

# CONFIRMATION PLAN



## The Journey: Confirmation at St. Luke's *BELONG, BECOME, BELIEVE*

Confirmation is not a destination, rather it is the beginning of a life long journey. With this in mind, we have designed the program to align with our strategy of Awaken, Embrace, Train, and Move.

The word "*confirmation*" literally means "to make firm". Confirmation seeks to *make "firm"* the faith of our students.

We are very excited to introduce "The Journey": a redesigned confirmation experience for the students of St. Luke's. For short periods each year, middle school students will focus on a different part of their confirmation journey.



# FAQ:

## When will confirmation be?

**6th grade:** Sunday mornings in the fall

**7th grade:** Field trips, including church visits and group service activities

**8th grade:** Sunday mornings in the spring

## Why are we doing this?

This new program is a result of years of feedback from both parents and leaders. The consensus is that many sixth graders don't possess the maturity needed to fully understand confirmation. However, our team recognized that the 6th grade year is an extremely valuable window of opportunity to connect the 6th grade students to other students, the church and the St. Luke's community. The Journey is designed to create an experience that is always age appropriate and always meaningful.

## Who designed this program?

This plan was developed over several years by committed parents, student ministry staff, and volunteers who have prayerfully considered how we could better prepare our young people for a lifelong faith journey.

## What is our hope for this new program design?

- 1) Students will be able to make an informed and conscious choice to trust in Jesus.
- 2) That students will experience their faith as a journey and not a one time event.
- 3) That students will develop deep and lasting relationships with other students and adults.
- 4) That students will feel a deep sense of belonging with this church community.



### **Families are so busy already. Will this take up more time?**

This new system is designed to be **more** manageable for busy families. The confirmation activities that we have always done in one very busy year are now spread among three years.

### **What about the trips?**

Retreats will continue to be an important component of connecting students in the life of the ministry. We recommend students continue to participate in as many trips as possible. However, we have designated a 'focus' trip for each year that aligns with the theme of that year.

### **When does my student become a member of St. Luke's?**

At the end of their 8th grade year.

### **What about Cross Dedication?**

There will be a special cross dedication ceremony at the end of the 6th grade fall semester. This will be an important 'rite of passage' as the 6th graders complete the first part of their confirmation journey.

### **What will happen with my student in between formal confirmation programs?**

Student Ministry programming will continue throughout middle school. We encourage students to join one of our Small Group Bible studies, experience our retreats, and bring a friend to one of our monthly Sunday Night Lives. On Sunday Mornings when students are not in confirmation they will meet in the Student Ministry building.



# 6TH GRADE YEAR: BELONG

## Focus on EMBRACE IN COMMUNITY

WHEN: Sunday Morning, Fall Semester of 6th Grade Year

WHERE: Student Ministry Building

ENDS: Cross Dedication on December 11th, 2016

### LESSONS

The Journey

Bible 101

Creation- Fall

Redemption

New Creation

Jewish Heritage

Catholic Heritage

Methodist Heritage

What is the Church

Worship

Baptism

Communion

Our Identity in Christ 1.0

Prayer

**RETREAT:** Unplugged September 16th - 18th 2016



# 7TH GRADE YEAR: BECOME

## Focus on AWAKEN AND MOVE

WHEN: Occasionally during the 7th grade year

WHERE: Various locations

WHAT: Field Trips to Worshipping communities and Service Outings

**CHURCH VISITS:** All Visits are followed by a meal and discussion together

St. Luke's Traditional Service

Catholic Mass

Gethsemane Campus Visit

Worship together at the Story

Jewish Synagogue

Windsor Village UMC

**SERVICE OUTINGS:** 3 Service Events

Poinsettia Delivery

Mum Delivery

DNOW Service Project

**RETREAT:** DNOW January 12-14, 2018



# 8TH GRADE YEAR: BELIEVE

## Focus on TRAIN IN TEAMS.

**WHEN:** Sunday Morning, Spring Semester 8th grade year

**WHERE:** New Student Building

**ENDS:** May 2019

### LESSONS

The Fall

Creation

Sin

Covenant

Who is God the Father

Who is Jesus

Student Testimonies

Holy Spirit

Redemption

Our Identity In Christ 2.0

Discipleship

Tough Questions

Confirmation Vows

**RETREAT: BreakThru April 26-28, 2019**

