

Re | Form

Re | Store

Re | Ignite

Re | Shape

Re | Think

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FAITH

[RE]FORMATION

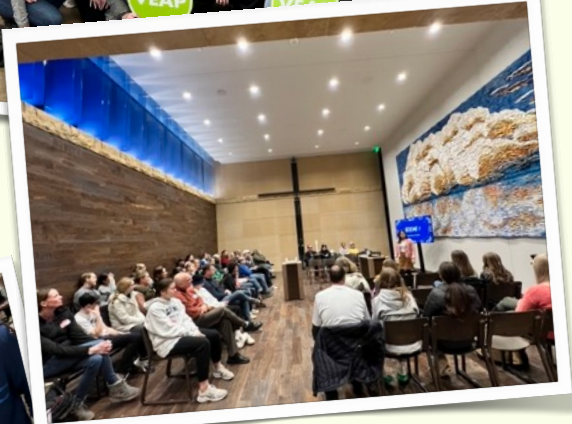
Spring-Summer 2023 Confirmation Credit Catalog

WHAT IS FAITH [RE]FORMATION?

Faith [Re]Formation at Normandale Lutheran offers people of all ages the opportunity to gather for education, faith development, and growth as a community. It is an elective-based model of confirmation and education with the goal of moving beyond mere education toward formation and transformation! Faith [Re]Formation is a way to nurture an entire culture— an ecosystem— of faith formation at Normandale Lutheran. **It has been thrilling to witness new relationships at Normandale throughout the program year so far, and are so eager to continue watching passions and interests in ministry expand within your families!**

At our core, **we believe that heart and hands must accompany the head in the work of Christian discipleship!** Therefore, in addition to monthly classroom-style education, we will offer opportunities for discovery, socialization, mentorship, relationship-building across boundaries by tapping into the life experience of multiple generations, because we operate under the conviction that the content of faith has no traction outside of faith-based relationships.

RECENT CONFIRMATION HIGHLIGHTS!



[RE]DISCOVERING THE POINT

Recognizing that we have the opportunity to more intentionally organize our confirmation program around our congregation's core values and the baptisms these young people will affirm at confirmation, we are offering a model which places at its center the baptismal promises found in the *Affirmation of Baptism* liturgy (ELW pg. 237):

1. Live among God's faithful people;
2. Hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's Supper;
3. Proclaim the Good News of God in Christ through word and deed;
4. Serve all people, following the example of Jesus; and,
5. Strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

At its best, confirmation is *so much more* than an academic curriculum.

In fact, the best possible outcome of confirmation would be young people understanding and affirming the promises made in their baptisms, while finding themselves situated as central members of the church-community who have been given opportunity to explore their own God-given gifts. It's time to design the program itself to place these outcomes at its heart, and in a way that meets the needs (and schedules!) of families.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

In the recent past, confirmation has— by and large— looked like weekly lecture-based class, with occasional opportunity for experiential learning, with very little focus on the kinds of transformational intergenerational relationships we value so highly as Christian community. Going forward, requirements for students desiring to be confirmed will be:

- 1) **Monthly learning event with a parent**, focusing on the core components of Christian faith, through a Lutheran lens.
- 2) **Earn at least 9 elective credits each year** across three categories: *Worship & Music*, *Mission & Outreach*, and *Community*, for a total of 18 credits across two years.
- 3) Optional **Middle School Hang Out Youth Group**, offered on Wednesday evenings when monthly learning events, credit courses, and worship are not being offered. If you want a weekly experience beyond Sunday worship, it remains available!

Families, *we have heard you loud and clear about flexibility*, so you may take any combination of courses at any time. For instance, if you are a 7th grader, you can take 14 credits this year and four in 8th grade, if you know you'll have schedule conflicts next year. How you get the number required is up to you! *Choose your own adventure!*

Please note: *if you have been participating in an ongoing way in places like Sunday School, singing in the Normandale Choir, or leading in worship, **you may absolutely continue to do those things for credit** from now through September, even if those options aren't listed in this catalog!*

REGISTERING FOR CREDIT COURSES

Some of the courses offered for credit are open for anybody to join at any point, without registering beforehand. To get credit for those courses, you'll simply sign in at the time of those courses, and then fill out an online form afterwards with some reflections on the experience.

