

Date: September 6, 2011

To: Confirmation Students and Parents

From: Kyle Frazier, Director of Student Ministries and Pastors Mike and Glenn

Re: 2011-2012 Confirmation Year and First Communion Instruction

We are making significant changes to Christ Lutheran Church and School's Confirmation instruction. In the past we engaged students in a two-year study process (7th and 8th Grade). Most of the students were taught during the day at Christ Lutheran; other students were taught in the evening. We offered a style of confirmation preparation that was convenient for families and students, especially those within our school. Regrettably, and in too many cases and for various reasons, the confirmation process resulted in a student's low comprehension, application, and life integration. Disappointedly, too many students failed to do the required work and declined to participate fully in group discussions, youth activities, and in the life of our congregation. In fact, over the last couple of years, the Board of Elders has expressed dissatisfaction with the ability of many of our students to engage in their year-end interview on the subject of their faith.

It is time to raise the bar and implement a new Confirmation process that will grow dynamic "Up-In-Out Student Disciples." These will be young people who know their faith, can express their faith, and live out their faith as they worship God, fellowship together, and serve others. Spiritual knowledge and incarnational expression will go together.

Confirmation will be offered to 8th grade students on Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30 PM, and will meet in the Youth Room. It is our hope that the maturity occurring in the 8th graders (spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually) will enable them to more deeply pursue a lifestyle of discipleship. The enclosed materials describe the dates and outcomes of Confirmation and the expectations of the students. While Pastors and Kyle will continue to participate weekly at Christ Lutheran School in the religion curriculum, Confirmation instruction will not be offered during the day within the classroom. Also, please note that 8th grade students who choose not to or are unable to participate this year may enroll next year when they are in 9th grade. All 9th grade students who have not yet completed the Confirmation process are welcome to participate. Students older than 9th grade will participate with their parents in the adult New Member Class.

An additional significant change concerns the preparation for and reception of the Lord's Supper. It is obvious that many students go through Confirmation instruction so that they can receive the Lord's Supper, the preverbal "carrot at the end of the stick." Then sadly, after Confirmation Sunday, we fail to see many of those students again. So, beginning this winter, 2012, and separate from Confirmation, we will offer a three-evening First Communion preparation class. The class will take place during the Lenten Season and coincide with the Wednesday Lenten Dinners. Students in one of the grades, 5-8th, will be invited along with their parents. Then, with the consent of their parents, students who have completed all three weeks may receive the Lord's Supper for the first time during the Maundy Thursday Worship service. Details and registration materials will be available after the first of the year.

We hope that you will agree with us that it is time to raise the bar and make these significant changes. It is our prayer that you will be excited with us for what is to come: your students growing in a faith in Jesus that is real, deeply rooted, and impacting and preparing them to live out a Christ-centered life.

In Jesus,

Pastor Mike, Pastor Glenn, and Kyle Frazier



Confirmation

Outcomes & Expectations

The *Sure* Foundation

THE PURPOSE OF CONFIRMATION: To affirm God's baptismal promises, and through the empowering of the Holy Spirit, passionately and knowingly choose to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ, a participating member of His church, and a bold missional/incarnational witness of His accomplished redemptive work for all people.

DAILY BIBLE READING (UP/IN): A student will pursue full devotion (discipleship) to Christ and His cause and grow in his or her personal faith-relationship with God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as he/she reads daily from God's Word. We believe that we exist to grow in our pursuit of joy in God and that it is normal for every believer.

The weekly reading schedule is listed under each date and may be done online at www.youversion.com. The reading plans are found under the "Bible" tab, then "Reading Plans," then "Youth." Read both the Scripture for the day and the "Additional Content." The NIV Student Bible will be used individually and in the class discussion and instruction and may be purchased in CLC's book store.

WEEKLY WORSHIP (UP/IN): A student will express his or her devotion and joy of God as he or she unites with the CLC family during one of the weekly Worship services. We believe that we exist to celebrate God's presence and express our joy in Him.

If unable to attend the Sunday 8:00 or 9:45 a.m. service, a student will watch the previous Sunday's message online while using the "Christ Lutheran Sermon Notes." The completed sermon notes will be shown to the instructor at the beginning of the next scheduled class.

CLASS ATTENDANCE (IN/OUT): A student will seek the heartbeat of God and an understanding of His revealed Truth as he/she attends and participates in the Confirmation class.

If unable to attend the instruction, a student will come to the Church office by Friday of the same week and check-out a DVD/Flash drive and watch the class discussion/teaching while completing the corresponding lesson. The lesson will be shown to the instructor at the beginning of the next scheduled class.

Green Light: A student may miss two classes.

Yellow Light: A student who misses three and four classes will join his or her parents and have a conversation with the instructor.

Red Light: A student who misses five times will discontinue with the present Confirmation and will wait until the next year to enroll.

