

DATE: June 28, 2017

TO: CONFIRMATION STUDENTS AND PARENTS

FROM: PASTOR MATTHEW SMITH-LAUBENSTEIN



Fall is not as far away as it seems and Confirmation classes begin shortly. I am really excited to be leading confirmation here at Grace as our 7th graders move into 8th grade and a new group of 7th graders arrives. Youth Confirmation is open to all 7th and 8th graders in the church and wider community, and high schoolers who have not yet been confirmed are also welcome. What this means is **students are welcome to bring friends** who may partner with them in this journey of faith formation.

Our first session will be a **student and parents' meeting on Sunday September 10th in Café Grace beginning at 6:00PM to 7:30PM**. We'll begin with some pizza and drinks and I invite you to bring **\$3 each** to defray the cost of dinner. All parents are asked to attend with their children as we will have an overview of the year via the Confirmation Handbook. I'll also invite parents to sign up on site for various adult leadership roles. Families will also learn how to sign up on our signup.com page for student leadership of Sunday morning responsibilities like ushering, greeting, Sunday school helper, scripture reading, and communion assisting. Furthermore, students will learn about expectations for service leadership at church and in the wider community and regular worship reports.

After dinner and discussion, students will receive training from volunteers from the church for the Sunday morning leadership roles that they are interested in. **It is our expectation that parents will partner with children in being present for weekly worship each and every week that you are in town.** Confirmation is a time when families are invited into a deep commitment not just to attend but to grow more deeply in faith, for some this may not be a big change and for others this may be a challenging transition. We hope, in the end, that your whole family gets to know Christ more.

Families will use signup.com to sign up to **provide dinner for the Confirmation Class at 6PM once in the Fall and once in the Spring/Winter time**. Please let us know what meal you will bring and be aware that there are allergies to dairy, gluten and various other foods, so providing a menu in advance, to Donna Carlson, will help us to let parents of kids with allergies know what kids can eat and what substitutes they may need to provide for their children.

Our regular confirmation schedule and calendar for 2017-2018 is printed on the 2-sided sheet included in this letter. You will note that there is **1 retreat that all students must attend**. This year we will head to Camp Timber-Lee in East Troy, Wisconsin for a great **kick off retreat from October 6th to 8th**. A **health form** for the retreat is included with this mailing and must be filled out and **submitted on 9/10 along with a separate check for the retreat cost, which is \$134, inclusive of ziplining! Scholarship funds are available** for those for whom this cost may cause a financial hardship as we want all students to be able to attend.

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The **fee for the Confirmation program year is \$40** and can be made payable to Grace Lutheran Church and **handed in** with your Confirmation agreement, at the end of the evening, on **Sunday, September 10th**.

Please head to the Grace Lutheran Website prior to 9/10 to register for Confirmation online. You may type the link: gracelutheranlibertyville.org/confirmation or scan this QR code with your phone:



I look forward to seeing all of you on the 10th of September and during the summer.

Sincerely,

Pastor Matthew

Pastor Matthew Smith-Laubenstein