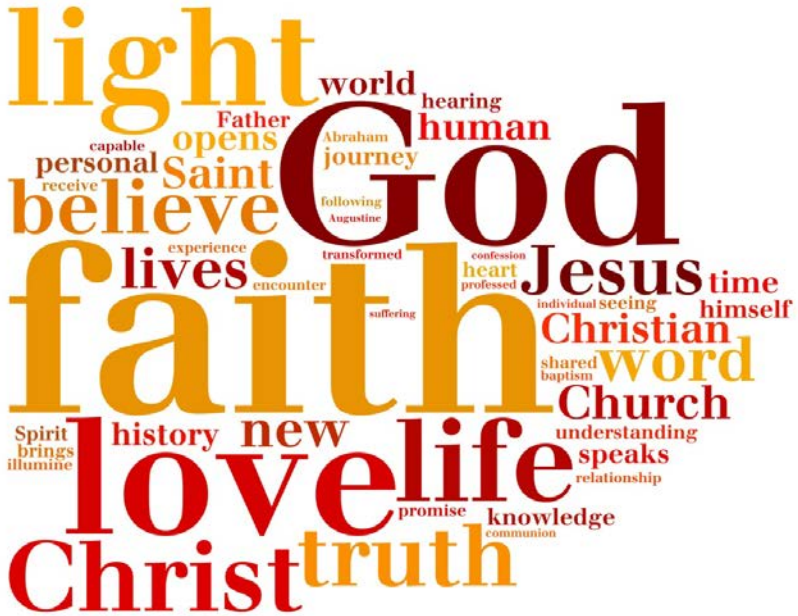


Our Saviour's Lutheran Church 2018-2019 Confirmation Handbook



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www.oursaviourslc.org

To all Confirmation families:

Thank you and welcome! Confirmation is a major component of the Youth Ministry Program at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. It is a three-year program, beginning in 6th grade and completed in the fall of 9th grade. The goal of the program is to allow young Christian people the privilege of getting better acquainted with Jesus Christ and his teachings. Our intention is to do this in a setting that will not only challenge their minds and hearts, but also surround them with pastors, adult leaders and fellow students who can help them continue to live their Christian lives in earnest.

The decision to participate affects not only the student involved, but the entire family as well. Please carefully and prayerfully examine the expectations listed throughout the handbook. Discuss as a family whether you are willing to make this kind of commitment. Please know that we place a high value on our confirmation program and are very serious about the guidelines contained within the program.

Confirmation is a voluntary program. It is not a sacrament in the Lutheran church and is simply available for those who wish to learn more about their faith and their church.

What is essential is that **students and families get involved!** We encourage our students to participate in discussions, think, ask questions, share ideas, and pray. It is also **essential that parents are involved in their child's confirmation experience.**

A hundred years from now it will not matter what your bank account was, the sort of house you lived in, or the kind of car you drove...but the world may be different because you were important in the life of a child!

Blessings,
Senior Pastor Dan Nordin,
Pastor Maria Pederson,
Deacon Glenndy Ose &
Leisha Tays, Director of Confirmation & Youth Ministries

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Program Overview

Objective: Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Confirmation Ministry strives to guide our young people to the **TRUTH-** Jesus Christ.

Teach God's Word

Reach out to others

Understand Lutheran traditions

Trusting and safe place

Help and encourage each other

Contact Information

Please contact Leisha if your young person is going to be absent from confirmation, or if you have any questions, concerns, feedback, etc.

Leisha Tays, Director of Confirmation and Youth Ministries

ltays@oursaviourslc.org, 763-434-6117 x131

Our Focus

Worship Together – Weekly worship as a family is honoring the Sabbath, hearing the Word and celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Worshipping together is one of the foundations of our faith.

“Whispers and Wonderings” are a way for our youth to engage in worship and gives them space to wonder. These forms are read by program staff and students will get them back with notes. Youth are expected to thoughtfully complete a minimum of 10 “Whispers and Wonderings” a year. If you have a barrier to getting to worship on Wednesdays and/or Sundays, please talk to Leisha.

Learn Together - Weekly growth in faith through fellowship, study and honoring the promise to place in our children’s hands the scriptures and provide for their instruction in the Christian Faith.

Youth are expected to have regular attendance at all lessons through the confirmation years.

