

Confirmation Guide

2017-2018

First
Lutheran
Church

107 Second Street SE
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www.flc-aitkin.com

Just One Question: What is Confirmation?

Most people think of the Affirmation of Baptism service when they think about confirmation.

Confirmation is not the end of the faith-forming process nor is it a graduation. Confirmation is the beginning of our journey of living a life of faith.

Who's involved in Confirmation Ministry?

Parents: Yes, You!

You are the biggest part of our Confirmation Ministry our youth!

Pastors

We are blessed that both of our pastors, Pastor Jordan Gades and Pastor Darrell Pedersen are involved in Confirmation Ministry! Pastor Jordan and Pastor Darrell are enthusiastic and creative leaders in our Wednesday Supper Worship. Pastor Jordan is present at CoffeeHouse, leads many of the sessions for 7th, 8th, and 9th grades, attends retreats and provides great youth ministry experience and expertise in leading our ministry team. Pastor Darrell enjoys getting to know our youth primarily through 9th grade youth/mentor faith friend sessions, the Faith Basics class held right after Christmas break, and the fall retreat for 10th graders and parents prior to Affirmation of Baptism Sunday the end of October. Both of the pastors are available to all youth and parents throughout confirmation and are passionate that youth and our families feel embraced by God's grace!

Small Group Leaders

Each grade is divided into small groups at the beginning of 7th grade. These small groups generally consist of 6-8 students, always of the same gender. A Small Group Leader will be assigned to the group and will stay with that group for the next two years. Small Group Leaders provide students with an adult to share their faith forming journey.

Mentors

Mentoring develops a meaningful relationship between adults and youth, where both can grow and learn spiritually from each other. Mentors spend one on one time as well as some group activities with their confirmand. These sessions are designed to give youth another adult in their life who will pray for them and share in their faith development.

The Church

First Lutheran has a strong history and presence in the Aitkin community. As a church we are guided by the promises we make at baptism to partner with families as they journey with their children to grow in faith. We have a Confirmation Team of dedicated, fun and caring adults that plan our year. It takes all of the varied First Lutheran ministries working together to provide a safe, welcoming, faithful community to nurture discipleship in all ages. Many, many adults in our congregation enjoy our youth and make a deep and loving commitment to our confirmation ministry, as mentors, kitchen leaders, cooks, small group leaders, and music leaders. And, we are deeply grateful to the ministry teams that take care of our building, prepare and care for our altar, serve on our council, work and volunteer in our office, maintain our library and audio/visual technology, serve the Food Shelf and many more. The Holy Spirit uses anyone's gifts at First Lutheran!

Service Opportunities:

Throughout the year, confirmation students will have several opportunities to give back to the Church and the Community. Seeing God through service to others is an important way to build faith.

Worship Assistant

Confirmation students will be scheduled to serve as worship assistants a couple of times a year. Schedules are sent out in advance and it is expected that if you are unable to serve when you are scheduled that you will be responsible for finding a replacement. Training is offered to new worship assistants.

Wednesday Night Meal Helper

Youth and parents help serve and clean up our Wednesday suppers September through April, 5:00 to 7:30 pm. Volunteer Kitchen Guides shepherd our meal process. A sign-up sheet is provided for parent/youth teams to volunteer (suggested two times during the year, but sometimes more than two if the schedule does not fill).

Soup Kitchen

Once a month, a small group is selected to travel to the Soup Kitchen in Brainerd to serve a free meal. Two adults accompany the group and the meal is prepared in advance by the FLC Kitchen Ministry. This time is very special and most confirmations students looked forward to future visits to serve.

Highway Cleanup: Fall & Spring

Confirmation Ministry lives out a mission of service in caring for God's creation through removing litter along Highway 169 south. Our Confirmation Team joins parents in safely guiding our youth to love creation.

Christmas Cookie Delivery

Each year at the beginning of the Advent season, WELCA bakes wonderful Christmas cookies and we get to deliver them to assisted living residents, nursing home residents, and shut-in members of our church. Seventh/Eighth grade youth, their leaders, 9th graders, and their mentors travel all over Aitkin spreading God's message of peace and love while handing out the special treats.

{ What should I expect on Wednesday Nights }

CoffeeHouse:

CoffeeHouse is opportunity for youth in 7-9th grade to have fellowship with their peers on Wednesdays after school in a safe, supervised environment. Have a snack, play a game, tackle some homework, or just hang out.

Meal & Worship

Confirmation students and their families are asked to join us for Wednesday Night Worship before they head to class. What's better than a good meal with friends and family while interacting in a multi-generational worship experience? This is a wonderful way for families to share their faith.

Meal price \$3.00 a person
If cost is a burden to you or your family,
please accept it as a gift, gladly given.

Schedule

CoffeeHouse 3:30 - 5:30
Worship 5:30 – 6:30
Confirmation 6:45 - 8:00

And new this year

Wednesday Night Faith for
our 3rd through 6th Graders
from 6:45-7:30

&

God's Word, Our Life. An
adult discussion study every
Wednesday at 6:45 to 7:30.

Cancellation Policy

If school closes early due to
weather, Confirmation
Ministry is also cancelled.
You are excused if parents
decide their youth should go
home due to weather.

