2016-2017 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Instruction

PARENT/STUDENT ORIENTATION / INFORMATION

CONFIRMATION IS...

a public declaration of faith in and commitment to Jesus as your Savior, confirming the grace given in Baptism, along with a solemn promise to remain faithful to Christ for a lifetime of discipleship. This declaration and promise is accompanied by the prayers and blessing of the Church.

What is required to participate in Confirmation? In order to make such a strong commitment to Christ, it is important that each confirmand knows what he or she is committing themselves to! This is why we have a period of instruction to make sure that each child knows the overview of the Biblical story of God's redemption and the basic doctrines of the Christian Faith as summarized in Luther's Small Catechism. This intentional instruction happens in 7th & 8th grade. In addition to academic instruction, a variety of hands-on projects will demonstrate faith application in day to day life (Faith in Action Hours, Worship Summaries, Family Service Project, etc.)

Confirmation Instruction is the academic religious instruction that prepares a student for taking part in the **Lord's Supper** at Our Savior Lutheran Church, and is intended to develop a dynamic faith, solid Bible study skills and habits, and regular church participation. This instruction is primarily the **responsibility of the parents**, specifically the father. (Genesis 18:19, Deuteronomy 4:9-10,6:4-7, and 11:19, Proverbs 1:8, 6:20, and 22:6, Psalms 34:11, 44:1, 78:5, Ephesians 6:4, Il Timothy 1:5, and 3:15)

When does Confirmation Instruction Take Place?

For students of Our Savior Lutheran School – Confirmation Instruction takes place as part of our <u>Christian Studies</u> curriculum during the school year. This year our Seventh and Eighth graders will cover the basics of Christian Doctrine with Mr. Dave Wright and Vicar. Quizzes, memory work, and other assignments are a part of the academic instruction.

For Public School Instruction (PSI) students – Confirmation Instruction takes place within a customized learning plan, working with Vicar Hatesohl and Pastor Wangelin. The 7th & 8th grade students will cover the overview of God's Salvation Story (Biblical Content) and the basics of Christian Doctrine (Small Catechism). Parents take a more active role in instruction, and will meet with Vicar Hatesohl or Pastor twice a month. (See page 8 for schedule)

MATERIALS THE STUDENT NEEDS

Luther's Small Catechism
Bible (NIV or ESV), one in which notes can be written
3-ring binder containing notes and assignment materials
Writing paper
2 ink pens (one red)
Note cards—for memory work

A Given: Students will be confirmed **only when the course work is completed** and they have a **Worship** attendance pattern of 50% or more (obviously, we'd expect and love 100% attendance). Our Savior Lutheran Church cannot in good conscience confirm an individual that has not taken an active role in regular worship here at OSL, even if all academic work is completed.

EXPECTATIONS

Parents and Students can expect the Instructors to . . .

- □ recognize the parent as having the primary responsibility in educating their children, specifically the father.
- assume a teaching role, with the consent of the parents, to assist the parents in fulfilling their God-given responsibility.
- provide supplemental materials and instructions to clarify concepts and topics, especially as requested by parents.
- provide regular progress reports to the parents and the student.

The Instructors and Parents can expect the Student to . . .

- come to class prepared to study, with all materials and supplies necessary.
- establish a regular study pattern and stick to it.
- attend worship and Bible study regularly.
- ask questions when material is unclear.
- complete all assigned homework.
- discover and complete all homework or assignments when absent.

The Instructors and Students can expect the Parents to . . .

- □ recognize that, according to God's Word, religious education is the responsibility of the parents, specifically the father.
- □ listen to memory work.
- encourage, push, prod, help, and motivate the student to put forth his or her best effort at all times.
- fill out accountability sheets regarding service time, memory work, and homework which the student will bring to class weekly.
- be aware of the student's progress. Ask the instructors for intermittent progress reports if necessary. Get additional information if something is unclear.
- □ be aware that homework will involve family participation.
- participate whenever possible in the learning process. Parents are welcome in class any time.
- establish and maintain a worship life pattern that sets a positive example for the student to follow. This includes weekly participation in worship and Bible study and a daily prayer life. (Proverbs 2:6)

SOME GENERAL GUIDELINES

We believe that confirmation is a very important part of our student's spiritual development. As a result, we remind our parents and students that classroom behavior must be such that it does not interfere with the teaching and activities of the class. If behaviors become a problem, instructors will consult with the parents to remedy the situation. Those students who are not ready to exert the maturity and effort are not ready to be confirmed.