Serve Together - Weekly growth is an active faith life in small groups, service and honoring the promise to our children to grow in service, care for one another and to work for justice.

Confirmation students are expected to participate in planned service projects. If they are unable to attend a project, they must make up the hours on their own. Please report make-up service hours using the “Serve Together” sheet found next to the Youth Board (hours should be made up between Sept. 1, 2017-Aug. 31, 2018).

Communication is KEY:

You are responsible to pay attention to communications that are published for Confirmation.

Monthly E-NEWSletters: Newsletters are sent via email out reminding you of upcoming events and news. If you don't receive them, please email Leisha.

Emails: You will receive emails from Leisha with announcements and opportunities for you and your young person. If your email changes, please don't forget to update it with Leisha so you continue to get important communications.

Text alerts: Sign up by texting @OSLCconf to the number 81010. You must reply with your full name in order to finish the process. Reference the link below for more details. <http://oursaviourslc.org/confirmation/#text>

Website: Please keep an eye on the church website at oursaviourslc.org. Find the appropriate ministry (Confirmation, Middle School, High School) under the "Connect" menu. Forms can be found under "Resources."

Youth Board: Visit the Youth Board in the rotunda at church.

Drop-off and Pick-up

Your entire family is encouraged to participate in Wednesday evening programming. However, if you choose not to, please park in the parking lot and meet your young person **inside** the building! This is VERY important for the safety of all of congregation! Skateboards are not allowed on the sidewalk or inside the building. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all of our church family safe.

Market Place Meals

Enjoy a meal out with your family and friends on Wednesday's right here at church in the Gathering Space from 4:30-6:25 p.m.

A menu will be posted on the Children/Youth board.

The cost will be \$4/person. Punch cards will be available for purchase at the Market Place table at a cost of \$40 for 10 meals or \$20 for 5 meals.

Risk Management Training

Anyone working with youth and/or vulnerable adults must complete a training session and background check prior to volunteering. These are scheduled with Leisha Tays, Director of Confirmation & Youth Ministries.

Notes for 8th Graders!!!!

As your last year of confirmation begins, please be aware of a few items for next fall. This coming spring on **Wednesday, April 24**, during our small group time we will have a mandatory meeting for all 8th graders and their parent(s)/guardian(s) about the fall confirmation happenings.

- 1) Brief Faith Interview (15 mins) with one of the pastoral staff. Sign up will be available electronically in August. This will be sent to email addresses on file.
- 2) 9th grade retreat will take place in the fall. It will be a weekend offsite. This is a mandatory retreat.
- 3) Confirmation Picture & Practice and Affirmation of Baptism is in October. Exact date and time to be determined.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if we have a snowstorm or school is closed?

In case of questionable weather, please call the church office at (763) 434-6117 to verify if there will be class. We will make the decision to cancel Confirmation by 12:00 noon. If the church has to close the office before 12:00 noon, instructions will be left on voicemail. We will make every effort to contact WCCO 830AM and the local schools for their afternoon announcements. We will also send out a text message and those who sign up for those alerts will receive the message.

Will each student receive a new Bible?

Each student is expected to bring their own Bible. We do have Bibles ready to give to our visiting friends. Please stop by the Reception Desk on a Wednesday night and have your friend receive their new Bible!

If you have already received a Bible from Our Saviour's and you simply wish to replace it, you may choose to purchase one from us. Contact Leisha with any questions.

Bringing friends to Confirmation:

For safety reasons, all guests must check in at the Reception desk and obtain a guest nametag. It is helpful (but not required) to know in advance if you plan on bringing a friend. We are ALWAYS excited to have guests visit! If a guest visits a second time they will need to fill out an enrollment form and will be placed in a class by Leisha Tays, the Youth & Confirmation Director. Please do not plan on bringing a visitor with to your small group fellowship times or service projects. Fellowship time is a time for you to get to know your group and service projects have space reserved based on our group size.

What can parents do during Confirmation?

When the youth go into their small groups, parents are invited to participate in one of the Adult Studies that take place during the same time. Please respect the privacy of the small groups by giving them their space. Parents can also be a Confirmation guide and mentor a small group of youth through their faith journey. Please contact Leisha if you have an interest in being a small group guide or a substitute guide. Guides do not need to have any prior knowledge of the Bible or church history. Small groups that are led by guides are relational and reflective time.