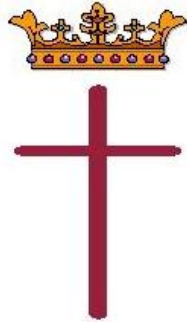


CONFIRMATION MINISTRY HANDBOOK 2011-2012



Prayer
Worship
Reading the Bible

Serving
Relationships
Giving

PoWeR SuRGe

What Jesus is asking us to do as his disciples is simply to put our faith into practice through this surge of power that we will call the *Marks of Discipleship*.

The **PoWeR** of discipleship is in —

Prayer

Worship

Reading the Bible

Daily **P**rayer establishes our lives in a living relationship with God. The God of Jessu who is always accessible meets us in our praying. Through an active prayer life, we are led by the Spirit of God everyday — not just in the “big” decisions of life. Daily prayer connects us to God, and it helps us to better know the one with whom we are in relationship.

Weekly **W**orship is that unique opportunity to come together as a community of faith to worship and praise the God of all creation. Worship also plugs us in...to the powre of the faith of others. Weekly worship is a discipline that brings great rewards: we can be confident that we are not alone in trying to practice our faith as we go about trying to shape and change the world around us for good in Jesus’ name. Worship also renews our commitment to live what we believe as we encourage and care for one another inthe presence of God.

Daily Bible **R**eading and study expose our ideas of God to the truths of Scripture. In this way, our subjective ideas of God are subject to the “God who alone is God.” Reading the Bible daily also challenges us to live our faith. Prayer is an inner way that can be private. Daily Bible reading and study remind the believer that a personal relationship with God can never be private. It affects not only how we think, but also how we act.

From the power we receive as a result of our prayer, worship and Bible reading and study comes a surge to do something!

The **SuRGe** is in —

Serving

Relationships

Giving

Disciples are those who live their lives in **S**ervice because we have been served byGod through the death an resurrection of Jesus. The mission of the Christian isn’t just within the congregation, however. We are equally in service as disciples when we see our community involvement as an extension of our personal mission.

Relationships form the fabric of our lives. God frequently uses our relationships to call us to spiritual growth. This invitation is first to care about those with whom we relate.

Then, as they know our genuine love, we strive to grow together in the power of the Spirit. This means that authentic relationships provide the very best context for our Christian witness.

Giving is about stewardship and specifically about financial stewardship. We need always to be giving from the gifts that have been given to us by God — time, talents and, yes, treasures. Christians should care more about the souls of others than about their pocketbooks. But because we care about the soul, we must speak of the pocketbook. Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” For Christians to surge into an exciting future in the power of our faith, we must be willing to invest our “treasure” in the faith that we take to heart. Tithing (the biblical principle of giving ten percent off the top) is God’s foundation for giving. Tithing is the practice of trusting God in the real world of our personal finances. While we may not all be in a position to tithe at this time, we can begin to give on a percentage basis, rather than giving part of what we have left over after we pay all of our other obligations. As disciples we give joyfully to God first with our very best because God has first given to us. Christians tithe out of gratitude, not fear. This connects us to the ongoing faithfulness of our God in a concrete way.

PoWeR SuRGe can be our spiritual tool kit for aligning our lives to the discipleship calling of the Savior, Jesus. May our goal simply be to be empowered as God’s people, as disciples of Christ, with a faith that brings the power of the Holy Spirit into our daily lives and enables us to share the love of our Savior with the entire world.

CONFIRMATION IS . . .

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation, or Affirmation of Baptism, is a pastoral and educational ministry of the church that helps you as a baptized child of God to identify with the church and to participate in its mission. It is a program of lessons, music, service, relationships, and fellowship.

Confirmation is not a sacrament in the Lutheran Church. The Affirmation of Baptism for third-year students is not a graduation. It is not required by the church or God; your salvation rests in Jesus Christ alone.

Expectations have been set to preserve the integrity of this ministry of faith formation, of the sharing of God's Word and Sacraments, and of the building of Christian relationships.

