



NORMANDALE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Normandale Lutheran Church

Confirmation Handbook

2019-2020



Confirmation

[loving. learning. worshiping. serving.]

Welcome!

Dear families and Confirmands,

We are so glad that as a you've chosen to enter your 7th, 8th and 9th 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 7th 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 8th 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 9th 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 7-9th 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

651.366.0421

mjones@normluth.org

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

Confirmation Connect!

Games and snacks will be provided in the Fireside Room and students are encouraged to put their phones away and have fun hanging out together!

6:45 – 8:00PM

Confirmation

Confirmation students will gather in the Chapel for Large Group music, worship and announcements followed by Core Classes or Electives September – April (Confirmation will look different during Advent & Lent)

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.

Registration

All youth must be registered for Confirmation each year. Parents or guardians can register 7th, 8th and 9th graders online at:

www.normluth.org/confirmation

Curriculum

Confirmation Core Classes are taught and led by Normandale's Pastors and youth director.

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

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 Ian

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 – November 16-17 at Gustavus Adolphus College

8th Grade – January 18-19 at Camp WAPO

9th Grade – April 18-19 at Normandale Housing Ministry & Augsburg College

Register at www.normluth.org/confirmation

Confirmation students are also encouraged to participate in youth summer trips & events like the Boundary Waters in July, Camp Vermilion in August and Summer Stretch! *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 an adult mentor and will attend Lenten worships together and meet for 20-25 minutes to chat about faith and life.

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.

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 10th 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 outside of the Fishbowl youth room or up in the choir loft and can be used during 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 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 Choir 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

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 to 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 23

Youth Savings Accounts

Confirmands can earn money for summer trips and events 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 (attached) must be filled out and turned into the welcome desk.



Kids Night Out is a monthly fundraiser where Confirmation and Sr. High students can earn money for their youth savings accounts. Students sign up each month to provide childcare and a fun evening (3:30 – 7:00PM) for NLC babies, toddlers and children ages 6 mo. – 8 years and earn \$30/Saturday.

First KNO: October 6

Communication

EMAIL

Information about Confirmation and youth related items will be communicated out via weekly/bi-monthly informational emails via Constant Contact. Please read your emails! **If you are not receiving these emails, please let us know ASAP so that we can make sure to get you on our list.**

If you ever have any questions you can contact Maggie at mjones@normluth.org or Jean (Assistant to Children, Youth and Family Ministry) at jean@normluth.org

TEXTING


A great way to stay connected and up to date on deadlines, events and reminders is to sign up for our Confirmation texting service.

Remind is a great app that Maggie uses to send quick, important updates out to youth and families. Responses go directly to Maggie and you don't need to download anything.

To be a part of the Confirmation texting group, text @normlu to 81010

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow the Normandale Youth social media accounts to see fun pictures and posts of our time together!

 Instagram: @normluthyouth

 Facebook:
www.facebook.com/normluthyouth

Confirmation Welcoming Statement

Confirmation is a place where youth can come to feel safe and encouraged, and to know that they are loved for exactly who they are.

"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 and youth ministries at Normandale Lutheran Church and celebrate the diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith history, socioeconomic status, and physical and mental ability. We embrace this diversity as a gift from God." -Adopted from the NLC Welcome Statement



**Normandale is a
Reconciling in Christ
Congregation**