Confirmation: Large and Small Group Time

After worship, seventh and eighth grade youth and small group leaders meet together as a Large Group. During this time a topic of the session will be presented to the group.

The second half of class is devoted to Small Group time. Small groups allows for more personal and in depth discussion of the topic.

RETREATS

Confirmation Team Building Retreat:

All 7th & 8th grade students are required to attend. We leave FLC Saturday September 16th in the morning and return that night. The retreat is held at Camp Vanasek in Baxter. This is a fun filled day with team building exercises, fellowship, faith stories, and lots of camp fun.

Youth Hike

Experience God in Nature! Each year we invite 7th-12th grade youth to join us for a Sunday afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun. A different state park is selected each year for us to explore. This Year we will be heading to Banning State Park on October 1st!

2017 Middle School Gathering

November 18-19 Cragun's Resort, Brainerd

The Middle School Gathering is for youth in grades 6-9 and their adult leaders. This event gathers young people to grow in their faith by focusing on common confirmation teachings presented in a unique way. The event includes large group assemblies with a keynote speaker and band, learning clusters (small group learning), family time (time to meet with your church group), hotel life (fun activities including inflatable games, basketball, swimming pool, Wii, board games and crafts, prayer room, dance music and more), and worship. There is a cost to attend this event, however scholarships are available. (See scholarship statement below.)

Cardia Deo

Cardia Deo is a retreat for high school youth in grades 9-12 and their adult leaders. As Christians, we are *Called, Gathered, Equipped and Sent* to be the Heart of God (*Cardia Deo*) in the world. Bible studies led by the LYO Board, servant learning, worship, mystery event, camp life, and an adult track led by the retreat chaplain all make this event a deeply meaningful, fun and faith-nurturing event.

There is a cost to attend this event, however scholarships are available. (See scholarship statement below.)

Scholarships are available for anyone who would like to attend a retreat but is unable to afford the registration fee. Please speak with a Pastor if you are in need of a scholarship.

First Lutheran Wednesday Night Schedule 2017-2018

CoffeeHouse 3:30-5:30 Worship/Meal 5:30 – 6:30 Confirmation 6:45-8:00

Wednesday Night Faith (3rd through 6th Grade) 6:45-7:30

		Grades 7, & 8	9th Grade	Coffeehouse	W N F	Other
S	13	Orientation Night	Orientation Night			
	20	Lesson	No Confirmation		First Night!	
	27	Hwy Cleanup (4-6:30)	Highway Clean Up		3 rd Grade Bible Milestone	Sun Oct 1 st State Park Adventure Trip
O	4	Worship/Comm Training	Youth/Mentor Kick off		3 rd Bible Class	
	11	Lesson	Lesson		Class	Soup Kitchen 8 th G
	18	No Confirmation	No Confirmation	No Coffeehouse	NO WNF	MEA Break*
	25	Fall Fellowship Fun Night	Fall Fellowship Fun Night		Class	
N	1	Lesson	Youth/Mentor Night		Class	
	8	No Confirmation	No Confirmation	No Coffeehouse	NO WNF	Soup Kitchen 8 th B*
	15	Lesson	Lesson		Class	Sat 18-Sun 19 Middle School Gathering
	22	No Confirmation	No Confirmation	No Coffeehouse	NO WNF	Thanksgiving Break*
	29	Lesson	Lesson		Class	
D	6	Deliver WELCA Cookies	Youth/Mentor Night		Class	
	13	Lesson	Service/ F.A.W.		Class	Soup Kitchen 7 th G
	20	Christmas Party	Christmas Party		Christmas Party	
	27	No Confirmation	No Confirmation	No Coffeehouse	NO WNF	Christmas Break
J	3	No Confirmation	No Confirmation	No Coffeehouse	NO WNF	Christmas Break
	10	Movie Night	Faith Basics		Class	Soup Kitchen 7 th B
	17	Movie Night	Faith Basics		Class	
	24	Ice Skating	Faith Basics		Class	
	31	Lesson	Faith Basics		Class	
F	7	Service Night	Faith Basics		Class	
	14	No Confirmation	No Confirmation	No Coffeehouse	NO WNF	Ash Wednesday Soup Kitchen 8 th G
	21	Lesson	Faith Basics		Class	
	28	Lesson	Faith Basics		5 th Grade Communion Milestone Class	Fri Mar 2 nd – Sun 4 th Cardia Deo
M	7	No Confirmation	No Confirmation	No Coffeehouse	NO WNF	Spring Break*
	14	Fellowship Night	Youth/Mentor Night		5 th Grade Class	Soup Kitchen 8 th B
	21	Lesson	Lesson		5 th Grade class	
	28	No Confirmation	No Confirmation	No Coffeehouse	NO WNF	Holy Week/ 5 th Grade Seder Mar 29
A	4	Lesson	Confirmation Prep		Class	
	11	Work on Projects	Confirmation Prep		Class & 4 th Grade Creed Milestone	Soup Kitchen 7 th G
	18	HWY Cleanup 4-6:30	HWY Cleanup		Class	
	25	Work on Projects	Confirmation Prep		6 th Confirmation Intro & Class	
M	2	Confirmation Projects 5:30	End of Year Celebration		Year End Party	
	9					Soup Kitchen 7 th B

**There is still worship on these Wednesdays*

A Few Helpful Addresses and Phone Numbers

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