

DATE: July 12, 2018

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 16th 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 Nancy Bleck, 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 2018-2019 is printed on the 2-sided sheet included in this letter. You will note that there is **1 retreat that each set of students must attend**. For first year students this retreat is right away from 9/21-9/22 for about 24 hours. For 2nd year confirmation Students this retreat is a **week-long retreat from June 23rd through 28th at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL**. For both of these retreats we'll partner with churches from all over northern IL and Eastern Iowa in leadership and participation. I will lead these retreats along with pastors and youth leaders from the other churches involved. Registration and payment for the Fall 7th grade retreat are due by 9/4/2018.

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Due to this change in schedule, and the late date of the retreat for our students who have completed 2 years of confirmation instruction, **Confirmation Sunday will now be in the Fall** and on **Reformation Sunday 10/27/2019**. So our 8th graders will actually be confirmed in the Fall of their 9th grade year. As such you will see some new schedule pieces included in the calendar which is part of this letter.

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 16th**.

Please head to the Grace Lutheran Website prior to 9/16 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 16th of September and during the summer.

Sincerely,

Pastor Matthew

Pastor Matthew Smith-Laubenstein