



NORMANDALE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Normandale Lutheran Church

# Confirmation Handbook

2017-2018



# Confirmation

[loving. learning. worshiping. serving.]

## Welcome!

Dear families and Confirmands,

We are so glad that as a you've chosen to enter your 7-9<sup>th</sup> grader(s) into this journey of deepening their faith, asking tough questions, strengthening their relationships with God, building friendships with those around them, and continuing to find their place within the Normandale Lutheran community. We hope that Confirmation can be a place of peace for all confirmands, somewhere that they can step away from their hectic lives, learn more about how God is working in the world and in their lives, and experience love, acceptance and support as they navigate faith together and individually. **Thank you for making your confirmand's faith life a priority in your home and schedules.**



Confirmation is a time for young people to experience the **STORY** of their faith, as 7<sup>th</sup> graders dig more into the bible and the story of God's people's experiences with God, answer questions like "What is the Bible anyway?", "How do we read the Bible?" and "Is the Bible true?"

Confirmation is a time for young people to **PRACTICE** their faith, as 8<sup>th</sup> graders focus on how we live out our faith in everyday life through practices like the practice of prayer, the practice of encountering others, the practice of getting lost and the practice of living with purpose.

Confirmation is a time for young people to **WITNESS** faith in action, as 9<sup>th</sup> graders talk about Lutheran Theology and worship, ask tough and important questions and have meaningful discussions about faith, doubt, other faiths, the church and Luther's Small Catechism, to name a few.

It is a gift and privilege to get to know, worship with, and teach your 7-9<sup>th</sup> graders, to learn from their questions and ideas, and to be enlivened by their curiosity and passion.

My prayers are with you and your family as we enter this new year together! Please don't hesitate to call or email me with questions or dialogue that you may have along the way.

Maggie Jones

Director of Youth and Family Ministry  
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## Program Options

### Wednesday Evenings

#### 5:00 – 6:30PM

Community Meal in Fellowship Hall  
Confirmands are always welcome downstairs for a delicious dinner. (Cost is \$5, contact Maggie if this is an issue.)

#### 5:30 – 6:30PM

Youth Choir

#### 6:15 – 6:40PM

##### Confirmands Connect!

Games and snacks will be provided in the Fireside Room and students are encouraged to put their phones away and have fun getting to know each other!

#### 6:45 – 8:00PM

##### Confirmation

Confirmation students will gather in the Sanctuary (and in the chapel starting in November!) for Large Group, Core Classes and Electives September – April.

##### Students with Special Needs

Students with special needs are an important and valued part of our community and we will do our best to include and accommodate them within the Confirmation ministry. Please contact Maggie to make any arrangements for your student.

##### Friends!

All are welcome to share in the goodness of Confirmation ministry here at Normandale. Students are welcome and encouraged to invite friends with them, just make sure that either a parent of the student contacts Maggie, or Maggie receives their contact information so that they can fill out a registration form.

##### Volunteering/Getting Involved

Confirmands are encouraged to choose *at least one* way outside of Confirmation to be involved at Normandale during the school year. Some of these options include Reading Buddies, Kids Night Out, Donuts & Devotions, Youth Led Worship, Youth Choir and teaching Sunday School.

## Curriculum

Confirmation Core Classes are taught and led by Normandale's Pastors and sometimes, Youth Director, Maggie.

**7th Grade** - *The Story of our Faith: Lessons on the Bible*, led by Pastor Charlie

Students will encounter an overview of the scriptures while gaining a better understanding for reading and interpreting the Bible, its story, and why it matters for faith.

**8th Grade** - *The Practice of our Faith: Lessons on the Church and the Practices of the Faithful*, led by Pastor Paul

Students will gain insight and experience in the practice of the faithful including prayer, worship, community, fellowship, study, and service.

**9th Grade** - *The Witness of our Faith: Lessons on the Lutheran Tradition, Proclamation, and Gospel Life*, led by Pastor Dale

Students will learn about Martin Luther, the Lutheran tradition, and the radical message of grace, Baptism, Holy Communion, forgiveness, and love lived out and given by God in Jesus Christ.

## Retreats

Retreats are an **integral** part of the Confirmation program at Normandale and all students are expected and highly encouraged to attend their grade's retreat. These fun, active and faith-forming retreats are so important in building community between the confirmands and their adult leaders.

