, etc.

# Worship and Service Opportunities

## Worship Opportunities

An extremely important experience for our Confirmation students is worship. It is a place for God’s people to come as they are to be reminded of the love. Grace, and mercy that is within God’s community. We encourage our youth to not only partake but participate in worship in multiple ways.

Each Confirmand will be required to serve in worship at least 4 times during the 2021-2022 Confirmation year. They are encouraged to try all of these options once during the year.

* **Acolyte**
  + Acolyting is a very important ministry for confirmands. The acolyte’s primary responsibility is assisting with communion, while also helping with lighting and extinguishing the altar candles during services
    - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094fa5ad2eaafc1-clcacolytes>
* **Usher/Greeter**
  + In this role our youth can greet people at the door of our congregation, provide them with resources for worship, and get them seated in the Sanctuary.
* **Tech/AV Booth**
  + - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094fa5ad2eaafc1-hospitality1>
  + Our Confirmands can serve and help with our technological side of worship, providing an amazing service to those worshiping at CLC and virtually. They can do this by helping with projection, setting up microphones, and other worship tasks.
    - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094fa5ad2eaafc1-avbooth>
* **Altar Guild**
  + Help assist in setting up materials for worship such as bread and wine for communion and helping set the alter for service
    - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094fa5ad2eaafc1-altar>
* Other assigned worship positions such as reader, assisting minister, participating in the band, and any other creative ways youth can be involved are also welcome. Please have a conversation with Connor for any creative worship opportunities.

## Service Opportunities

Each student will participate in **service opportunities equal to 10 Hours**, during each Confirmation year, September -May. These service events can be within the church and outside of the church, volunteering for food, fellowship, hands on or any other service opportunity. Some options for service are below.

* Thanksgiving & Christmas food basket collection and delivery.
* CLC Day of Service
* Lenten Dinners
* Community Halloween party (TBD)
* Advent/Lenten Decorating
* VBS Volunteer
* Music Ministry with little kids
* Octoberfest
* **There are opportunities listed in the Outreach section of the newsletters!**

Please inform Connor of any service opportunities that your youth participate in, and fill out the form below for each service opportunity your child participates in. Again, these service opportunities DO NOT need to be in the church, so get out in the community and volunteer for things you are interested in!

## CLC Music opportunities

If you play in instrument, sing, or have a unique ability that you want to worship God with, feel free to contact Connor about serving in our Youth Worship Weekend bands and our Crossroads Band and Praise Team!

# **Confirmation Calendars**

**2021**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DATE | EVENT |
| Wed Sept 1 | Information Night |
| Wed Sept 8 | **1st EVENT Welcome (6:30-8:00)** |
| Wed Sept 15 | Confirmation Night 6:30-8:00 |
| Wed Sept 22 | Confirmation Night 6:30-8:00 |
| Wed Sept 29 | Confirmation Night 6:30-8:00 |
| Wed Oct 6 | Confirmation Night 6:30-8:00 |
| Wed Oct 13 | Confirmation Night 6:30-8:00 |
| Wed Oct 20 | **Fall Break No Confirmation** |
| Wed Oct 27 | **SERVICE EVENT - Reverse Trick or Treat!** |
| Wed Nov 3 | Confirmation Night 6:30-8:00 |
| Wed Nov 10 | Confirmation Night 6:30-8:00 |
| Wed Nov 17 | Confirmation Night 6:30-8:00 |
| Wed Nov 24 | **No Confirmation - Happy Thanksgiving**! |
| Wed Dec. 1,5,8 | **Advent Services 7:00 pm** |
| Fri Dec. 24 | **Christmas Eve: Services at 1:00, 3:00, 7:00, and 9:00pm** |

**2022**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DATE | EVENT |
| Wed Jan 12 | Confirmation Night 6:30-8:00 |
| Wed Jan 19 | Confirmation Night 6:30-8:00 |
| Wed Jan 26 | Confirmation Night 6:30-8:00 |
| Wed Feb 2 | Confirmation Night 6:30-8:00 |
| Wed Feb 9 | Confirmation Night 6:30-8:00 |
| Wed Feb 16 | Confirmation Night 6:30-8:00 |
| Wed Feb 23 | Confirmation Night 6:30-8:00 |
| Wed March 2 | **Ash Wednesday and Lenten Faith Mentoring KICK OFF!** |
| Wed March 9 | **Lenten Faith Mentoring** |
| Wed March 16 | **Lenten Faith Mentoring (Digital option for Spring Break)** |
| Wed March 23 | **Lenten Faith Mentoring** |
| Wed March 30 | **Lenten Faith Mentoring** |
| Wed April 6 | **Lenten Faith Mentoring** |
| Wed April 13 | **No Confirmation** |
| Thurs. April 14 | **Maundy Thursday** |
| Fri April 15 | **Good Friday** |
| Sun April 17 | **Easter** |
| Wed Aprill 20 | Confirmation Night 6:30-8:00 |
| Wed April 27 | Confirmation Night 6:30-8:00 |
| Wed May 4 | Confirmation Night 6:30-8:00 |
| Wed May 11 | **Last Confirmation Night 6:30-8:00** |