Confirmation is taking responsibility for discipleship.

It is a time of preparation leading to your public profession of Christian faith. It is a time for you to affirm your intention to live as a Child of God in the covenant of Baptism, and to fulfill the promises made by your parents and the faith community. At your Affirmation of Baptism, you will be asked,

“Do you intend... to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?”

(“The Affirmation of Baptism” in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* p. 236.)

Confirmation is Spiritual Growth.

It is a time to strengthen your faith and explore your unique personal relationship with God—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is also a time for meaningful spiritual experiences through which to grow in faith.

Confirmation is Relationships.

Confirmation presents the opportunity to experience God's love by building caring connections with parents, adults, and peers. It is a commitment of the whole family to grow together, to support one another, and to encourage one another to find their trust in a God who loves us, cares for us, and forgives us. It is learning to live God's commandment “to love your neighbor as yourself”.

What Is Confirmation at Christ the King?

The Confirmation Ministry at Christ the King is based on our Church's Mission Statement:

“As a committed body of Christ, we will gather for worship, grow in faith, evangelize with the Gospel, serve others and care for one another in authentic community.”

YOUR CALL AS A STUDENT

As a confirmation student, you will be expected to:

- Attend Confirmation Classes faithfully and participate in fellowship and service events
- Participate in Confirmation events with a positive attitude, open eyes, ears, and heart.
- Respect your family, other students, Pastor, Leaders, Teachers, Guides and yourself.
- Bring your Bible, journal and Confirmation Notebook to every Confirmation class.
- Attend worship regularly and fill out Worship Notes.
- Serve as an Acolyte, Crucifer, greeter, usher, lector, cantor, communion assistant or assistant minister when scheduled.
- Participate fully in Small Group activities and discussions.
- Print Take-Home sheets from the Christ the King Lutheran Church web site, www.gflutheran.org, complete them, and share them with your family. The sheets will be kept in the notebook and the Small Group Guide will check on the youth's progress from time to time.
- Be faithful to the boundaries and sacredness of your Small Group.
- Pray for this program and your involvement in it.
- Be an example of Christ in the world.
- For third-year students: Develop a personal faith statement and meet with the Pastor and the Youth and Family Minister before Confirmation.

Sunday School Class (9:45 – 10:45 a.m.)

The core of our Confirmation Ministry is our Sunday School class, where there will be a presentation on the topic of the day, followed by small group discussions with Group Guides.

Classroom Attendance

From September 11, 2011 to June 10, 2012: **You must attend a minimum of 25 out of 29 classes.**

You must notify your Guide in advance if you will be absent. If you wake up sick on Sunday morning, you should still call your guide.

Curriculum

Confirmation is a three-year ministry during the 6th, 7th and 8th grades. You will study Luther's Small Catechism in your first year of classes. In your second and third years, you will study the Old Testament in the 1st semester and the New Testament in the 2nd semester.

Fellowship and Service

The time spent with other youth in fellowship and service is an important part of your faith life. The sense of community you develop in Youth Group prepares you for your involvement as an adult member of the congregation. It is a wonderful way to share your love of Christ with each other in fun and service and build friendships that will last a lifetime.

You are expected to attend 75% of youth service and fellowship events *each year* and two years of Confirmation Camp. If participating in Confirmation Camp—or any event—would prove to be a financial burden, please see the Youth and Family Minister about a scholarship. All requests will be treated with strict confidentiality.

SO YOU WANT TO BE A LUTHERAN!

At the end of each year, you will have the opportunity to show how much you have learned from your small groups and take-home sheets. This opportunity will take the form of familiar game shows in multi-media. Original editions have been *So You Want to Be a Lutheran* or a fast drawing game of *Lectionary!*

Worship Attendance and Notes

Weekly worship is important and we expect you to be present. You are expected to submit a minimum of 25 Worship Notes during Confirmation classes – even if you attend a worship service somewhere else. The forms are in your notebook and on the slat-board in the narthex. The notes are to be returned to the notebook when complete. Just like the Take-Home Sheets, the Small Group Guides will check the completed notes on occasion.