7th Grade – September 29-30 at Gustavus Adolphus College

8th Grade – January 19-20 at Camp WAPO

9th Grade – November 3-4 at Augsburg College

Register at [www.normluth.org/confirmation](http://www.normluth.org/confirmation)

There will also be an all-Confirmation retreat in the Spring, stay tuned for more info!

## Lenten Mentors

During the 5 weeks that we meet during Lent the "Lenten Mentors" program will replace our normal Confirmation routine.

*Confirmands will each be paired with a mentor who is a member of Normandale, over 21 years old and not a parent/guardian.*

Confirmands are first encouraged to think of or find someone in the congregation and ask them to be their mentor, but if a student is stuck on who to ask, Maggie will provide assistance. Every student will be paired with a caring adult in the congregation and mentor-mentee pairs will meet on Wednesday evenings to attend the Lenten worship together and meet for 20-25 minutes to chat about faith and life. (Discussion sheets will be provided).

Parents! This is an awesome way for you to get involved in the Confirmation program and get to know your student's peers. We will start asking for Lenten Mentor volunteers in December.

## Expectations/Rules

The Confirmation program at Normandale Lutheran Church begins as students enter 7th grade and concludes with the Rite of Confirmation in the Fall of their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year. Our Confirmation program is designed with the hope that your student will find their place in the community of NLC, and we ask that your family supports this process by committing to attend worship with them, discussing faith regularly in your home, and making Confirmation a priority within your family.

**Attendance:** to get the most out of Confirmation, we expect and want you to be here! If a student is unable to attend confirmation one week, we ask that the student text or email Maggie and their small group leader to let them know.

\*Retreats are part of Confirmation! All students should do their best to attend their grade's retreat.

**Worship Notes:** All students are asked to complete *at least* 15 worship notes during the Confirmation year. Worship notes can be found on the welcome

table in the Fireside room and can be used for Sunday morning or Wednesday evening worship services.

There are no right or wrong answers here, we just want to see that you are thinking about what you heard or experienced in the worship service and would like you to put some effort into your answers.

Worship notes will be read and returned to you (and will even have some notes/questions on them from your pastors/youth director!)

**Volunteering/Involvement:** We encourage all Confirmands to choose at least one way outside of Confirmation to be involved at NLC. There are lots of fun ways to get involved as a youth at NLC! Reading Buddies, Kids Night Out, Wednesday Night Dinners, VBS, youth-led worships and Sunday School are just some examples. Let Maggie know if you have questions or don't know where you'd like to volunteer.

\*Reading Buddies is a volunteer-based relationship-building and literacy program for elementary-aged students that runs from 5:15-8pm on Monday evenings. We partner with Normandale Housing Ministry and eat dinner, play games, build relationships and help elementary students with reading and homework. Maggie Jones and Cindy Olson are the adult leaders and drive students from NLC to Hope Academy in the Philips Neighborhood.

First Day: Monday September 25

## Youth Savings Accounts

Confirmands can earn money for trips and retreats by volunteering at Kids Night Out or participating in other fundraisers that will go in their "Youth Savings Account." In order to get a Youth Savings Account for your child, an account form must be filled out and turned into the welcome desk.

## Confirmation Welcoming Statement

"We affirm that all people are created in the image of God, and as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God's love and grace. We welcome ALL people into full participation of Confirmation ministries at Normandale Lutheran Church and celebrate the diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith history, socioeconomic status, physical and mental ability. We embrace this diversity as a gift from God." -Adopted from the NLC Welcoming Statement

# Youth Savings Account Participation Form

Please fill this out to participate in the Youth Savings Account program!

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Name                  |  |
| Address               |  |
| City/State/Zipcode    |  |
| Home Phone Number     |  |
| Student's Cell Phone  |  |
| Youth's Email Address |  |
| Birthdate             |  |

## Guidelines for the Youth Savings Account

1. In order to earn the Youth Savings Account dollars each youth must sign in and sign out of each fundraising event they participate in. A sign in sheet will be available at every event.
2. every event.
3. Youth must sign up ahead of time to participate in fundraising events to earn dollars for their Youth Savings Account. A sign up for each fundraising event will be made available in advance to give everyone ample time to sign up.
4. There is no limit in earning dollars for your Youth Savings Account.
5. Parents cannot earn on behalf of their youth.
6. Any unused funds in the Youth Savings Account will be transferred into the Youth Scholarship fund upon the completion of 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Youth Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