Other courses will be offered for a more limited number of participants, and you'll need to pre-register for these opportunities. Many are listed in this catalog (for March 2023 through September 2023), and others will pop up as "extra credit" opportunities, which will be sent to you via email throughout the year. Links to the online registration forms for these courses will be provided for you via email. We ask that you register— even tentatively— by March 15th, 2023.

There is a contact person listed on most of the credit options. Please note that **you do not have to reach out to the course leader once you register**, unless you have specific questions for them about the course they're leading. They will reach out to you with any additional coordination or scheduling needed.

Parents and other family members are encouraged to participate in many of these courses, as well! **By the time students are confirmed, we want them to have grown in relationships with their peers, with the congregation across generations, and within their families!** It's our desire to provide you as families with a variety of opportunities for this growth and exploration.



SPRING-SUMMER 2023

CREDIT CATALOG

WORSHIP & MUSIC CREDITS

Worship Leadership “Sampler Platter”

Did you know that in order for worship to happen at Normandale, it takes at least 7 volunteers? There are a ton of roles to fill in worship leadership! Spend three Sundays between March and August as an acolyte (candle-lighting, assisting with offering/communion, among other tasks), a greeter, a reader, an usher, a crucifer (who carries the cross) or a cantor (chanting the Psalm). After three Sundays of worship leadership, you'll have achieved a credit toward the Worship category!

Leader: Kim Sannerud
ksannerud@normluth.org

1 Credit = Three Sundays of Leadership

Children's Message Troupe

When you were a kid, did you go up to the front for children's message time? Now you can be one of the super cool “big kids” who lead the young among us! Join Pastor Ian in preparing a children's sermon to give during a worship service as a group! We can do a skit, lead a song, tell a story... whatever our creative minds come up with together! Dates can be flexible, so we'll plan around schedule availability.

Leader: Pastor Ian McConnell
imcconnell@normluth.org

1 Credit = One Children's Message!

Youth Choir during Lent

Youth choir is back for a season! Singing is a significant part of many people's faith lives. And research shows that music helps experiences “stick” in our memories and bodies. Spend the season of Lent singing with friends! Whether you've been in choir since you were a young child or a complete newcomer to singing, give it a shot!

Leader: Greg Peterson
gpeterson@normluth.org

1 Credit = One month+ of choir or a choral ensemble of peers

Independent Study

Is there something related to worship that you want to understand better? What would make the experience of worship more meaningful for you and your family? Bring your idea for an independent (or group) study to Pastor Ian or another pastor or staff person for approval— or to seek help or direction! So far this year, your peers have studied a congregation rebuilding after an earthquake, played music in worship at a grandparent's church, and have even started learning to play organ with our Director of Worship, Greg Peterson!

Leader: Pastor Ian McConnell
imcconnell@normluth.org

MISSION & OUTREACH CREDITS

"Reading Buddies" at Normandale Housing Corporation

We have a long-standing partnership with Normandale Housing Corporation, stemming all the way back to its founding! Join us at Normandale House in South Minneapolis to eat dinner, read together, and play games. Come for the reading, stay for the friendships! More than 15 of you did it this fall; come do it again; it's a blast!

*Leaders: Diane Lindquist
dianelindquist99@gmail.com*

1 Credit = Participation in at least three Reading Buddies meetings

Be a VBS "Big Sibling"

Did you know that volunteering with children is a form of service project? Being a leader at Vacation Bible School is as fun as it is important for the little kids: you can be an assistant small group leader, or even help lead games or other activities! We're doing a three-day VBS this year with the theme of "Stellar"—it's gonna be "out of this world," ha!

*Leader: Lily Askegaard
laskegaard@normluth.org*

1 Credit = Attendance & Participation at VBS: June 13-15th

Spring Cleanup & Flower Planting at the Normandale House!

An annual highlight at Normandale! Wear clothes that can get a bit dirty, because we're going to be splitting up into teams to clean up around the grounds of Normandale House and plant springy flowers... it's hard to believe it'll ever be warm enough to plant flowers again! Bring some flowers and potting soil too, if you can; we'll cover the snacks!

