

# **Confirmation Ministry**

## **STUDENT + PARENT GUIDE 2009-2010**



# **Our Father's Lutheran Church**

From the Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

Pastor: **“In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism.**

**You should, therefore, faithfully bring them to the services of God’s house, and teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments.**

**As they grow in years, you should place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for their instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the church, they may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.**

**Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?”**

Parents & Sponsors: **I do.**

(pg. 121 Lutheran Book of Worship)

**Student & Parent Guide**  
**Confirmation Ministry**  
**2009—2010**



**Our Father's Lutheran Church**

3903 Gilbert Ave. SE  
Rockford, MN 55373

**Office: 763-477-6300**

[www.ourfatherschurch.org](http://www.ourfatherschurch.org)

**Confirmation Contacts:**

Marie Walton, Coordinator 763-477-5770

[bmwalton@wh-link.net](mailto:bmwalton@wh-link.net)

Pastor Jon Rhodes 763-477-6300

[pastorjon@ourfatherschurch.org](mailto:pastorjon@ourfatherschurch.org)

Pastor Donna Rohrer 763-477-6300

[pastordonna@ourfatherschurch.org](mailto:pastordonna@ourfatherschurch.org)

**Find us on**

**facebook**

**WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?** Confirmation is a time of **instruction in the Christian faith**. While not required, it is a fulfillment of the promises your parents made in baptism. Confirmation is a **partnership** between families and the church as well as an opportunity to learn the good news of **what God has done** for you in your baptism.

Confirmation culminates in an “Affirmation of Baptism” service where students stand up to **declare their faith** and confirm that **they understand** what God did in their baptism. In confirmation, students become **adult members** of the church.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS** Each Wednesday evening during the school year our confirmands **meet together** with adult mentors and a pastor in the Education Wing from 7:00—8:15 pm.

We gather together in large group for the lesson. Then we break into small, mentor-led groups of five to seven students for deeper discussion and relationship building. We close by joining back together again in large group for a recap and announcements. It is our intention that mentor groups remain intact through all the years of a student’s program.

**THE APPROACH** The Confirmation curriculum is designed to prepare students and families to fulfill their baptismal promises. By studying, experiencing, and living we seek to be intentional about **how we live as God's faithful people** both inside and outside the church. In confirmation, students **affirm the baptismal promises** made by their parents, which are printed at the beginning of this handbook.

There are **three primary goals**:

- ✓ To **GROW** in **KNOWLEDGE** and **FAITH** in Jesus.
- ✓ To **CONNECT INSIDE**: with the church and its people.
- ✓ To **CONNECT OUTSIDE**: to bring faith into action in the world through service.

**GET ACTIVE** Confirmation provides students with great opportunities to become **more involved** in the life of their church. We are intentional about this in order to **learn, question, explore, experience,** and **grow in faith**. Confirmation provides students with an **opportunity** to become more involved **inside** Our Father's as well as **outside** in God's greater world.

**CURRICULUM** The Confirmation curriculum, *Here We Stand*, is organized into three years. We will focus on the Bible, the Small Catechism, Relationships, and Life.

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

**WORSHIP REGULARLY**      Worship is a key to our personal faith and the life of this congregation. Regular worship provides the foundation for a **healthy spiritual life**. We encourage students and families to make worship part of your weekly routine. Come with your parents because **“the church” is the people —not the building**. Please **prepare at least 20 worship service notes** during each year of the program (submit to Pastor Jon or Marie for credit).

**SPECIAL WORSHIP**      Since worship is a key to our spiritual well-being; you are encouraged to **attend the special worship services** offered each year. These special services provide unique experience and focus of themes, music, message and prayers. They allow for new and different ways to praise and experience the risen Christ.

Please attend the following special services this year:

- **Christmas Worship:** December 24,  
3:00, 4:30 and 11:00pm
- **ASH Wednesday – Feb. 17** (5:15 or 7:15pm)
  - Students and parents worship together
- **Wednesday Evening LENTEN SERVICES**
  - Students and parents worship together each Wednesday of Lent: **February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24**
    - ✓ **Worship 7:15-8:00pm**

✓ **Mentor Groups**

Each mentor group will assist once during lent:

+ Worship service

+ Serving/Cleanup Lenten Dinners

➤ **HOLY WEEK Worship**

○ **Maundy Thursday** (April 1) at 7:15pm.

○ **Good Friday** (April 2) at 7:15pm.

✓ Students worship – bring your families!

➤ **EASTER Worship**

○ **Easter Sunday morning worship – April 4 (6:30am, 8am, 9:30am + 11am)**

✓ Students should worship with parents on this our most high and holy day for all Christians throughout the world.

✓ Students also plan to assist with Easter Breakfast (provide, prepare, serve and clean up)

**ATTENDANCE** As confirmation is about growing in faith and relationship with Christ and each other, **it is important that we are together each week** for Wednesday night class. We recognize these years are busy for families-but **to be a part of a community we need to show up.** And since your mentors commit their time and energy to join you each week-please return the favor. Being together is a necessity for both learning as well as relationship building. Please join us regularly, if you are going to be absent, notify your mentor or Marie.

**Sunday mornings**, we offer Sunday school, 9:35-10:30am for both 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade. 9<sup>th</sup> grade is welcome to join the new high school youth group or assist in the Sunday school classrooms.