It is the responsibility of the <u>parents</u> if a student is not active in Worship and Sunday school. If the congregation confirms an inactive student, it is usurping the authority and responsibility of the parents and acting outside of God's Word and Will. If a student is not active in Worship and Sunday school, the parents are really <u>demanding</u> that the congregation not confirm that student.

NON-OSL MEMBERS

Confirmation is a church rite (not a school function) that is an official act, carried out by the pastor of a congregation. Students are typically confirmed in the congregation to which they belong, by their pastor. There may be some exceptions, where a non-member could be confirmed at OSL, but only with the expressed permission of their pastor and a conversation with Pastor Wangelin.

GENERAL INFORMATION (for PSI & OSL 7th & 8th Grade Students)

The following items pertain to **all** students in the confirmation program.

Memory Work

Memory work will be assigned as necessary and appropriate to the truths that we are discussing from Scripture. It will NOT be assigned as mere "busy work." It is an important part of letting "the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:16). Students may wish to write out their verse on a note card and review it daily. Memory will be tested each time there is a lesson quiz.

Worship Summaries/Sermon Reflections

Learning how to worship and listen to a sermon is an important part of the Christian life.

7th Graders will fill out Sermon Reflections (4 per trimester). See page 13 for an example.

8th Graders will complete fifteen (15) Worship Summaries during the year (4 each trimester from a Sunday service, and 3 from a Lenten Wednesday Service) by filling out the "Worship Summary" Form. These are to be discussed and signed by parents. Reports written legibly and with whole sentences are expected. This is an important part of learning how to worship and distinguish between Law and Gospel. See page 14-15 for an example of the 8th Grade Worship Summary form.

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat

A unique time will be set aside for our Confirmands to bond with each other and with adults in Christian fellowship and fun in a retreat setting. During this time, we will provide additional teaching. Since a retreat like this builds confidence, trust, and appreciation of one another as we spend time with and grow with other students, it is a mandatory part of the Confirmation curriculum.

This year's retreat will be held at Camp Arcadia, October 21-23. For OSL students, the cost is NOT included in your school registration. Please make payments to Our Savior Lutheran Church (memo: Confirmation retreat). The total cost is \$145 per student. Submit \$50 registration deposit to Dave Wright by September 16th.

Faith In Action Hours

"It is more blessed to give than to receive," recounts the Apostle Paul of Jesus' words. An individual, once he grows older, begins to more clearly understand this truth. In recognition of your growth in Christian maturity, it will be expected that during the following year you will somehow **DONATE (GIVE)** 12 hours (minimum) of your time (4 hours per trimester) in Christian service, **without** receiving any remuneration. This can be accomplished in any number of ways. The following are suggestions: ushering, babysitting in the nursery during a church service or function or for a family in the church while the parents attend a church Bible study or church meeting; visitation in an "Old Folks Home"; helping with VBS, Food Bank, helping in the church or school office as needed, assisting a neighbor, working at a local shelter or food bank, or whatever your creative minds can come up with. See page 12 for other ideas and examples. Please keep careful track of these hours and turn in the FIA Hours Reporting Form. See page 11 for the FIA Hours Form.

Faith in Action Hours are defined as:

- 1. Time given as a gift without being paid.
- 2. Providing meaningful assistance to someone in need or to an organization.
- 3. Service to your church or community (not your family members, including grandparents)
- 4. Done on the student's own time not school time.

It is highly encouraged that parents and siblings participate with the student in these FIA hours. In this day and age, anything that families can do together is a blessing!