Guide Groups

The 7th and 8th Grade Confirmation students are divided into Guide Groups, and each Group is led by two adult Guides. A Guide Group may plan and execute service projects on their own with their Guides. These projects are in addition to those available in the Youth Group and at the discretion of the Small Group Guide. The Guides should check with the Youth and Family Minister for approval and any forms which may be necessary.

During Guide Group, you will be expected to treat others with respect, to listen without interrupting, and to use only language that builds each other up as brothers and sisters in Christ. You will be expected to treat personal information that is shared in your group with confidentiality.

Assisting with Worship

You will serve a few times during the year as an acolyte, crucifer, greeter, usher, cantor, lector, assistant minister, and/or communion assistant. During orientation, you will indicate your availability and preferences. Our Coordinators will draw up a schedule based on the information received, and will try to honor your preferences.

Schedules will be posted on the church's website. They will also be posted monthly in the *King's Herald*; and the week before you serve, you will receive a reminder email.

- **Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the service starting time.**
- Find the Pastor or the Assisting Minister and let them know you are there.
- If you are scheduled to serve as acolyte, crucifer or another role, go to the Sacristy and robe up, and wait there to receive any last minute instructions.
- If you cannot serve on your scheduled date, it is ***your responsibility*** to find a substitute.
- When you have found a replacement, email or send a text message to Deb Cantrell by Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.

Worship Dress Guidelines

While acolytes, crucifers, and Assistant Ministers wear albs (robes) (to remind us of our baptisms and being clothed with Christ), other positions require some dress guidelines:

Wear better slacks, dresses, shoes, etc. (dress sandals are okay)

Make sure your appearance is clean and neat. No shorts, jeans, or flip-flops, please.

YOUR CALL AS PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

“Most certainly father and mother are apostles, bishops, and priests to their children, for it is they who make them acquainted with the gospel.” - The Estate of Marriage, Martin Luther, Luther’s Works, vol. 45, page 46.

Five Principles and Four Keys

Faith is formed mainly in the home. Faith is a living partnership between the home and the congregation. Confirmation is an ideal time to focus on the home devotional life in the family. Habits are being formed in the adolescent years that will last a lifetime. Our responsibility as a church is to assist in whatever way possible for faith development in the home. Please spend some time as a family in home devotions, sharing highs and lows, and celebrating rituals and traditions on special occasions.

David Anderson and Paul Hill in their book, *Frogs Without Legs Can’t Hear*, have researched and developed Five Principles of Faith Formation and Four Keys (or ways) to develop those principles. They are...

The 5 Principles of Faith Formation

- † Faith is formed through personal, trusted relationships.
- † Church is a living partnership between home and congregation.
- † Home is church, too.
- † Faith is caught more than it is taught.
- † It takes Christian parents and other adults to raise Christian youth.

The 4 Keys of Faith Formation

- † Caring Conversations
- † Devotions
- † Service
- † Rituals and Traditions

As the parents and/or guardians of a confirmation students, you will be expected to:

- Be models of Christian discipleship in the world for your youth.
- Actively engage your youth in meal-time prayers, home devotions, caring conversations (including dinnertime discussions), the telling of family faith stories, rituals and traditions, and service activities.
- Attend worship with your youth. Model faithful behavior by attending adult programs of Christian learning, service, and fellowship activities.
- Discuss the lessons with your youth and help him/her to complete the Take Home Sheets.
- Assist your youth with memory work and homework.
- We encourage you to attend at least one Confirmation Class yourself. You are *always* welcome to attend.
- Pray for *all* of our youth, the Confirmation ministry, the adult leaders, and yourself!

- Review and discuss this *Confirmation Ministry Handbook* with your youth, sign the form indicating you have done so, and turn it in.
- Encourage and help your youth to arrive before the start of class each Sunday.
- Bring your youth to worship, ensure they complete worship notes
- Bring your youth to fellowship and service events
- Bring him or her to church 15 minutes prior to the start of worship when he/she is scheduled to serve.
- Feel free to ask for help and support in the nurturing of your youth's faith development when necessary.

