

First Lutheran Church 2011-12 Confirmation

Full Name _____ Goes By _____

Grade in Fall _____ School _____ Attending Student E-mail _____

Please fill in any corrections or additions only:

Parent Name(s) _____

Student's Address _____

(Note: If more than one set of parents, please note names/addresses on back of form)

Home Phone _____ Home E-Mail _____

Father work phone: _____ Cell phone: _____ Best E-mail: _____

Mother work phone: _____ Cell phone: _____ Best E-mail: _____

Confirmation Covenant & Menu of Opportunities

First Lutheran Church is providing the following opportunities to youth and their families for growing in faith during the 2011-12 program year. While these opportunities do not cover all of the elements that make up a living faith; they are ways to encounter the Gospel in Word and Sacrament, are related to the promises that the youth will make when they Affirm their Baptism, and relate to the Five C's of First Lutheran's Circle of Life.

Centering our lives in Christ

Worship

Centering our lives on God is the foundation to our faith life. **Please choose the worship service you are committing to make your primary worship time.** It is understood that you will attend worship at other times (due to personal schedule, participation in choirs, etc.) or even in other congregations. We ask that you choose one as your primary service because the very act of making this commitment is an encouragement to be faithful in attending.

- Saturday, 5:00 p.m. - Blended worship
- Sunday, 8:00 a.m. – Organ led worship
- Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Traditional worship
- Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Contemporary worship

Worship Notes

Worship notes are designed to help you participate actively in worship, give you a sense of what it means to fulfill the promise to “hear God’s Word and share in his Supper” through regular worship, and encourage conversation between you and your parents. **Sermon notes must be turned in, with all parts filled out, within 2 weeks of the date of the sermon or they will not count.**

We ask that you complete 8 sermon notes between September 4, 2011 and August 26, 2012

Worship Leadership

Between September 4, 2011 and August 26, 2012 we ask that you **participate in worship leadership at least 4 times during the year** (this could be more, depending on need). Please mark the top three ministries, in order, that you are committing to/interested in. We will try and accommodate your first pick, but may be unable to due to scheduling. We would then move to your second pick.

Training is provided for all of the leadership possibilities listed and all (except for acolyting) will be performed with the direct support and supervision of trained adults in those areas.

- Acolyting - *Helps with the candles, offering, and communion during worship*
- Ushering - *Ushers help the congregation get a bulletin, find their seats, collect the offering, and help guide the congregation through communion.*
- Greeter - *Greeters are members who welcome all the assembly into worship.*
- Communion preparation and clean-up - *These members prepare the altar for communion and then clean up afterwards. 8:00 and 9:30 services only.*
- Running the PowerPoint - *These members run the PowerPoint for the morning announcements, sermon, and the 11:00 service worship songs.*
- Lector - *Lectors read the lessons during worship. Before serving, the youth and their supervisors must all be comfortable with their ability to fulfill their duties as a lector.*

Have you received training for the above checked listing? ___ Yes ___ No

What other ministries are you or your family involved in on Sunday mornings? (i.e. Usher, communion assistant, etc.) _____

Do any of your family members participate in a First Lutheran Church choir? _____

If so, please specify which choir(s). _____

Please indicate the services during which you would prefer to serve.

_____ 8:00 a.m. (no acolytes) _____ 9:30 a.m. _____ 11:00 a.m.

We try very hard to accommodate preferences, however, stating a preference does not guarantee being scheduled. If scheduled and unable to attend, **you are responsible for getting your own substitute.**

Contribute by using our gifts

God's Work, Our Hands

Through the Holy Spirit, God has given each of us unique gifts that are needed to do the ministry that First Lutheran is called to. These gifts are also given to us so that we may answer God's call to serve our neighbor in the world. To help you grow in confidence in these gifts we ask that you commit to **complete one service project and write up sometime between September 4, 2011 and August 26, 2012.** The service project can include...

- 1) Using your gifts in service outside of a ministry of First Lutheran Church, or
- 2) Using your gifts in service within a ministry of First Lutheran Church

This can be done on your own or with family members.

As part of your commitment you will need to complete a Service Reflection Sheet and turn it in for each experience. These need to be turned in within three weeks of the date of the event or they will not count towards your total due.

The purpose of this reflection sheet is to help you think about how God has been present through your actions and in the work that you have done. It is also a means of fostering conversation between you and your parents. A copy of the Service Reflection Sheet will be given to you at your consultation. It is also available on-line in a PDF, as an on-line form, and on Wednesday evenings during the program year at the narthex desk.