Weekly Family Devotions/Bible Journals

Weekly homework will consist not only of memory work, but of spending time with God's Word in personal devotion. **7**th **Graders** will be using their Bible Journals for personal Bible reading and reflection. See page 16 for an example of the 7th Grade Bible Journal.

8th **Graders** will be writing a brief family devotion based on one of the memory verses that the student chooses. This devotion is to be presented to the family as part of their spiritual growth. A special form will be provided to each student to help them write a devotion that gives 1) the Scripture reading & reference, 2) what that verse says about God and his qualities, 3) what that verse means for us today. After each weekly family devotion is completed, the parents are asked to sign the form so that the student may turn it in for credit. Ten (10) weekly family devotions should be turned in each trimester. See page 17 for an example of the Weekly Family Devotion Worksheet.

8th GRADE SPECIAL PROJECTS (for both OSL & PSI students)

The following items pertain to all 8th grade students, OSL & PSI

Each 8th grade Confirmation student is expected to complete three special projects during the course of the year.

PROJECT ONE - FAMILY SERVICE PROJECT

Your family is asked to do a **Family Service Project** sometime this fall (September – November) that gives meaningful assistance to an individual or organization, such as serving at a soup kitchen or doing a landscaping project for a neighbor. This project must meet the same requirements as the Faith in Action Hours, but must be a minimum of two (2) hours in length, done with at least one other family member. (These hours do not count toward FIA hours.)

The student is then to write a two (2) page report on this project, due **FRIDAY**, **NOVEMBER 18**th, which answers the following questions:

- 1. What did you do for your family service project, and how did you set it up?
- 2. Whom did you serve, and what was the need that you assisted with?
- 3. What did you and your family think about doing this project?
- 4. What Bible verses or topics relate to your service project?

PROJECT TWO - FAITH PORTFOLIO

The second project is a Faith Portfolio, and this will be on display for Confirmation Sunday.

The Faith Portfolio is a scrapbook of faith development from Baptism to 8th Grade, to be completed and turned in by **FRIDAY**, **FEBRUARY 24**, **2017**. A template that students can fill out will be provided.

PROJECT THREE - FAITH ON DISPLAY

The Faith on Display Confirmation Project is a display of the student's faith, using a creative format that they choose. Please talk with pastor for approval before beginning

this special project. The Confirmation Display is due **FRIDAY**, **APRIL 21**, **2017**. This will be accompanied by your previously completed faith portfolio.

Information regarding this project will be given several weeks prior to spring break. The following serve as <u>examples</u> of special projects:

- 1) A paper demonstrating some out-of-class research on a Biblical passage, historical event in Scripture, or historical background of a hymn or spiritual song. The paper, 2-3 pages in length, should show various sources used for the research as well as describing how the passage, the historical event from Scripture, or hymn affected <u>you</u>, how it helped your Christian faith and life. Please ask your pastor or teachers for help on finding reference material if you are having difficulty.
- 2) Some form of original, displayable art—drawing, painting, sculpture, mosaic, jewelry, etc—which is personally significant because of the divine truths that it reminds you of or because of the emotions it expresses in your relationship with God. A one page written explanation should accompany your art piece. Note: if you have a drawing or painting, it should be matted.
- 3) A devotional series (at least five devotions) using a common theme or related Scripture readings. Including an opening and closing prayer, they should be about a page in length. You will have opportunity to share these devotions in class and at home.
- 4) An original poem, song, or hymn (the song or hymn may be sung to an existing melody or you may write your own music) that expresses some relevant Scriptural truths that have been studied. A one page written explanation of why and how you wrote your poem, song, or hymn should accompany this project.
- 5) A drama or play put together with other classmates, with written (typed) script, illustrative of a Biblical truth or story. These plays may then be performed for the rest of the class, the Sunday School, or even in a church service.

NOTE: All papers must be typed, double-spaced, preferably in a Times New Roman or Calibri font-12 pt.

Confirmation Examination Meeting

Each 8th grade student, along with their parents and their elder, will **meet with pastor** for a discussion on faith and discipleship, demonstrating to the parents and the elder that the student is ready to be confirmed, and to discuss a spiritual growth plan for high school. These meetings will be conducted in the week of **APRIL 18-20**.