Each family with children at Christ the King Lutheran Church is expected to help by filling a volunteer position in the Education or Youth and Family Ministries. For example:

- Be a small group guide
- **Plan and organize one youth or service event with the Coordinator of your child's youth group.**
- Help with preparations for Confirmation Camp (a week-long camp usually around the first of July)
- Help Youth and Family Minister to plan and organize Confirmation Banquet

Check the *Youth and Family and Education Volunteer Lists* to find ways where our family can step forward to support the Youth and Family and the Education Ministries

As parents and important adults in youths' lives, you have an awesome responsibility for teaching and passing on the faith to them.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN BY **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2011**

Parent, Guardian, and Student Covenant

I have read and discussed the *Confirmation Ministry Handbook* with my family, and agree to the expectations outlined herein.

I have also checked the Youth and Family and Education Volunteer Lists to find ways where our family can step forward to support the Youth and Family and the Education Ministries.

Parent/Guardian Signature

_____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

_____ **Date:** _____

Student Signature

_____ **Date:** _____

YOUR CALL AS GUIDES

Guides

Guides are adult volunteers in the congregation who are giving their time to shepherd and to accompany Confirmands through their Confirmation Journey. There are two Guides for every Guide Group.

As a Small Group guide of confirmation youth, you will be expected to:

- Prepare with prayer and devotion, accepting the responsibility placed before you.
- Attend Confirmation Classes, Faith Experiences, Retreats, Guide Huddles, and other Confirmation Ministry events. Please sit with Confirmands during class and notify your partner guide and/or Confirmation Superintendent if you will be absent from class or other events.
- Plan and lead discussion during five Small Group Session during regular classtime.
- Value each student and respect the diversity of each individual in their emotional and physical development, their faith journey and their backgrounds. Do not assume or assess, but remain open-hearted.
- Be faithful to the boundaries and sacredness of your Small Group.
- Respect confidentiality of your youth unless legally-bound otherwise.
- Present the best program possible to actively involve adolescents, challenging them, uplifting them, and motivating them.
- Seek support when needed.
- Model faithful behavior by attending worship, adult Christian education programs, servant, and fellowship events.
- Meet and get to know the parents/guardians of the Confirmands. Greet and acknowledge Confirmands and their families.
- Pray for the Confirmation ministry, the adult leaders, parents, students, and yourself.
- Be an example of Christ in the world!

Note: Each Guide, as well as all adults who work directly with children and youth, is required to read and sign the *Child Protection Covenant* and consent to a background check.

Class Structure

Instruction during the Sunday School hour takes three forms:

- 1) In Large Group time, students receive instruction from the Pastor, the Youth and Family Minister, the Confirmation Superintendent and, on occasion, a guest lecturer.
- 2) Small Group discussions take place on five select lessons of year and are led by the two adult guides assigned to each group of 7th and 8th grade confirmands.
- 3) Faith experiences provide confirmands and their guides an active, often off-site, faith-nurturing learning opportunity, such as visiting a nursing home or attending a non-Lutheran religious service.

OTHER BUSINESS

Learning Materials

The church gives each student a Study Bible, a copy of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Here We Stand Student Book*, a journal, a *CTK* bag and a Confirmation Notebook.

Confirmation Fees

To help offset the expenses of Confirmation, the church asks that each family to donate **\$60.00** which will be used toward the purchase of Confirmation supplies, curriculum and books, Affirmation of Baptism celebrations and other things needed throughout the year. Please make checks out to *Christ The King* and note 'Confirmation' in the memo. You can register and pay online at www.gflutheran.org. Please submit your payment by **September 10, 2011**. If any of these materials are lost, the family will be responsible to cover the cost of replacement.

Retreats/Confirmation Camp

Information concerning Confirmation Camp and any retreats will be provided later in the year.