

# Confirmation Grade 8

## **The Basics of Confirmation:**

Confirmation is the process Middle School students go through to become confirmed members of Faith Lutheran Church. Over the course of 3 years of instruction (grades 6 – 8) students will learn basic doctrine of the Christian faith, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and Bible lessons from both the Old and New Testament.

To be confirmed students must meet several requirements throughout each grade. During 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will need to successfully complete the Family Based Confirmation program. During 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will need to successfully complete the Family Based Confirmation program as well as participate and complete the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Communion Retreat held each October. Students will receive their First Communion during 7<sup>th</sup> Grade. During 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will need to successfully complete the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Small Group program, the Gifts For All God's Children Distribution day and participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Retreat held in March.

After completion of all areas of the Confirmation program 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be confirmed at a special "Confirmation Service" held over Mother's Day weekend in May where they will read what they believe in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Small Groups:**

Throughout your student's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade year they will be placed into a Small Group Bible Study that will meet weekly between September 28<sup>th</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup>. Each small group will cover a variety of topics and activities that will help your student apply their Christian faith into their everyday lives. Our hope is that through these Bible Studies students will grow closer to God, closer to each other, and learn about the Christian faith.

## **Student Expectations:**

Each student will be expected to:

- Attend weekly Small Group meetings
- Participate in the Gifts for All God's Children distribution (12/13/08)
- Attend one/all of the following at least 3 times per month:
  - o Worship Service at Faith Lutheran Church
  - o Ground Floor (Sundays @ 9:15am)
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (Wednesdays @ 6:30pm)
- Complete the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Retreat

## **Weekly Small Group Meetings:**

Students are expected to maintain good attendance (average of 3 times per month) at their 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Small Group. During this hour and half students will engage in various lessons lead by trained Damascus Student Ministry Youth Staff leaders. Each week students will need to bring a Bible to class.

### **Gifts For All God's Children Distribution:**

Every 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation student will need to attend the Gift's For All God's Children Distribution event held on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Student's will need to arrive at Faith by 9am and should plan on being picked up at 2pm outside the Youth Room. During this day student's will work with their 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Small Group doing various service activities such as packing lunches, loading presents, and distributing gifts at various ministry centers in Detroit. Following the delivery we will all have pizza and bowling at a local alley. Students will need to bring \$10 for the days activities. All students' will be leaving the Faith campus and will be driven by their Small Group leader and group parents. If you have any concerns please feel free to join us on this wonderful day. More information will be sent home in early November.

### **Church Attendance:**

It is our expectation that each student attend one/all of the following on average of 3 times per month throughout the school year. Students may attend worship services at Faith Lutheran Church on Saturday night or Sunday mornings. Attendance is tracked at these services by filling out the green attendance card in the Bible rack each week. Students may attend the Ground Floor (a Middle School only program) on Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the Youth Room (#16). Students may also attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (also a Middle School only program), which meets from 6:30pm – 8:00pm on Wednesday evenings in the Youth Room (#16). Attendance at the Ground Floor and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor will be tracked via a computer check-in station inside of the Youth Room.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Retreat:**

On March 27 – 29, 2009 your student will attend the second of 2 Confirmation retreats. During this weekend students will receive instruction on the Office of the Keys and how they fit into Faith Lutheran Church. The retreat will be held at Camp Michawana in Hastings, MI. Parents are invited to join us as chaperones/drivers for this wonderful weekend. If you are interested in attending as a parent contact Pat Williams at (248) 689-4664. During this retreat students will write out their creed (personal belief statement). A portion of this creed will then be collected and read aloud during the Confirmation service in May in front of the congregation. If your student cannot attend the retreat their creed will be completed at a Small Group meeting.

### **Choosing A Class:**

When you register your student for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation you have the opportunity to pick the “best 3” small group choices for your family. Most families determine their number 1, 2, and 3 options based on day of week and location. Unfortunately these classes are limited in space to 10 students each and are filled on a first come, first serve basis. We work very hard to give every family their number one choice but we cannot guarantee that choice. We recommend filling out and turning in the Registration form as quickly as possible so that you can get your student into the best time/location possible. You **will not** receive any information from the Student Ministries department prior to your 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Small Group Leader’s introduction phone call (see 2-3 weeks before class begins).

**Male Groups:**

Monday, 16 & Dequindre  
Monday, 19 & Dequindre  
Thursday, 21 & Romeo Plank  
Saturday, 19 & Romeo Plank

**Female Groups:**

Monday, 17 & Dequindre  
Sunday, 21 & Schoenerr  
Sunday, 16 & Dequindre  
Sunday, 25 & Dequindre

If there is a problem with the group your student has been placed in please notify Pat Williams as soon as possible so that we might find a solution for you. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to switch your student but we will work very hard to accommodate to your family.

**2-3 weeks before classes begin:**

Approximately 2-3 weeks before classes begin your 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Small Group Leader will call you to begin giving you the basic information about your student's class. They will convey to you the time, location, exact directions, first meeting date, etc about your student's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Small Group. Take this opportunity to ask any questions that you may have about the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Small Group.

**Your Student's First Class:**

Your first 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Small Group class will meet the week of September 28<sup>th</sup>. Parents will have the opportunity to meet with the Group Leader and spend time looking at the schedule, basic information, and get a chance to ask any questions that you may have. Parents are encouraged to attend the parent portion of this class.

**Missed Grade 6 & 7 Confirmation? No Problem!**

If your student missed out or did not successfully complete Grade 6 and Grade 7 Confirmation we will work with you to make sure that your student can still be confirmed. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students in this situation will still sign up and participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Small Group program. Each student will also need to complete one of the following with a parent/guardian:

- Family Based Confirmation Doctrine Curriculum
- 3 Solas Café – 8-week course

The Family Based Confirmation Doctrine Curriculum is a hybrid of the lessons that most students complete during the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation program. Parents and students will sit down together and work through 21 different lessons on the Doctrine of the Lutheran Church. Students will be tested on the lessons that they work through at the end of the school year.

The 3 Solas Café is an 8-week course offered through the Adult Ministries of Faith Lutheran Church. An 8<sup>th</sup> grade student may take this course with a parent to successfully catch up on the material covered in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

If your student has missed out on the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation program please feel free to contact Pat Williams to discuss the best route for your student so that they may still be confirmed at the special ceremony in May.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments feel free to contact Pat Williams, Middle School Minister, at (248) 689-4664 or via email at [pwilliams@faithtroy.org](mailto:pwilliams@faithtroy.org).

## **Important 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Dates:**

September 8 – 12	Phone Call from Confirmation Leader
September 28	First Week of Confirmation Small Group
December 13	Gifts For All God's Children Delivery 9am – 2pm (Bring \$10 for bowling & food)
Early February	Parent Letter Mailed Out (This letter contains important information for the remainder of the Confirmation year)
March 27 – 29	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade SHAPE Retreat
March 27	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Dinner
May 9	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Service (2pm)

## **Important Middle School Ministry Dates**

September 7	Good Morning Gameshow (9:15am in Room 16)
December 5	Christmas Blitz Party
January 16 – 18	Kalahari Winter Retreat*
February 17 – 19	Mid-Winter Break Activities
April 17	Middle School Activity
May 22	School's Almost Out Party

\* Registrations for Kalahari will be available soon. This trip does sell out fast. Be sure to register early to hold a spot.