



Is Confirmation for everyone?

- Yes, we believe that Confirmation is an important milestone, tradition and step in the discipleship journey of a student. We also recognize that every family is different and is on a different journey. We offer many options for middle school students to engage with our youth department and also offer Confirmation as a supplement to families wishing to pass along the doctrine and traditions of the Lutheran faith.

How old does my student have to be?

- Students usually participate in Confirmation during their 7th and 8th grade year, with the Confirmation ceremony occurring in May of the 8th grade year.

What are the expectations of Confirmation and why are they important?

- Doctrine Study – The study of doctrine and what we believe has always been at the core of the Confirmation journey since early on. Middle school is the time where students get the opportunity to learn more deeply about the doctrine of Christianity and the core beliefs of the Lutheran denomination.
- Discussion Groups – We believe important faith formation occurs in small groups and hope to create a small community of students with a mentor that can be there to walk through the challenging moments of adolescents together.
- Junior High Retreats – The amount of community building that occurs in a short weekend when students are in a new situation or new environment has been witnessed year after year. Many high schoolers return to let us know that their Confirmation retreat experience was a highlight of the entire Confirmation journey.
- Parent service opportunities – We believe partnering with parents and having students witness parent involvement in ministry greatly improves the likelihood that students will remain involved in ministry as they reach adulthood.
- Student service opportunities – We believe serving and processing through the serving experience is one of the best ways for our students to learn and grow in their faith. After students complete a service experience, we simply ask that they go to the google classroom to log it and tell us about what they did and what they learned.
- Testimony - 8th Grade students will go through a testimony writing workshop in the winter/spring of their 8th grade year and then will be given an opportunity to share their testimony with their small group prior to being confirmed.

What are the key dates for parent classes and discussion groups?

- Launch Discussion Groups - Sundays at 9 am. in the Fellowship Hall
 - September 29
 - October 27 – Followed by First Communion for 7th graders
 - November 24
 - January 26
 - February 23
 - March 29
 - April 26
- FUSE Fall Retreat - September 20-22
- Sunday morning 7th grade parent and student classes October 6, 13, 20
- Sunday morning 8th grade parent and student classes February 2, 9, 16
- Epicenter Retreat – March 20-21
- Confirmation Gala - May 2
- Confirmation - May 3

What if my student has to miss a discussion group?

- We allow students to miss one discussion group without making it up. If they miss a second, it is the student's responsibility to schedule a time to meet with the Student Ministry directors and discuss the material within 30 days of the missed discussion group.

How does my student get started with the discipleship process?

- Fill out the registration form on the Salem Student Ministries area of the website or email Ashley Reed at areed@salem4u.com for a direct link. After you have registered you will be given the code for the classroom as well as will be added to the list for emails and other forms of contact.

How is the discipleship process structured?

- You and your student will be given access to your online Google Classroom
- Students will receive monthly units that include reading, journaling, reflection, assessment and check-in quizzes.
- At the end of every unit students and mentors will meet in Fellowship Hall for Discussion Groups on a Sunday during the 9:00 am service to review material, participate in group activities, and enjoy some snacks and coffee.

Who will be teaching and leading Sunday morning discussion groups or the parent/student classes?

- Sunday morning discussions will be hosted by Ben Marsh and Arleah Talbot with occasional special guests.
 - Discussion groups
 - September 29
 - October 27 – followed by First Communion

- November 24
- January 26
- February 23
- March 29
- April 26
- Parent and student classes will include teaching by the Pastors and staff.
 - Parent/Student Classes
 - October 6, 13, 20 7th Grade Student and Parent Classes
 - February 2, 9, 16 8th Grade Student and Parents Classes

Why self-study?

- While solid teaching is an important part of our spiritual growth, the personal disciplines of prayer and Bible study are essential for continued, sustained growth. In a self-study model we are putting greater responsibility on students to take ownership of their spiritual growth. We are also helping them develop habits and disciplines that will serve them over their entire discipleship journey. We also wish to inspire an open communication channel between mentors, students, parents and friends that will begin faith conversations that continue into adulthood.

What are the benefits of parents being involved in this meaningful process?

- We believe that, in every student's life, this is true: in a student's life, the influence of a family is always greater than the influence of a church. No matter what, a student's family (not their church) will always be the biggest influence in their lives. It's with this knowledge that we believe it is ideal to partner with the most powerful, influential people in our students' lives in order to influence their faith. We use the term "partner" for a reason - because parents and the church need each other. We need to team up with parents because they're ultimately the biggest influence on their own kids' spirituality. And parents need to team up with the local church because their kids need to see faith in Jesus and missional living modeled from a whole community of believers.

How long will it take?

- The program is designed to take 2 school years and will be spaced into self-paced monthly sections. Units will become available at the first of the month and then are due at the end of the month. At the conclusion of a unit we will meet for the Sunday Morning Launch discussion group.

How does my student complete service hours?

- Within the parent and student class you will find a form to report service experiences. We ask that they complete 3 service experience reflections a year.

What about First Communion?

- There will be a 7th grade fall student/parent class (October 6, 13, 20) about what communion means to us as a church body. First communion will then occur Reformation Sunday during the 10:45 service of the students 7th grade year (October 27, 2019).

Is there a cost for the Confirmation program and what does that cover?

- The yearly cost for Confirmation is \$325. This covers the two yearly retreats, Study Bible, Small Catechism, as well as the Gala hosted by 7th grade families at the end of the 8th grade year