

CONFIRMATION PLAN



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

Confirmation is not a destination; rather, it is the beginning of a lifelong journey and a great adventure. The Journey is a confirmation experience for students from St. Luke's and The Story. For short periods each year, middle school students will focus on a different part of their confirmation journey. Ultimately they become young men and women ready to inspire the church to live out their faith together.



FAQ:

When will confirmation be?

6th grade: 12 Sunday mornings in the Fall
Parent/Family lunches once a month in the Fall

7th grade: Family field trips, including church visits and group service activities

8th grade: 12 Sunday mornings in the Spring
Parent/Family lunches once a month in Spring

What is our hope for confirmation?

- 1) Students will be able to make an informed, conscious choice to trust in Jesus.
- 2) Students will experience their faith as a lifelong journey, not a one-time event.
- 3) Students will develop deep and lasting relationships with other students and adults and feel a deep sense of belonging within this church community.
- 4) Students will learn their own gifting and be empowered as leaders within this community to inspire their brothers and sisters in Christ with their lived faith.

Why does St. Luke's do confirmation over three years?

Once upon a time confirmation was a year-long program in the sixth grade. Our shift to spreading it over three years was result of years of feedback from both parents and leaders. Middle school represents a pivotal time in the life of young people. The Journey is designed to create an experience that is always age appropriate and always meaningful.

Since shifting to this format we have seen participation by confirmands in other aspects of student ministry, such as our small groups, increase considerably.



Furthermore, since making this switch we have noticed that many more high school students continue to stay engaged in the life of the church.

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

This format is designed to be **more** manageable for busy families than an intensive one year program. 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 service 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 Ministries 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 Live fun events. On Sunday Mornings when students are not in confirmation they will meet in the Student Ministries building.



6TH GRADE YEAR: BELONG

This is an exciting first year. This is a year to develop connections and friendships that will hopefully last a lifetime. Students learn what it is to be a part of God's Story.

WHEN: Sunday Mornings, Fall Semester of 6th Grade Year at 9:45am
Once a month parent/family lunches

WHERE: Student Ministries Building

ENDS: **Cross Dedication on December 15, 2019**

LESSONS

The Journey

Bible 101

Creation and the Fall

Redemption in Christ

New Creation

Jewish/Catholic Heritage

Methodist Heritage

What is: the Church

- Worship

- Baptism

- Communion

RETREAT: Unplugged Fall Retreat **September 20-22, 2019**



7TH GRADE YEAR: BECOME

Faith is often 'caught' as much as it is taught. This year our focus is to experience life together as a family through various serving and worshiping experiences.

WHEN: Occasionally during the 7th grade year

WHERE: Various locations

WHAT: Family Field Trips to worship communities and service outings

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

St. Luke's Traditional Service

Gethsemane Campus Visit

Worship together at the Story

St. Anne's Catholic Church

Congregation Beth Yeshurun

Windsor Village UMC

FAMILY SERVICE OUTINGS: 4 Service Events

Poinsettia Delivery

DNOW Service Project

Lenten Flower Delivery

A Student Created Service Activity

RETREAT: DNOW January 15-17, 2021



8TH GRADE YEAR: BELIEVE

This year focuses on the students' own faith questions. We'll dive into the core beliefs of the Christian faith and offer space for students to dig into their own faith questions. Students will take a deeper look at their own faith and discipleship. They will learn about what it means to trust in Jesus in the midst of faith questions. They will reflect on their baptismal vows and **each student will decide for themselves if being confirmed is a calling he or she desires to pursue.**

WHEN: Sunday Mornings, Spring Semester of 8th Grade Year at 9:45am
Once a month parent/family lunches

WHERE: Student Ministries Building

ENDS: Confirmation Sunday ~May 15, 2022

LESSONS

The Journey: Year Three

God's Big Story

Bible Apologetics

Discipleship

Sharing and Connecting Our Stories

Spiritual Gifts

Trinity: Father

Trinity: Son

Trinity: Holy Spirit

The Creed: Tough Questions

Confirmation Vows

RETREAT: 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat ~April 22-24, 2022