Below is a list of project ideas within First Lutheran and outside of First Lutheran. These are not exhaustive lists so feel free to do something else. If you have a question about whether something will count, please contact Director of Teen Ministry Brian Middleswarth.

Service Project ideas within a ministry of First Lutheran Church

- Trunk-R-Treat helper
- Parents Day Out
- Property work mornings (twice a year)
- Saturday Evening Meal:
Cook, Serve, or Clean-up
- SEMP Store
- Food drive (Super Bowl Sunday)
- Kids Against Hunger Packing (@ First Lutheran)

Service Project ideas outside of First Lutheran Church

- Ring the bell for Salvation Army
- Go through all your clothes as a family to give to Good Will
- Sponsor a child through Compassion International
- Participate in a CROP walk, Breast Cancer walk, etc.
- Clean up a local park
- Shovel a neighbor's drive for the winter
- Take meals on a regular basis to a family in need
- Go caroling at a nursing home

Personalize your Confirmation experience

Because we realize that we all express our faith in different ways, we want to provide some flexibility in how you explore your faith during the Confirmation years. We ask that you pick one of the options below.

- I will complete 4 additional sermon notes by August 26, 2012 (For a total of 12).
- I will complete 1 additional service project and report (within First Lutheran or outside) for a total of 2.
- I will participate in Middle School Handbells ~ *Meets on Wednesdays at 4:45 p.m.*
- I will participate in Youth Choir ~ *Meets on Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m.*

Cultivate our faith through discipleship practices

Wednesday Evening Confirmation

To grow in faith to God and love towards one another we need to spend time in daily devotions, study of scripture, and in questioning our faith and what we believe. The opportunity we provide for you to do that is on Wednesday evenings. We ask that you commit to making attendance at our Wednesday Evening Confirmation meetings a priority in your life. Your presence will help you and your peers get the most out of this Confirmation experience. Generally, only the first three Wednesdays of any month have scheduled events.

Faith Interviews

Among other things, the Bible is a story of our faith heritage. Faith interviews allow you to dig into that story as lived through the lives of others.

You must complete 2 faith interviews this year.

- 1) One will be of a family member, the report is due by **April 25, 2012.**
- 2) One will be with a non-family member (There will be an opportunity to complete the non-family member interview as part of one of the Community nights this fall.) The report is due by **December 23, 2011.**

Your report on the interview will be about 1 page long. It can either be in interview format (list the question asked and then the response) or in more of an essay format (incorporate what you learned into an essay about the person and their faith life). Copies of suggested questions and other information are available online as a PDF and on Wednesday evenings.

Lenten Journals

As a congregation we cultivate our faith through the congregation wide Lenten studies. **Confirmands will participate in this study during Lent by attending the Lenten services (as scheduled)** and participating in small

group afterwards until the normal dismissal time (8:00 p.m.). They also are asked to **commit to completing the Lenten Journal that accompanies the Lenten Study and turn it in by April 2, 2012.**

Memorization

Martin Luther talked about memorization as the discipline of writing something on your heart. As a class and primarily through work on Wednesday evenings you will be **asked to memorize the books of the Old Testament and the 23rd Psalm and the Books of the New Testament and John 3:16** . This will be done by the Christmas break and end of the year class respectively. Copies of each are available online.

Connect with our brothers and sisters in Christ

Connecting with each other and with God in a fun but meaningful way is what happens at a Christian Camp. Because we recognize the value of such an experience we ask that you commit to **attending either a weekend Dirty Feet Retreat or a week at a Christian Camp* sometime between the Summer before your 6th grade year and the Fall of your 9th Grade year.** Please mark what (if any) you are willing to commit to this year.

**Dirty Feet Retreat at Camp EWALU in Strawberry Point
Friday, October 14 at 6:30 p.m. through Sunday, October 16 at 1:00 p.m.**

Week of Christian Camp*, Summer of 2012.

*By this we mean denominational camps like EWALU, Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp, and Camp IO-Dis-E-Ca. These camps focus on bible study, include worship, and are built around faith growth and development. While wonderful camps providing a great experience, Camp Wapsi, FCA Camps, and other nominally Christian camps do not have the same focus.

Communicating our faith

Affirmation of Baptism

Eighth Graders who are looking to affirm their baptism in the Fall are **required** to attend two events.