SERVANT EVENT (OUT): A student will convey the compassionate and merciful heart of God as he/she attends and participates in four servant/mission events (i.e. monthly food distribution).

If unable to attend a planned event, a student will coordinate and participate in an opportunity of his or her choice. The student will bring a signed authorization notice and present it to the instructor.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT (IN): A student will seek meaningful friendships (koinonia) with his or her peers as he/she attends and participates in the Confirmation retreat, December 16-18.

THEOLOGICAL INTERVIEW AND FAITH STATEMENT (UP/IN/OUT): A student will share his or her baptismal faith in God and his/her knowledge of the foundational Truth-claims of God as he/she completes a 30-45 minute theological interview with an Elder of CLC. Moreover, he or she will prepare and give a five-seven minute presentation at the Faith Statement Celebration gathering.

OUTCOMES AND EXPECTATIONS AGREEMENT: I have read and understand the outcomes and expectations of participating in CLC's Confirmation and I consent to do my best and accept the consequences of my efforts.

Student's Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____

(Please sign a second agreement and leave with the instructor)

CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

6:55	ARRIVE
7:00	OPENING AND PRAYER
7:10	GROUP CONVERSATION OF WEEK'S SCRIPTURE OR GROWTH ASSESSMENT
7:20	SMALL GROUP APPLICATION OR GROWTH ASSESSMENT
7:35	FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH CLAIM
8:20	REVIEW THE WEEK'S READING PLAN
8:30	DISMISSAL

Bring confirmation notebook and Bible to each class.

CONFIRMATION CALENDAR

September 20: Orientation with 8th Graders and Parents

Deep Dive 14 » Two Weeks

Dive deeper. Swim farther. This 14 day reading plan for teens helps take your spirituality to the next level. You will have the opportunity to dive into God's Word and be challenged through daily devotionals along the way.

<http://www.youversion.com/reading-plans/category/youth>

September 27: No Class

October 4: Introduction: Why Confirmation? Theology?

Anger » 3 days

Anger happens to the best of us! Your response to anger is based on trusting God and meditating on His Word. Consider the Reading Plan Trust alongside the topic Anger. The following verses, when memorized, can help you to respond properly to anger.

October 11: Class Trip

Abuse » 7 Days

No person has ever deserved to be abused. God loves you and desire for you to be cherished and taken care of. No mistake, no shortcoming, no misunderstanding should ever be met with physical, sexual, or emotional abuse. This seven-day plan will help establish the understanding that God desires justice, love, and comfort for every single person.

October 18: No Class

Anger and Hatred » 7 Days

Anger is an issue that everyone deals with at some point. This seven-day plan will give you a biblical perspective, with a short passage to read each day. Read the passage, take time to look at yourself honestly, and allow God to speak into your situation.

October 25: Revelation of God and the Bible

Bullying » 7 Days

Bullying has become a big topic in schools. What does the Bible have to say about it? This seven-day plan will help you to understand both sides of the issues - those who bully and those who are bullied. Read the passage, take time to look at yourself honestly, and allow God to speak into your situation.

November 1: Revelation of God and the Bible; Law and Gospel

Clothing » 7 Days

Society puts a lot of importance on what clothes a person wears. So maybe you are wondering what the Bible has to say about how we should present ourselves - does it even matter? This seven-day plan will help you realize that it does matter because you are a Child of God.

November 8: Creationism and Evolutionism

Cutting » 7 Days

God is the creator and sustainer of your body. If you have accepted Jesus, then your body is the place that the very Spirit of God dwells. In this seven-day plan, you will learn the truth that your body is a temple to be built up and respected, not beaten or abused. Set it in your mind that you need to honor God with your body.

November 15: Creation

Dating » 7 Days

What does God have to say about dating? This seven-day plan will give you a biblical perspective, with a short passage to read each day. Read the passage, take time to honestly reflect on your situation, and allow God to speak into your heart.

November 22: No Class

Death » 7 Days

Death is something everyone has to deal with throughout life. So many questions arise and can shake us to the core. This seven-day plan will give you a brief look into what the Bible has to say about finding strength and comfort in the face of our mortality.

November 29: Class Trip

Depression » 7 Days

Depression can effect anyone of any age for any number of reasons. This seven-day plan will guide you to the Counselor. Quiet your mind and heart as you read the Bible and you will discover peace, strength, and everlasting love.

December 6: Humanity and the Fall

Divorce » 7 Days

Divorce is everywhere today, even inside of families that go to church. And if your parents are in the midst of this difficult situation, you might feel like it is your fault or that life is spinning out of control. This seven-day plan will help you find God in the midst of the confusion and hurt you are experiencing.

December 13: The Fall and Amazing Grace

Drugs and Alcohol » 7 Days

Drugs and alcohol can be incredibly tempting for anyone - because of pressure from friends, because of curiosity, and because of feeling hopeless. This seven-day plan will present you with scripture that will lead you to God and His help as you navigate temptation and tough choices.