Meetings will be held in the evenings, coordinated between parents and the church secretary, Sue Sundstrom.

OSL Students – 8th Grade

This portion pertains to 8th Grade Students at Our Savior Lutheran School

Your Christian Studies Class grade will be based on a number of factors: your class participation and respect for others present; weekly quizzes, weekly memory work, worship summaries, your weekly family devotions, and your trimester project. We are not endeavoring to grade your faith, but rather your academic proficiency. The following is how the student's confirmation grade is assessed:

Weekly Quizzes	30%
Weekly Memory	25%
Worship Summaries (4 a trimester)	10%
Weekly Family Devotion (10 a trimester)	15%
Trimester Project/Homework	20%

ABSENCES: If a child is absent from class, he/she is responsible for getting the assignment from the teacher or another student. All of the work is expected to be turned in upon return to class. Tests/quizzes will be made up as agreed upon by the teacher and student.

NOTE: **Incomplete work** (including that due to absences) will not only seriously affect your grade, but it may jeopardize your confirmation. When you are absent during the school year, it is the student's (or parent's) responsibility to discover all homework or assignments given during that time. The assignments are to be turned in within the school guidelines pertaining to due dates when absent.

Public School Instruction (PSI) Confirmation

PSI students in 7th & 8th grade are to come to class with memory work and Bible Journals completed. Class is held after late service at 12:30 (so there is a brief time for lunch/snack) to 1:30. Bring your Bible, Catechism, and pen/pencil.

Fall - 2016

Month	Date	Topic	Memory
September	11	Introductions + Biblical Story	Nothing
	25	Creation	The Lord's Prayer
October	9	Fall + Flood	The Lord's Prayer
	23	Promise to Abraham	1 st & 2 nd Commandments
November	6	Exodus	3 rd & 4 th Commandments
	20	10 Commandments	5 th & 6 th Commandments
December	4	Conquest + David/Solomon	7 th & 8 th Commandments
	18	Divided Monarchy + Prophets	9 th & 10 th Commandments

Spring 2017 - With Parents

For the spring semester, parents will attend PSI classes. During the initial fifteen minutes, parents will meet with Pastor Wangelin while students begin class with Vicar Hatesohl. Then, the parents and Pastor Wangelin will join the class, and we will do the lessons together. Adults are welcomed to contribute during class.

Month	Date	Topic	Memory Work
January	15	Jesus' Birth	First Article of the Creed
	29	Jesus' Baptism and Temptation	Second Article of the Creed
February	12	God's Kingdom and Parables	Second Article of the Creed
	26	Transfiguration and Miracles	Third Article of the Creed
March	12	Holy Week and Last Supper	Lord's Prayer
	26	Jesus' crucifixion	Commandments 1-5
April	9	Jesus' resurrection	Commandments 6-10
	23	Pentecost and the Church	Entire Creed
May	7	Confirmation!	

DATES TO REMEMBER

Confirmation Retreat, 7th & 8th Grade

Friday, October 21 - Sunday October 23, 2016 at Camp Arcadia

Missional Living Event - November 5, 2016

Project One, Family Service Project

Due date Friday, November 18th, 2016

Project Two, Faith Portfolio

Due date Friday, February 24th, 2017

Project Three, Faith on Display - Confirmation Project

Due date Friday, April 21st, 2017

Interview

Each confirmation student will have an interview with a pastor and elder during the **week** of April 18-20, 2017. Definite dates will be announced. It is expected that at least one parent attend.

Confirmation Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 3rd, 2017 - 6:00 p.m.

Confirmation & First Communion (with parents)

Sunday, May 7, 2017 at the 10:45 am worship service. Confirmation pictures will be taken during the Bible class hour (9:30-10:30 am) in the Sanctuary.

Camp Arcadia (Alpha Teen Retreat), Arcadia, MI

June 11-17, 2017

Cost of camp last year was \$368. In recognition of their spiritual growth and as a gift of encouragement to attend, OSL will assist with this cost by providing \$40 per attendee. Camp Arcadia also has scholarships available upon request.

