



The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

July 20, 2017

Dear Confirmation Youth and Parents,

This letter covers important material concerning Our Savior's Confirmation Ministry during the 2017-2018 program year, and continues with two major shifts in this keystone faith formation ministry.

First, I am asking that at least one parent, grandparent, or adult who has a stake in your child's faith attend every confirmation Learn Event with their child. I realize this may be a lot to ask of families with extremely full schedules. On the other hand I also believe the most important way to teach faith to our children is to first teach and empower loving adults to model and share the faith with them. If parents are unable to attend class, grandparents, baptismal sponsors, or another adult who is an important model in the faith life of your child may attend for you. If you cannot think of such adult relationships, I will work with you to find them.

Second, I want you to be aware that confirmation ministry is an optional ministry in the lives of the baptized. It is not a series of requirements to be checked off in order to reach an achievement or become a "full-fledged" Christian. A better phrase for confirmation is "affirmation of baptism," which any Christian can affirm the promise God made to them in baptism daily. However, confirmation is a specific process that helps our youth affirm their faith through instruction, fellowship, relationship building, and worship. Therefore, I am asking if you choose to participate in confirmation as a family, you take the expectations seriously. If you do not agree with the expectations of confirmation or do not think you can fulfill them, it is not a requirement to participate.

In brief, our Confirmation Ministry includes (calendar included in this mailing):

- Sixteen (16) faith Learning Events held Sunday evenings (6:30-8:00pm) from September-May
- Confirmation Lock-In and Team-Building Retreat, September 15-16
- Monthly Fellowship (Play) or Service events.
- Active regular participation in Sunday worship (2 or more/month if possible).

The full details and requirements of the program will be explained at the **Confirmation Ministry Orientation Night—Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 6:30-8:00 p.m.** (This is for both parents and 7th and 8th grade confirmands). If you wish to participate in this important life changing opportunity, **please complete the enclosed "Confirmation Enrollment Form" and return it to the church office by Wednesday, September 6, 2017 OR register online from the LCOS website.** Please bring your child's health insurance cards to the orientation meeting so we can make copies for our file.

I realize that busy schedules and involvement for parents and youth may present a challenge for participating in every Confirmation event. Perfect attendance is not a requirement. I only ask you make it a priority in your schedules. If you have questions, concerns or conflicts, please call me as soon as possible. I look forward to a great year!

Peace,

Pastor Wayne