**2022-2023**

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**

**Confirmation Ministry**



**Empowering youth to experience and share God's love.**

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Confirmation Ministry

***A Family Commitment***

Confirmation at OSLC is a time set apart for young people to explore and grow in the promises made to them on their baptism day. It concludes with young people making public affirmation of their belief in Jesus Christ. During this time, we want to challenge their minds and hearts and surround them with pastors, adult leaders, and fellow students who can help them understand what it means to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Confirmation is not a sacrament in the Christian community but is connected to the sacrament of Holy Baptism. It is available for all those who wish to learn more about their faith and the church. We encourage students to participate in discussions, think, ask questions, share ideas, pray, and complete memory work. Itis essential that parents are involved in their child’s confirmationexperience.Please monitor their progress at completing the required program components, attend worship with them, and get to know their small groups.

The decision to participate in Confirmation affects not only the student involved, but the entire family. Please carefully and prayerfully examine the program requirements and expectations. Discuss as a family whether you are willing to make this kind of commitment. We place a high value on our Confirmation program and are serious about the guidelines contained within the program. Once your family commits to this ministry, we expect confirmation will be a priority in your scheduling.

 Confirmation ministry is a three-year program for students in 7th, 8th, and 9th grade.Older students who desire to make public affirmation of their faith are also welcome to participate.

Relationships are the core of this ministry. Each student is placed into a small group that will be the primary setting for Confirmation. It is our hope and prayer that positive Christian relationships will be formed for the students with their classmates, small group members, guides, SALT leaders, pastors, and other adults in the congregation. Most importantly, we pray that a relationship with their Lord Jesus Christ is nurtured and deepened. Topics that will be discussed include: The Ten Commandments, the Lord’s Prayer, the Apostle’s Creed, Holy Communion, Baptism, Lutheran Doctrine, both Old and New Testaments, and selected relevant issues.

**Yearly Requirements**

**-** *The current confirmation calendar is located on the back of this booklet*

Attendance at Sunday evening workshops

Attendance at small group Fellowship/Servant Events (scheduled by the Confirmation Guide)

Completion of 15 Service Hours (at OSLC)

Completion of 15 Sermon Notes (at OSLC)

Memorization Work

Attendance at a Retreat

Faith Stepping Stones (7th and 9th graders)

*Ninth graders are also required to write a Faith Statement and memorize/recite*

 *a confirmation Bible verse.*

# Sunday Evening Workshops

**Large Group Gathering**

All students gather in the sanctuary for an hour of worship and praise with music and skits. An overview of the evening’s lesson is presented.

**Small Group Gathering**

Students meet with their assigned small groups of 5-6 students, a Jr. Guide, and an adult Guide. The small groups discuss the lesson of the night, share each other’s highs and lows, and pray together. The adult Guide is assisted by a Junior Guide, a member of our High School Student Action Leadership Team (SALT). Every attempt is made to help this small group be a place of trust, growth, and learning. Students are expected to be on time, cooperate with the guide, and listen when someone else is talking.

# Fellowship/Servant Events

Each small group will complete at least two servant events such as packaging food at Feed My Starving Children or helping at the food shelf, etc. Each small group will also complete at least two fellowship events such as a movie and dinner, skiing or snowboarding, etc. All these events will be completed by the end of the program year. Each small group will determine what these events will be and where and when they will happen. Service events do not count toward individual service hours. It is helpful when a parent (not the guide) offers to help plan these for their son’s or daughter’s Guide. Note: these events do not count toward individual service hours.

# In-Church Service Hours

All confirmation students are required to complete 15 hours of in-church service at Our Savior's as a way of learning the importance of serving in their church and participating as the Body of Christ. They will also be able to meet and grow in relationship with other OSLC members.

There are a variety of ways that students can serve, such as:

*Scripture reading, Sunday School Assistant, Summer Stretch, Communion Servers, Communion Prep, Ushering, Participation in a music ensemble (such as bell choir), Assisting with Summer Vacation Bible School, Mission Trip, Nursery Assistant, Care Team Ministry, etc.*

Service Hour Forms are located in the church narthex. Completed forms can be placed in the “Confirmation Box.”

Service Hour requirements refer onlyto service done to benefit ministries of OSLC. It does not include hours spent doing community service. Group Service Events do not count toward individual student service hours. **Students are responsible for turning in their own service hours.**

#  Sermon Notes

A Sermon Note is a summary of the sermon and reflections regarding worship. Each student is expected to attend Sunday morning worship on a regular basis. It is listening to God's Word that will strengthen their faith and reinforce the lessons that are being taught in Confirmation. We require that all students complete 15 sermon notes throughout the year. *Parents*: please attend worship with your youth and talk over the sermon with them and assist them with the form. The preaching pastor will read all sermon notes.

Sermon Note Forms are located in the narthex. **Students are** **responsible for filling out the forms and turning them in**. Completed forms can be placed in the “Confirmation Box”.

 Exceptions can be made for students who live in two households and attend two different churches. Please talk to Charisse if this applies to you. It is important that students worship with other members of OSLC so they can grow in relationship with them. Sermon notes from televised**/**internet**/**podcasted sermons will not be accepted because Community Worship is important.