December 16-18: Confirmation Retreat

December 20: No Class

Food » 7 Days

Food can be an idol just like anything else. It can consume your thoughts, your attitudes and actions. Some people idolize food by eating too much of it and others idolize food by not eating enough of it. This seven-day plan will help you establish a healthy perspective on food by engaging with the Bible, the "bread of life."

December 27: No Class

Friendship » 7 Days

God often works through the people we have in our lives. So who are your friends? What kind of friend are you to others? This seven-day plan will show you the true nature of friendships and the blessing God provides through friendship.

January 3: Review

Gossip » 7 Days

The words we use have incredible power, to build up and to tear down. Gossip is especially toxic. So what role do words play in your life - to bring life or to destroy others? This seven-day plan will help you understand that God takes very seriously what comes out of our mouths. Quiet yourself and just listen to what He has to say.

January 10: The Person of Jesus Christ

Integrity » 7 Days

Character matters. Integrity, honesty, truth - all of these are qualities of living in the Spirit of God. This seven-day plan will help to center your heart on God as you grow in maturity.

January 17: The Work of Jesus Christ

Lying » 7 Days

Do little white lies matter? Are there different levels of lying, and are some okay? The truth is, God expects honesty. This seven-day plan will bring the Truth of scripture into your thinking. Quiet yourself before God and let your mind be renewed.

January 24: The Ultimate Purpose of Salvation, Part 1

Parents » 7 Days

The relationship you have with your parents isn't always easy - but it is important. We are called to honor our parents. And in this seven-day plan, you will discover a Godly perspective on the first relationship you ever entered.

January 31: Class Trip

Peer Pressure » 7 Days

Peer pressure can be a great thing, but it can also be a terrible reality. God has called us to live a life devoted to him - so knowing and understanding his standards is far more important. In this seven-day plan, you will find strength to face the press.

February 7: Salvation, Part 2

Suicide » 7 Days

Life can be hard, depressing, and it can feel like the only way out is to end your life. But God created you, loves you, and has great things for you. This seven-day plan offers you hope, comfort, and a way out of the depression you are facing.

February 14: No Class

Temptation » 7 Days

Temptation comes in so many forms. And it is easy to excuse our decisions and justify ourselves. This seven-day plan shows you that you can overcome temptation, through the Spirit of God. Take time to quiet your mind, let God speak into your life, and you will find strength to overcome the greatest temptations.

February 21: The Holy Spirit and Conversion

Worry » 7 Days

Our lives can so easily become overwhelmed with worry and fear of the unknown. But God has given us a Spirit of courage, not of fear and worry. This seven-day plan will help you to turn to God in every situation.

February 28: The Holy Spirit and Sanctification

Acts of Repentance » 5 Days

Repentance is one of the key actions we all take in coming to know Christ as our personal Savior. Repentance is our action and forgiveness is God's reaction to us out of His perfect love for us. During this 5-day reading plan, you will receive a daily Bible reading and a brief devotional designed to help you better understand the importance of repentance in our walk with Christ. <http://www.youversion.com/reading-plans/acts-of-repentance>

March 6: The Means of God's Grace

Experiencing God's Renewal » 5 Days

Being a new creation in Christ means that we are being constantly renewed through Him. God renews our hearts, minds, and body. He even renews our purpose. During this 5-day reading plan, you will dive deeper into what God's Word says about renewal. Each day, you will get a Bible reading and a brief devotional that will help reflect on the different ways we experience God's renewal. <http://www.youversion.com/reading-plans/experiencing-gods-renewal>

March 13: Holy Baptism

Remembering All God Has Done » 5 Days

It is our natural tendency to look to the future, but we should never forget the past. This plan is designed for you over a 5-day period to remember all that God has done in shaping you into the person you are today. Each day, you will get a Bible reading and a brief devotional designed to help you remember the key events of your walk with Christ.

<http://www.youversion.com/reading-plans/remembering-all-god-has-done>

March 20: The Lord's Supper

John 1-7

March 27: Prayer

John 8-14

April 3: The Church

John 15-21

April 10: No Class

Romans 1-7

April 17: The Priesthood of all Believers

Romans 8-16

April 24: The Last Things

1Thessalonians 1-5

May 1: Next step... What do I do now?

May 5: 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Faith Statement Celebration

May 6: 11:15 a.m. Confirmation Celebration Sunday

Christ Lutheran Confirmation Sermon Notes

Students are to fill this form out while watching the previous Sunday's message from church online. In the "Main Points" section, students are free to write what they got out of the sermon as well as any thoughts or questions they were led to.

Student's Name: _____

Sermon Topic: _____/date_____

Scripture Used: _____

Main Points: _____

How Does This _____

Apply to Your _____

Life: _____

(Use the back if necessary)