1) Confirmation College

This is a weekend retreat during which we talk about the realities of stepping into the promises your parents made in Baptism. **This retreat is tentatively scheduled for May 4-6, 2012.**

2) Discernment Day Retreat

Affirming your baptism should be a decision that involves both you and your parents. This retreat will help you and your parents talk about what you believe, how you will commit to live out your faith, and whether you are ready to affirm your baptism. This event will likely be **on Sunday, September 23, 2012**

Youth Behavioral Covenant

As followers of Christ we are called to respect and care for all whom we meet. When we gather I will behave in the following ways:

- Pay attention and think.

- Have fun! This includes having a positive attitude about people and activities, refraining from pouting, and talking out problems rather than letting them make me angry.
- Follow through. I will complete my work and I will turn it in as quickly as possible (this could include but is not limited to memorization, worship notes, worship leadership, family service project, and Lenten Journals).
- Ask any questions I have. If you're thinking about it, it's important enough to ask about.
- Treat other youth and adults with respect
- Don't talk while others are talking, its rude
- Don't tell lies about, gossip about, make fun of, pick on, or spread rumors about those we are here with. As Christians we treat each other with dignity and respect, following God's 8th commandment and always seeing others and what they do in the best possible way.
- Not bring or use any alcohol, drugs, or weapons on church property. If caught with these, I understand they'll be confiscated and I'll be asked to call my parents to tell them about the incident.
- Not have out or on any cell phones, games or other electrical devices during any confirmation activity. If I break this rule a leader will take the device and hold it until the end of the evening, when it will be returned to my parent or whoever provides my ride home.

I, the undersigned, have read, completed, and understand the commitments and promises I have made in this document. By signing this document I show my intent to fulfill, with God's help and guidance, these commitments by August 26, 2012.

Confirmation Student: _____

Date: _____

Parent Leadership and Support

As parents you play **the** vital role in the faith development and growth of your child. We wish to encourage you in several areas. These areas are based on the promises you made as parents at your child's baptism as well as scriptural, theological, and mounting statistical evidence that proves what many already know, that parents are the number one faith influence on their children.

Part of our job is to assist you in your role as a faith model for your children. The more they see you engaging in these activities and investing your time and energy in them, the more likely your children are to make them a priority in their lives.

We ask you to make the following commitments:

1) **To attend worship as a family.** This falls under your promise to "faithfully bring them to the services of the Lord's house" and your own confirmation promises to "hear God's Word and share in his supper."

2) **To regularly participate in activities to grow your own faith.** This could include things like a bible study, small group, Renovare group, or Sunday Adult Education class. This models for your children the continued growth that accompanies a living faith and also fulfills your own confirmation promise to “hear God’s Word”.

3) **To talk with your children about what they are learning in Confirmation and participate on the parent nights.** You are always welcome to attend on Wednesday nights and there are take home sheets that will be available to you online or in hard copy if you desire.

4) **To pray with and for your family.** Time spent together in prayer, reading scripture, reading a devotional book, or discussing the week’s sermon can be a great way to grow your relationship with your family and with God. Also, praying for your family will open your eyes more to their needs, desires, and concerns.

5) **To pray for your child’s small group leader and the Confirmation staff on a regular basis.** As brothers and sisters in Christ with a common goal we need to support each other. Your prayers are greatly appreciated.

6) **We need the support of parents to make our ministry successful and ask you to prioritize 3 things you would be interested in doing by labeling them 1 to 3.** We ask all volunteers to complete the process to be approved through our Child Safety Policy.

_____ Small Group Guide/Assistant Guide (Weekly on Wed., 2 Adults for every 5-6 Youth)

_____ Substitute Small Group guide (as needed)

_____ Chaperon the Dirty Feet Retreat (Oct.)

_____ Chaperon the Christmas Lock-In (Dec. 16)

_____ Co-ordinate phone calls to volunteers

_____ Drive to and from events (as needed)

_____ Assist planning and running the Christmas Lock-in (2-3 meetings prior to Dec. 16)

_____ Assist with the planning and running of Final Class (2-3 meetings prior to April 25)

_____ Call me when you have a need for volunteers

I, the undersigned, have read, helped complete, and understand the commitments and promises my child and I have made. I witness their signing of this document and agree to support, encourage, and help my child as they work to fulfill this commitment and promise to fulfill the commitments I have made.

Parent(s): _____

Date: _____