**Attendance Policy**

If you are unable to attend a required function (workshop, servant event, fellowship event, or retreat) you must notify your smallgroup Guide and Charisse, prior to the event.Make up worksheets must be completed for missedworkshops and retreats.

# Behavior/Discipline Policy

If any behavior or discipline problems should arise, the small group Guide will be instructed to send the student to meet one-on-one with an adult or pastor to discuss the behavior issue. Parent(s) will be informed of any unresolved behavioral or discipline issues.

# Parental Involvement

# Parent(s) are required to assist with the Confirmation program (please sign up at registration or on the student registration form):

 Guide (small group leader) Provide a meal for the SALT team

 Substitute Guide Stepping Stone Assistant

 Technology helpers Band assistant

 Help with 7th grade retreat

 Other (such as a youth event chaperone)

# Retreats

Each student is required to attend the retreat scheduled for their grade level. Activities will include large group workshops, games, singing, free time, small group time, quiet time, and worship.

The 7th grade retreat will be held at Our Savior’s.

 The 8th and 9th grade retreats are held at Lake Wapogassett Bible Camp in Amery, WI. All students will receive packing lists and retreat details prior to the retreat. They begin early Saturday morning and end Sunday afternoon. Parents should attend the closing worship at 11 am. Second year students (8th grade) will attend the retreat, *Saved By Grace*, which focuses on the Reformation. Third year students (9th grade) will attend the retreat, *the Body of Christ*, which focuses on the Apostle Paul and the New Testament letters. If a student is unable to attend their retreat, he/she must contact the Confirmation Coordinator prior to the retreat. A make-up essay will be substituted to fulfill the requirements.

***Many students and parents have said that the retreats are the best part of the program!***

# Faith Stepping Stones

Faith cannot be sustained by the church alone, but families must make a commitment to faith development in the home as well. In summer of 2004, Our Savior’s began the Faith Stepping Stone ministry. This ministry involves parents in the faith development of their children at critical stages of their development. Confirmation has two Stepping Stones, one as the student begins the program, and one as they complete it. These sessions are intended for the student and one or both of their parents/guardians.

# Tuition

The Confirmation tuition helps to cover the cost of the curriculum, supplies, retreat costs, administrative assistance, and other miscellaneous program expenses. The registration fee is $140 per student. Financial aid/payment plans are available upon request; please see registration form.

**Other Youth Ministry Opportunities**

In addition to confirmation ministry, there are other ways for Confirmation youth to engage and grow their faith and Christian relationships. Church on Wednesday (COW) is offered during the school year on Wednesdays from 6-7 pm for middle school and 7:30-9:00 pm for high school in the youth room. There is also Centennial Area Summer Stretch, fellowship events, and a mission trip in the summer months. Information for youth opportunities can be found on the church bulletin boards, in announcements and/or on the website. Please keep informed! Friends are welcome at all COW and fellowship events!

# Contact Information

**CYF Pastor**

**Director of Confirmation –**

**2022 – 2023**

**Workshops**

**6:00- 8:00 pm on Sundays**

October 2 and 16

November 13

December 4 and 18

January 8 and 29

February 5 and 26

March 19

April 2 and 16

 **Sermon Notes, Service Hours, and Memorization**

 To be completed by May 7

**Retreats/Stepping Stone**

**Grade 7** **Faith Stepping Stone #6** at Our Savior’s

September 18 and 25, 6:00 -8:00pm

(Both sessions are for students and one or both parents)

AND

**Retreat at OSLC:** December 9, 6:00 – 11:00pm

**Grade 8** **Retreat at WAPO:** November 5-6

 9:00am Sat. to noon on Sun. (Parents are invited to worship at 11:00)

**Grade 9**  **Retreat at WAPO**: January 21-22

 9:00am Sat. to noon on Sun. (Parents are invited to worship at 11:00)

AND

**Faith Stepping Stone** **#7** at Our Savior’s

May 7, 6:00 -8:00pm

(This FSS is for students and one or both parents)

**Rehearsal/Pictures for 9th graders**

Sat., May 20 from 8:00 -10:00am

**Affirmation of Baptism Service for 9th graders**

Sun., May 21 at 1:30 -3:00pm

**2022- 2023 Calendar**

Workshops 6:00 - 8:00pm

September 18 7th grade Stepping Stone, session 1

September 25 7th grade Stepping Stone, session 2

October 2 Workshop # 1

October 16 Workshop # 2

November 5-6 8th Grade Retreat (WAPO)

November 13 Workshop #3

December 4 Workshop #4

December 9 7th Grade Retreat (OSLC)

December 18 Workshop #5

January 8 Workshop # 6

January 21-22 9th Grade Retreat (WAPO)

January 29 Workshop # 7

February 5 Workshop #8

February 26 Workshop # 9

March 19 Workshop #10

April 2 Workshop # 11

April 16 Workshop # 12

May 7 9th grade Stepping Stone, session 1

May 7 all requirements must be completed

May 20 9th grade rehearsal/pictures

May 21 Affirmation of Baptism Service Confirmation Sunday