

Confirmation Ministry at Advent Lutheran Church

2011-2012

Confirmation is a pastoral and educational ministry that helps the baptized young person participate more fully in worship and discern what it means to be a Christian in today's world. In a community of support and acceptance shared with the pastor, youth director, seminary interns, and peers, Confirmation helps the young person identify with the church and their own faith through worship, learning and service.

The Confirmation ministry at Advent is a period of faith instruction and learning which culminates in a public profession of faith called "Affirmation of Baptism." In preparation for this public service of confirmation, students spend time together in Confirmation classes, service projects and a week of "Campfirmation."

Confirmation is not a membership class; we become members of God's family and Church in Holy Baptism. Rather, Confirmation is an opportunity to say "yes" to God's grace-filled acts which have already been done on our behalf. In this way, Confirmation unites the internal and external; the personal and the public. The work of the Holy Spirit within a believer that creates faith is professed and claimed publicly by the believer. That faith is then both confirmed and affirmed externally by the community of faith to which the believer belongs. For you, this community is the Church (of Advent Lutheran).

Confirmation is an exciting, positive ministry! Confirmation is strongly encouraged and emphasized because the Church cares about young people and their faith development. Confirmation is an informed profession of faith and is one very important way the Church helps a young person in their journey of faith.

Confirmation Expectations:

1. Attend the scheduled Thursday class sessions from 4:30-5:45 p.m. at Advent. One absence is allowed each semester which must be explained by phone call or note, *prior* to class. If you are going to be absent please contact Julie Hagen (212-665-2504 or julie@adventnyc.org)
2. Attendance at Sunday worship three weeks out of four each month. Confirmation students must fill out 8 worship notes during the fall semester. Worship notes are completed during the service and turned into Julie's mailbox in the office immediately after the service. It is your responsibility to pick up and turn in worship note cards.
3. Accompany the pastor on one visit to a sick or shut-in person, an outreach visit to a pre-baptismal visit with a family/individual if the occasion arises during the upcoming year. These visits will be scheduled with Pastor Brown.
4. Participate in at least one Thursday night Common Ground service *each semester* (one in fall/winter and one in winter/spring). The service schedule is available online or at church.
5. Participate in one week of Confirmation camp at Camp Koinonia in Highland Lake, NY (first week of July 2012)

Campfirmation at Koinonia:

We ask families to make sure the first week of July is free for confirmation students to attend Confirmation Camp at Koinonia in Highland Lake, NY. We are part of a program in conjunction with 10 other Lutheran congregations in the Metropolitan New York Synod. We share pastoral resources and experience a wonderful week of Christian community in a beautiful outdoor setting. We believe the week of Confirmation Camp is vital because it enables our youth to experience and explore their faith in relationship with their peers from others churches. This is an important experience for young people in Junior High and High School. We strongly encourage parents to support the Confirmation Camp program and make it a priority for your daughter/son to experience. If you have any questions or concerns about the camp experience, please feel free to contact Julie Hagen. The cost is usually around \$415 and there will be fundraising opportunities during the school year.

Confirmation Schedule 2011-2012:

September 15-	Confirmation youth/parent meeting	6:30-7:30 p.m.
September 22-	Class Session (Intro to the Bible, Creation	4:30-5:45 p.m.
October 6	- Class Session –Field trip to the MOBIA	4:30-5:45 p.m.
October 20-	Class Session (Old Testament- Exodus)	4:30-5:45 p.m.
November 3-	Class Session (Old Testament-Promises)	4:30-5:45 p.m.
November 17-	Class Session (Old Testament- Psalms & Proverbs)	4:30-5:45 p.m.
December 1-	Class session (Old Testament- Women in the OT)	4:30-5:45p.m.
December 15-	Class Session - (Old Testament Review)	4:30-5:45 p.m.
December 22-	Class Session - (Old Testament Quiz)	4:30-5:45 p.m.

(Spring 2015 schedule will be distributed in November) **Spring term begins Friday January 12, 2012**

Homework Assignment: Pick one of the options below. Your response should be one typed page. The assignment is due December 15th.

Jacob and Esau: Read the story of the two brothers. (Genesis 25:19-34 and Genesis 27:1-40). Pick one of the brothers and defend their actions throughout the story. Be creative! Write your defense in the form of a letter, journal entries, or newspaper article.

Jonah: Read the story of Jonah (Jonah 1-4). Write 3 journal entries from Jonah's perspective.

1st entry- Jonah on the boat to Tarshish (Chapter 1)

2nd entry- In the belly of the whale (Chapter 2)

3rd entry- Jonah in Ninevah (Chapter 3 and 4)

Sample Worship Note

Worship Note	Name: _____
	Date: _____
Gospel Lesson:	
Title of Sermon (if there is one):	
Favorite Hymn:	
In one sentence summarize the main point of the sermon: _____	

How does this relate to your life: _____	

The most meaningful part of today's service was: _____ because	

<i>This week I can pray for:</i>	Put your worship note in the offering basket or give it to Julie after the service.

Confirmation Covenant Agreement 2011-2012

In preparation for public affirmation of Baptism, and in covenant with the Church,

we, _____ and _____
(name of confirmand) (name of parent)

understand the importance of Confirmation and, together, have read the expectations for the Confirmation program at Advent Lutheran Church.

We commit ourselves to the ministry of Confirmation for the 2011-2012 academic year.

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4. Participate in at least one Thursday night Common Ground service *each semester*.
5. Participate in one week of Confirmation camp at Camp Koinonia during the first week of July 2012.

We are very serious about the Confirmation Ministry at Advent. We hope you will be part of this exciting and important program. You are encouraged as both students and parents, to prayerfully consider your dedication to this ministry. If you have together decided to commit yourself and your daughter/son to the Confirmation program at Advent Lutheran Church, please sign the two Confirmation Covenant Agreements attached. Return one copy and keep one copy for you to take and keep visible in your home.

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