

## CONFIRMATION PROGRAM OUTLINE: 2017-2018

### OVERVIEW:

#### Eligibility

Confirmation (Affirmation of Baptism) at Bethel and Zion is a two-year commitment for young people, *generally* in grades 5-9. Young people should be baptized before beginning of the program.

The group meets twice in the evenings each month beginning in September and running through early June, sessions running from 6:30PM until 8:00 PM.

Confirmation requires the elements set forth in the guidelines to follow. The philosophy for participation is that:

- a) The young people want to participate, and are not forced to. If your child is defiant and not interested in the program please do not make them join the group as this will likely
  - a. damage their already fragile faith connection, and
  - b. create distractions for other confirmation partners.
- b) Completion of the program is *not* a “rite of passage” to graduate from participating in the community and worship life of the congregation, but rather stepping-up in commitment for growth in faith, and cheerfully serving and leading as a witness to others. Young people will be expected to continue serving the congregation in volunteer roles through graduation from high school, signing a covenant to that effect upon confirmation.

If your child is having difficulty accepting the opportunity of joining the program please speak with the pastor to see if he may be of assistance in encouraging them to take a second-look.

### GUIDELINES:

#### 1. **The Crucial Role of Parents**

Because parents are learning partners with their children, and play a critical role in their child's faith journey, we therefore:

- Strongly encourage each parent to participate in the faith life of the church,
- Encourage parents to discuss **daily** high's and low's with their children,
- Invite parents to pray at mealtime and other times with their children
- Ask parents to oversee completion of a *Worship Report* for various worship experiences:
  - 15 Worship Reports are required each year during the two year program.
  - Worship Reports may only be turned in for worship that the youth actually attended in-house.
    - Any on-line homily videos on Bethel or Zion's FACEBOOK public page are *only* to be used to refresh memory of a live-time worship experience.
- Expect parents to ensure that their children arrive on time and prepared for sessions.

*The rest of the confirmation requirements are for the confirmands themselves*

#### 2. **Worship**

- Regularly attend worship.
- Complete Worship Reports as they worship.
- Involvement in the worship leadership of the church in one or more of the following roles: usher, lector, acolyte, choir member, altar guild.
- Study of key biblical themes, books and verses, completion of homework as assigned.

#### 3. **Fellowship**

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Events will be planned to help assimilate confirmands into the life of the congregation and wider church. These will include such elements as key congregational events (ie: annual church fair, potlucks, work days), and getting to know other youth through fun and fellowship with the LIPY-CM (Lutheran Inter-Parish Youth of Central MA) program.

### 4. Mission

Jesus invited his followers to respond to the needs of others in a way that modeled his own behavior. As he said in the Gospel:

*“In as much as you have done it to the least of these, so you have done it to me.”*

One basic element of Christian life is that of *servant-hood*. We have each been called to mission. Each year we participate in servant events that are designed to help youth learn about Christian mission and to participate in that ministry. These events will allow our confirmands to meet people active in Christian mission and support their outreach endeavors with hands-on experience.

- Participate in a *minimum* of four yearly servant events: CROP Walk, LIPY-CM April Mission Trip, LIPY-CM service @ Carty Food Cupboard, LIPY-CM Christmas giving event, serving as an evening host for Inter-Faith Hospitality Network, helping set-up the apartment for one of the refugee families we co-sponsor with Lutheran Social Services, or other projects that you propose.

Curriculum is a custom mixture of [Augsburg Fortress Here We Stand](#), Spark House [RE:FORM](#), and pastor developed material. The cycle follows 1 year of mainly Old Testament and 1 year of New Testament and Lutheran doctrine (including Luther’s Small Catechism).