

Dear confirmands, parents and guardians,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Another year of Confirmation at St. John's is upon us! This letter serves to introduce you to the Confirmation program for 2018-2019. There are some changes to the program from the 2017-2018 year. Rest assured, this is to provide the confirmand with the best (though not always easiest) path of discipleship that will, prayerfully, continue after the Rite of Confirmation is over.

Seeking to provide a holistic confirmation experience, the particulars of the confirmation program will fall under 4 categories: **Head (Jesus Christ), Heart (Jesus Christ For Me), Hands (Jesus Christ For Others), and Habits (Jesus Christ Forms Me)**. Here are the particulars:

Confirmation 2018-2019

- Confirmation instruction will be on **Wednesdays, from 6:30-8:00pm, in the Heritage Room, starting on August 29th, 2018**. During the **3 weeks of Advent and 6 weeks of Lent, instruction will be from 6:00-7:00pm** (Midweek Services at 7:00pm). See the attached calendar for specific dates and Units of instruction.
- There are 5 elements for Confirmation Instruction: **Catechism Instruction (Head and Heart); Discipleship Formation (Habits); Sermon Notes (Head and Heart); Service Projects (Hands); and Faith Paper (Head and Heart)**.
- **Catechism Instruction (Head and Heart):**
 - a. The confirmands will be instructed using Concordia Publishing House's Confirmation curriculum, **30-Lesson Catechism Study**. This curriculum utilizes **the new Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation** published in 2017. These will be covered by your **\$25.00 Registration fee**.
 - b. The format of each class will be as follows:
 - i. Opening Prayer
 - ii. Test on previous session's material
 - iii. Workbook
 - iv. Discipleship Formation
 - c. During the 3 weeks of Advent and the 6 weeks of Lent, there will be only be Opening Prayer, Test and Workbook; there will be no Discipleship Formation.
 - d. Each class should have sufficient time to cover all of the material in each lesson. If, however, time does not allow for the workbook to be finished, **confirmands will take it home and complete the assignments on their own**. They will then bring the workbooks, with the completed material from the previous session, back for next week.
 - e. There will be a **test at the beginning of each class on the prior week's material**. Confirmands should review this material before the next session.
 - f. Should a confirmand have to miss a class due to illness, vacation, emergency or other pressing obligation, it will be up to the confirmand to complete the corresponding lesson on their own. **The workbook must be filled out in full and handed into Pastor Ben by the end of Catechism instruction (April 10th)**. Failure to do so may result in **delay of the Rite of Confirmation**.
- **Discipleship Formation (Habits):**

- a. The purpose of this time will be to pass on some habits and a discipling language to confirmands that they can keep doing after the Rite of Confirmation for, prayerfully, life-long spiritual formation and living.
- b. Some of the areas of discipleship confirmands will focus on will be: **Continuous Breakthrough; Deeper Relationships; Rhythm of Life; Personal Calling; Definitive Prayer; and Spiritual Health.**
- c. Confirmands can expect to have some “homework” relating to these habits and discipling language outside of class time. However, it will often be relegated to a short reading or assignment.
- **Sermon Notes (Head and Heart):**
 - a. Confirmands will fill out **10 Sermon Notes** and turn them in by the end of Confirmation Instruction (April 10th).
 - b. The Sermon Notes template is **attached at the end of this overview**. Feel free to copy them, or **you can find copies at the Connection Center in St. John’s narthex**.
 - c. These notes can be filled out during the worship service when the sermon is preached. If the confirmand is unable to come to worship, sermons can be found at St. John’s website, <http://www.sjlagrange.com/church/sermons/>. They are also livestreamed on the St. John’s Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/sjlagrange/>.
 - d. Sermon Notes must be completely filled out and signed by both confirmand and parent/guardian. **Incomplete Sermon Notes will not be accepted.**
- **Service Project (Hands):**
 - a. Each confirmand will be the “hands of Jesus” as they engage in a local Service Project. This is a way for each confirmand to put their faith into action.
 - b. Forms and instructions relating to this project are at the end of this overview.
 - c. The Service Project can be completed anytime during Confirmation Instruction. However, **both the Project Planning Form and Project Verification Form must be completed, signed and turned in by the end of Confirmation instruction, April 10th, 2019.**
- **Faith Paper (Head and Heart):**
 - a. Each Confirmand will write a Faith Paper to demonstrate, not only their understanding of their salvation in Jesus Christ, but how this is good news for everyone to hear.
 - b. The specifics for this paper will be handed out midway through Confirmation Instruction. However, the basics of the paper will look like this:
 - i. Choosing a Gospel Metaphor that speaks strongly to them;
 - ii. Choosing a Bible verse (and subsequent passage) that fits that particular Gospel Metaphor. **This Bible Verse will be their Confirmation Verse!**
 - iii. A Law/Gospel Narrative:
 - 1. Something we all want;
 - 2. Sin that gets in the way (Law)
 - 3. Jesus-Who He is...
 - 4. Jesus-What He does...(Gospel)
 - 5. ...for me.
 - 6. ...for everyone.

- c. This paper may be read during upcoming worship services or during the Confirmand Fellowship Event on May 5th. This is to be determined.
- **Additional information:**
 - **This program is for students from 7th-12th Grade.** Any student in this grade range may participate in the program.
 - **1-year program, covering all 6 Chief Parts of Luther's Small Catechism.**
 - Each confirmand must fill out a **Registration Form** and pay the **\$25.00 material fees**. This form is **attached to this e-mail and available in the church office**.
 - There will be an optional **Confirmation Orientation Meeting with Pastor Ben on Wednesday, August 22nd, at 6:30pm in the Heritage Room**. At this meeting, you can turn in your registration form and fees, pick up your materials, ask questions, etc. RSVP to this meeting at b.roberts@sjlagrange.com.

If you have any questions and/or concerns, feel free to contact me at b.roberts@sjlagrange.com or 708-354-1690, ext. 213. I am looking forward to this year and the many blessings the Lord will give! See you soon!

God's peace in Christ,

Pastor Ben