*Leader: Pastor Rebecca Gamble
rgamble@normluth.org*

1 Credit = Attendance & Participation on April 22nd from 10:00-1:00 p.m.

Independent Study

When you think of "Mission and Outreach," what sparks your curiosity? Why do we work with other organizations outside our own congregation, and what does that have to do with our faith? Why do churches exist in the first place, when worship can happen anywhere? Bring an idea for an independent study to Pastor Ian or Pastor Rebecca for prior approval— or to seek help, direction, or partnership!

*Leaders: Pastor Rebecca Gamble
rgamble@normluth.org*

COMMUNITY CREDITS

"What Matters Most?"

Documentary Film Making Crew

We're going to make a film together, it's true! As a group, we will learn how to "frame a shot" for film and then conduct interviews with family members and other caring adults from the Normandale Lutheran community to discover something about the core of what matters for people in this day and age. We'll conclude the project with an official film premiere after Pentecost worship on May 21st!

Leader: Pastor Ian McConnell
imccconnell@normluth.org

1 Credit = Interviews conducted for the film project, and attendance at film premier.

"It's Great to be Alive in God's Great Northwoods" – Camp Vermilion!

Absolutely one of the most spectacular places on earth. Each year we go to camp for a week of fun in the sun at beautiful Camp Vermilion through our official camping ministry, Voyageur's Lutheran Ministries. Register on the summer ministries link, arrive with a curious spirit, and **earn three credits for this one!**

Leader: Pastor Ian McConnell
imccconnell@normluth.org

3 Credits= come along for the week of June 25th-30th at Camp Vermilion!

Tending God's Garden

Under the tutelage of NLC member [and resident hammer-swinger] Rich Lovdal, we will be building and placing raised-bed gardens around the perimeter of the NLC parking lot to grow fresh vegetables in! Come harvest time, keep your eyes open... we just might be doing something with what we grow...! We'd love to have entire families help out with this project.

Leader: Rich Lovdal
rlovdal@allanblock.com

1 Credit = Attendance & Participation for the full time on May 7th from 10:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Painting Our Faith

For as long as humans have existed, it seems, art has been an outlet for expression, for asking questions, and even simply for enjoyment. We will come together to worship on Wednesday, March 15th and then after have a brief devotion on the service, followed by a group painting project. You don't need to be good at painting to make this meaningful.

Leader: Katie Hein
khein@normluth.org

1 Credit = Attendance and participation at worship and the event on March 15th.

CONFIRMATION DATES TO NOTE:

February 1	Parent/Student Learning 6:45 - 7:45 p.m.
February 8	<i>No Programing - Staff at Continuing Education Event</i>
February 15	Middle School Hangout 6:45 - 7:45 p.m..
February 22	Ash Wednesday Worship 6:30 p.m. (no other programing)
March 1	Parent/Student Learning 7:15 - 8:00 p.m (after Lent worship)
March 8	<i>Lent Worship 6:30 p.m.</i>
March 15	<i>Lent Worship 6:30 p.m.</i>
	<i>"Painting Our Faith" 7:15 - 8:00 p.m.</i>
March 22	<i>Lent Worship 6:30 p.m.</i>
March 29	<i>Lent Worship 6:30 p.m.</i>
April 2	<i>Palm Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.</i>
April 5	<i>No Programing - Holy Week</i>
April 6	<i>Maundy Thursday Worship 6:30 p.m.</i>
April 7	<i>Good Friday Worship 6:30 p.m.</i>
April 8	<i>Easter Vigil Worship 7:50 p.m.</i>
April 9	Easter Sunday - Jesus is Risen! (Join us in worship!)
April 12	<i>No Programing - Easter Break</i>
April 19	Parent/Student Learning 6:45 - 7:45 p.m.
April 22	Spring Clean-Up at Normandale House 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
April 26	Middle School Hangout 6:45 - 7:45 p.m.
May 3	Parent/Student Learning 6:45-7:45 p.m.
May 10	Middle School Hangout 6:45 - 7:45 p.m.
May 17	End of Year Party! (Details to come)
May 21	Pentecost Worship 9:30 a.m.
	"What Matters Most" Film Premiere! following worship
June 13-15	Vacation Bible School 8:40 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (register to help!)
June 25-30	Camp Vermilion (Register online; Summer 2023 Ministry!)
July 11-13	Summer Stretch After Dark 4:00 - 9:00 p.m. (register!)

Other course credit options, retreats, etc. will be announced periodically and sent to you via registration links.



Loving.
Learning.
Worshiping.
Serving.