Contact Information for:

Pastor Wangelin 517.882.8665 ext 103 pastorw@oursaviorlansing.org
Vicar Andy Hatesohl 913.717.6498 ahatesohl@oursaviorlansing.org

Confirmation Coordinator(s)

By September 28th we hope to have in place the Confirmation Coordinator(s). The individual(s) chosen to be Confirmation Coordinator(s) will organize the details leading up to Confirmation Sunday. To help you accomplish the items listed below, there is quite a complete file with records from several past years. This will be most helpful in carrying out your responsibilities.

A list of the details and duties that the Coordinator(s) will accomplish through committees of 8th Grade Confirmation Parents follow.

Confirmation Coordinator(s) Duties

- 1) Arrange meetings and contact parents (OSL & PSI)
- 2) Communication parent meetings; notes; etc.
- 3) Robes measure Confirmands, order and distribute robes.
- 4) Reserve photographer; set up schedule (pictures taken between services on Confirmation Day)
- 5) Preparation of Confirmation Booklet/Screens info & photos to Sue Sundstrom (set deadline date with Sue)
- 6) Confirmation Certificates order info to Sue (set date with her)
- 7) Order or prepare flower arrangements for church
- 8) Take care of gifts for Pastor & Vicar
- 9) Rehearsal Day & Dinner be sure to inform all confirmands OSL and PSI (Wed. before Confirmation Day at 6:00 pm).
- 10) Be sure all confirmands have a bulletin & insert on Confirmation Day
- 11) Confirmation class coordinators should help arrange the class for processing into the service on Confirmation Day; there are various options for seating.
- 12) Other arrangements as desired or decided by confirmation class

(9/15)

Faith in Action Hours

Confirmation Ministry

Please turn in completed and signed to Mrs. Conway's room or to Vicar/Pastor at PSI.

Name:	Grade:
Name of Service Project / Activity:	
Date Completed:	Number of Hours:
Summary of Activity:	
What were your 'God-sightings' during the	
Service Project Leader/Adult Comments.	taith
Student Signature	Project Leader/Adult Signature

Service Project Opportunities & Suggestions

There are a variety of service opportunities for "Faith in Action" hours or a *Family Service Project*. This is a list of examples – if your family comes up with a creative way to share God's love through service, bounce it off of Vicar Hauser or Pastor Wangelin to be sure it meets the criteria.

Worship at Our Savior

Usher

Acolyte

Nursery Worker

Screen & Projection operator

Volunteering with Church, School & Community Events

Assisting with Christ Connections, VBS, or children's ministry

Volunteering at the concessions stand or admissions table

Helping with local sports programs (OSL or community sports)

Assisting Mr. Smelker with facility care

Setting up & cleaning up for special church functions

Volunteering for the Living Nativity, Easter Egg Hunt, etc.

Volunteering at Food Banks

Our Savior Food Bank – loading and unloading food on Mondays, organizing shelves, cleaning, etc. Contact Sharon Miller at 882-7750.

Greater Lansing Food Bank – they will set up a time slot for you and your family. Go to www.greaterlansingfoodbank.org and click on "Volunteers."

Serving your Neighbors

Shoveling Snow

Raking Leaves / Yard Work

Washing your neighbor's car / windows / house

Light construction projects

Baking goodies and delivering them to neighbors

Assembling Care Packages for college students, military, shut-ins, etc.

Social Ministries

Soup Kitchens / Homeless shelters

Lansing City Rescue Mission – help serve food, custodial projects, etc. Call 485-0145.

McRee House / McLaren Hospital – volunteer serving families with loved ones in the hospital long-term. Contact Volunteer Office at 975-6900.