**BIBLE** **There is so much available at our fingertips.** Opening the Bible regularly is one of the keys. Together we will explore what the Bible has to offer, as we read together from our Bibles during each class. **PLEASE bring your Bible to Wednesday and Sunday classes.**

**FAMILY TAKE-HOME** The faith journey is richest when families are **talking together** about the stuff of faith rather than just schedules and rides. Make a point of bringing home the learner sheets each week and **sharing with mom or dad** what we're doing in confirmation. Who knows – you might learn something about each other! Please **discuss the “take home” side** (to your parent's satisfaction) at least **10 learner sheets** each year. After your discussion, a parent needs to sign the learner sheet (don't forget to put the student name on it) and then submit to Marie for credit.

**RETREATS** We want to get to know each other and, frankly, we can't accomplish everything in an hour and fifteen minutes. Students are responsible for a retreat each year; this years retreats are:

- ✓ Retreat #1 Friendship (7<sup>th</sup> grade) September 20
- ✓ Retreat #2 Stewardship (8<sup>th</sup> grade) October 4
- ✓ Retreat #3 Spirituality (9<sup>th</sup> grade) April 25

Students, it's your responsibility to attend each of these once during your three years. Unfortunately, there is no

good make up for a missed retreat – so if you miss one just make it up the next year.

**CAMP** Camp Onomia provides an awesome opportunity to experience what it means to live in **Christian community** in God's great north woods. Together, on the shores of Shakopee Lake in Onomia, we **learn how to live with and among other believers** – with daily prayer, music, worship and fun at the center.

**RESPECT** Treat pastors, mentors, other classmates and anyone else present at the church (or on outings) with respect. **The things we say and do are a reflection on us, our families, Our Father's Church and, ultimately, on God.** Please refrain from foul and abusive language and take care of your church.

**PERFORM SERVICE** A Christian **faith that is active and practical requires that we serve others** so the confirmation years are a good time to get really intentional about service in God's world. Many service opportunities are available inside and outside of Our Father's Lutheran Church. As Christians we are **responsible for all God's beautiful creation** – both in service to each other (whom we know) as well as to the stranger (whom we don't know).

**INSIDE THE CHURCH** It takes a lot of help to make a worship service happen so assisting with worship as an acolyte or nursery assistant are students primary responsibilities. We will **share responsibilities** by

dividing among all confirmands – so please expect to be covering several slots during the year.

**OUTSIDE THE CHURCH** We try to set up many opportunities to serve: Parent’s Night Out; Youth Breakfast (2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays); Easter Breakfast; Vacation Bible School (VBS); Carnival; Highway Pick-Up; Meals on Wheels; Lunch Box Fever; Hanover Food Shelf; Camp Noah; YouthWorks! Mission Trip; 30 Hour Famine; and Sleepout. We welcome additional projects and ideas that your group has a passion for—the possibilities are endless. Plan to be involved in **at least 3 service projects each year.** (Please record service hours upon completion and provide to Marie.)

### **PARENT EXPECTATIONS**

**This is a partnership between families and the church.**

Our Father’s is assisting you in fulfilling the baptismal promises – so please take an active role in the program and your student’s progress so these are enjoyable years for your young people. Become a part of the program: join us on Wednesday to see what we’re doing.

**Worship regularly with your son or daughter.**

Regular worship is the biggest gift and most important commitment you can make for your student.

Remember: **actions** are more important than words.

Join your confirmand in attending special worship services together:

✓ Christmas Worship: December 24

3:00, 4:30 and 11:00pm

- ✓ ASH WEDNESDAY
  - Wed., Feb. 17 (5:15 or 7:15pm)
  - Supper available 6-7pm
- ✓ LENTEN WORSHIP
  - Attend each Wednesday evening during Lent
  - February 24, March 3, 10, 17, and 24 (7:15pm)
  - Supper available 6-7pm
- ✓ HOLY WEEK
  - Maundy Thursday – April 1 (7:15pm)
  - Good Friday – April 2 (7:15pm)
- ✓ EASTER WORSHIP
  - Sunday morning April 4
    - 6:30am, 8am, 9:30am + 11am
- ✓ Make certain student attends classes and retreats, and completes service projects.
- ✓ Assist your confirmand in completing make-up work, take home learning, and other requirements.
- ✓ Keep your student on top of deadlines so they can meet expectations.
- ✓ Review regular emails and statements of progress for your child and take action on requests as soon as possible.
- ✓ Communicate concerns or special student needs to coordinator and/or pastors to enable them to provide the best possible confirmation experience.

### **LAMP's** (Lighting A Members Path)

Each family, please sign up to **serve at least two**

### **Wed. evenings as a Confirmation LAMP**

LAMP's "illuminate" the path for confirmands by being present. On your nights two parents will assist in keeping Our Father's safe by being present: sending

students to class on time; joining us in large group and small group to show you care (and see what we do); walking the journey with us as we move to class, during classes, and waiting for rides after class. LAMP's should make sure all kids get picked up.

**THANK YOU** We are so honored to be a part of your journey. We look forward to being your partner during these rich years of growth. This handbook is designed to assist you in making confirmation 2009-2010 a successful year of learning, deepening relationships, and spiritual growth.

Please remember this is a partnership between your family and Our Father's. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas (or you just want to tell us how it's going) please let us know so we can improve the confirmation experience.



Pastor Donna Rohrer  
[pastordonna@ourfatherschurch.org](mailto:pastordonna@ourfatherschurch.org)  
[pastorjon@ourfatherschurch.org](mailto:pastorjon@ourfatherschurch.org)



Pastor Jon Rhodes

OUR FATHER'S LUTHERAN  
[www.ourfatherschurch.org](http://www.ourfatherschurch.org)  
763-477-6300

## Notes