Visiting People

Visiting Shut-ins

Visiting people at a nursing home or retirement facility

Christmas Caroling

SERMON REFLECTION 7th Grade Confirmation Ministry

He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message that has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Titus 1:9

Name	Date
Church	Pastor
Sermon text	
	ideas in his sermon. Briefly explain each of the points.
1	
2	
3	
	uses of the law (curb, mirror, guide) I you hear in the sermon that can help you realize your own sin?
COSPEL SUDVIS OUR SAVIOR	
GOSPEL: SHOWS OUR SAVIOR How did the pastor share the go	ospel reminding you of the forgiveness you have in Christ Jesus?
FAMILY CONNECTION: BRINGIN	IG THE MESSAGE HOME
	ction in daily living did this sermon give to you?
_	cognizing the importance of passing on faith in Christ to the next

WORSHIP SUMMARY

8th Grade Confirmation Ministry

Worship Summaries are intended to help you better understand what is happening during worship. Please take time after each worship service to discuss this worship summary with your parents, and turn it into Mrs. Conway's Room or Vicar/Pastor at PSI.

First & Last Name:	
Date of Worship:	Preacher:
OUR WORSHIP	
Theme of the Day: Eac or two sentences descr	h worship service has a special theme or key topic. In your own words, write one ribing today's theme.
	ive the Bible reference for each reading. Then write a one sentence summary for r next to the one(s) that relate to the sermon theme.
Old Testament Lesson:	
Summary:	
Epistle Lesson:	
Summary:	10
Gospel Lesson:	
Summary:	
The Songs: The song t	hat was most meaningful to me today was
becau 	ise the song talks about

own prayers during the week.
The Sermon Title and Text:
LAW 1. How did this sermon show you your sin (mirror)?
2. How did this sermon teach you what to do or not to do to lead a God-pleasing life (guide)?
GOSPEL How did this sermon show you your Savior and how He is at work in your life? Which words or phrases in the sermon were most meaningful to you? Why?
MY RESPONSE
List one thing the sermon encouraged <u>YOU</u> to do:
What did <u>YOU</u> pray for today?

The Prayers: List one person or need that we prayed for in worship that you want to remember in your

BIBLE JO	URNAL	Christian Studies
righteousness (2 direction, guida	PARENT'S INITIALS: PARENT'S INITIALS: pat His Word—the Bible—is profitable for teaching, for repro (2 Timothy 3:16). When we read the Bible, we encounter the ance, encouragement and assurance. The goal of Bible Journal flection. Begin each Bible Journal with prayer, saying the Lord to His Word.	e Living Word, Jesus, and are given lals is to train students in regular Bible
READ. USE THE READ. ***IN EA morning before a. b. c. d. e. f. g.	 A new thought about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit. A praise or thanks to be given to God. A sin or punishment to be avoided. A command to obey. A blessing to enjoy or a promise from God. A truth to remember. 	IBER, AND WRITE ABOUT WHAT YOU

Entry 2	Date:	Scripture:	Category:

Faith Practice @ Home

Each week, the confirmation student will lead a brief family devotion, based on a memory verse for that week. Take a few moments to write out the Bible verse on this sheet, as well as a brief closing prayer. Then gather your family around and lead them through the Faith 5. You must have at least one family member present for it to be considered a "family devotion" and have a parent sign it before you turn it in to Mrs. Conway's room or to Vicar/Pastor at PSI.

1.	Share Highs & Lows
	Read the verse.
	The Scripture verse for today is:
	(write out the verse below)
3.	Talk about the verse. (write out a few notes in your own words about what you discussed)
	What does this verse tell us about God?
1	What does this verse teach us to believe or do today?
4.	Pray (write out a brief prayer below. You may also pray for each other's highs & lows)
_	Bless (Name), Child of God, may you know that God goes with you this day.
	Parent Signature

PARENTS:

Please sign this form and also have your child sign it. Return this page only of this packet to Pastor Wangelin or the church office by Wednesday , September 21 , 2016 .
I desire to have my child receive instruction for confirmation at Our Savior Lutheran Church. I have read the information in this Confirmation Packet and have discussed this with my child. I will encourage my child to be responsible for meeting the requirements.
Signature of Parent & printed name
Date
Signature of Student & printed name
Confirmation Coordinator I would like to serve as a Confirmation Coordinator and / or assist with Confirmation Sunday this year.
Signed
Date: