

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

HAWTHORN WOODS, ILLINOIS

YOUTH CONFIRMATION MINISTRY Information & Guidelines 2018-2019

✠ In The Name of Jesus Christ ✠

PARENTS: *“Fathers [& Mothers], do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord”* Ephesians 6:4. This passage and many others make it clear that the **PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY** for the spiritual life and education of children rests with their **parents**.

STUDENTS: The **student** has the responsibility to submit willingly to the authority and leadership of parent and church. *“Children obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord”* Colossians 3:20.

CHURCH: The Church and its ministries exist **to assist** the Parents carry out their responsibilities. God did **NOT** intend the Church to replace the influence and importance of Parents.

INSTRUCTORS: In general, the Instructor’s role is *“to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all...become mature, attaining to the...fullness of Christ.* Ephesians 4:12-13. This means being responsible for, and seeing to it that opportunities are provided for instruction in Christian knowledge, faith, and life.

SUMMARY: The goal is that, as a congregation, we provide the best opportunities for each child to reach mature Christian discipleship. When parents, church and students work together with this goal in mind, under the guidance and direction of the Spirit of the LORD God, the Church is carrying out its task of the Great Commission—**“MAKING DISCIPLES by baptizing...and teaching...all things [He] has commanded”**

The Youth Confirmation Ministry of St. Matthew Lutheran Church & School, Hawthorn Woods is currently on a three-year schedule, which normally includes the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. The course work is offered for ten (10) weeks in the Fall of the year (end of August to November 13) and ten (10) weeks in the Spring (January 8 to March 19). The areas of study this year will be:

Year One (grade 6): Study Concentrates on the Ten Commandments & Apostles’ Creed Articles 1 & 2.

Year Two (grade 7): Study Concentrates on the Apostles’ Creed, Lord’s Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the Office of the Keys & Confession, and the Sacrament of the Altar.

Year Three (grade 8): Study Concentrates on How We Got The Bible, A brief synopsis of the Six Chief Parts of the Catechism, and special topics of Ushering, End of Life, Marriage and Stewardship.

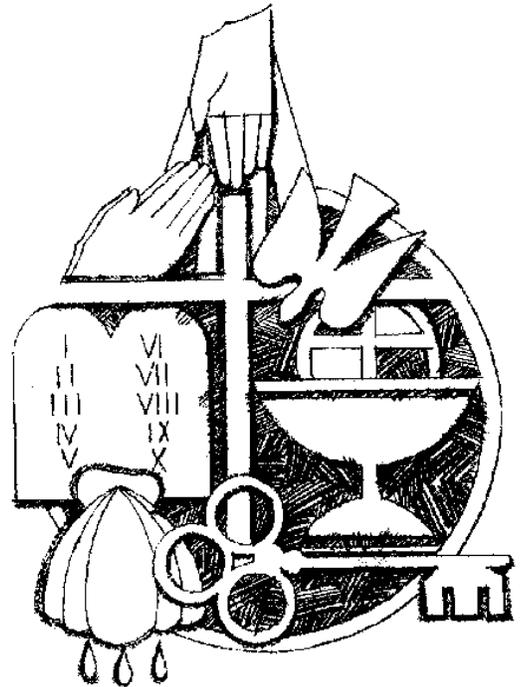
All classes will meet on Sundays evenings

6:00 – Open Gym / Activity (will be announced when offered)

6:30 – Opening Devotion

6:45 – Class Sessions

7:45 – Dismissal



A. MATERIALS NEEDED

1. **Bible** - Each student is to have **his/her own Bible** (*not one that belongs to the whole family or an older sibling*), and bring it with them to each class.
 - The English Standard Version**
 - Hard Cover edition with some helps **\$16.00**
 - or
 - The Lutheran Study Bible** (ESV translation with significant helps)
 - Hard Cover edition **\$45.00**
2. **Text:**
 - a. For New 1st Year Confirmation Students
"Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation 2017 Edition Spiral Bound **\$16.00**
 - b. For all Confirmation Classes 2nd and 3rd Year Students:
"The Interleaved Luther's Small Catechism" **\$18.00**
*Please make checks payable to: **St. Matthew Lutheran Church***
3. **Three ring note-book** for the Course Syllabus, Worksheets & Handouts (*supplied by instructor*).
4. **Paper for the three ring note-book** (*25-50 sheets*).
5. **Something with which to write and take notes** (*pencils or pens—blue or black ink only*).

B. EXPECTATIONS OF CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

1. To attend **ALL** class sessions. The real "confirmation" takes place while the instruction in the Word is given—not in the Rite of Confirmation on a certain Sunday in April. It is through the study of His Holy Word that God continues to **CONFIRM THE FAITH** begun in Baptism and nurtured by the home and the church.
2. To have a **cooperative attitude** toward class work, homework, learning by heart (memory) work, the instructor, fellow class members and the total Youth Confirmation Ministry.
3. **To attend WEEKLY corporate worship.**
 - a. Where weekly corporate worship is commanded by our Lord and expected of every Christian, a **minimum of 50% of the weekly corporate worship services MUST** be attended, and maintained in order to be considered for confirmation.
 - b. To submit two, (2) Sermon/Worship-Service Reports per month, each month (*see page 4 & report form*).
4. To attend and participate in a weekly **Sunday Morning Bible Study** sessions. A **minimum of 50% of the Sunday Morning Bible Study sessions MUST** be attended, and maintained in order to be considered for confirmation.
5. To satisfactorily complete all the work assigned. The assignments listed with each date are to be completed and ready to be evaluated on that date (*the instructor retains the right to alter the schedule*).
6. To participate in congregational youth activities outside the class.
 - a. During the year there will be several activities planned for the Jr. High Youth Group
 - b. First & Second Year Students will also be appointed to serve as an **Acolyte** at St. Matthew.
 - c. Third Year Students will be appointed to serve on one of the **Ushering Teams** at St. Matthew.
7. Third year students, in the Spring of the year, will make a public confession of faith during one of the regular worship services.

C. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. To **encourage the student**, and assist them in their learning;
2. To **cooperate with, and support** the Confirmation instructors;
3. To **attentively listen to the child's heart work** (memory work), signing the memory form, thus giving your approval and seeing to it that it is getting done;
4. Parents may attend any and all of the regular class sessions – **For the 2018-2019 year Parents will be assigned to attend several class sessions** so that two (2) adults along with the instructor are always present.
5. To bring and participate with their child(ren) in:
 - a. The **weekly corporate worship** services, and
 - b. **Sunday Morning Bible Study**. Children learn by example.
 - c. The Parent Student classes (*2nd Year–3 times; 3rd Year – 5 times + Sunday Morning Adult Discipleship Class – Spring of 2019*)
6. To assist the student in listening and comprehending the sermon preached in the weekly corporate worship.

D. SUGGESTIONS FOR LEARNING - BY- HEART

Psalm 119:10-16

- With my whole heart I have sought You [O LORD];
- Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!**
- Your word I have hidden in my heart,
- That I might not sin against You.**
- Blessed are You, O LORD!
- Teach me Your statutes.**
- With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth.
- I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches.**
- I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways.
- I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.**

1. Make every effort to understand the material that is to be learned by heart.
 - a. Know the meanings of the words.
 - b. State the meaning of the passage in your own words.
2. Learn by heart (*memorize*) in a quiet place.
3. Begin early in the week and learn by *heart (memorize)* for short periods of time. Try ten minutes each evening. Avoid last minute cramming.
4. Read the entire selection several times (*five*) as you begin to learn by heart.
5. If the assignment is long, break it into shorter parts which have a single general thought. Learn by heart (*memorize*) the short parts, then learn by heart the connections between the parts.
6. Frequently review the material you have learned by heart, even after you know it well.
7. Reinforced learning helps you to remember it longer.
8. Let a family member or friend test you before you say it to your parents, or test yourself by writing it out from memory – then you will know that you have learned it by heart.

E. SERMON/WORSHIP-SERVICE REPORTS

Regular, weekly corporate worship attendance *is encouraged and expected* of the child of God for the building and growth of their spiritual life. In addition to the weekly worship service attended, twice per month, each month **Sermon/Worship Service Reports** will be expected from each student.

1. The **SERMON/WORSHIP-SERVICE REPORT** form (8 1/2" x 11" - see next page) is for the *student (or anyone for that matter)* to use to take notes on the sermon. Forms may be located in the narthex. (From time to time a sermon outline will also be provided).
2. Fill out the preliminary information. **NAME, DATE,** and **CHURCH ATTENDED** are self-explanatory. The **TEXT** is the portion of the Bible on which the sermon is based (*i.e. Matthew 28:19-20*) and the **SERMON THEME** is the title of the sermon (*i.e. "Make Disciples ... Teach All Things"*). This information is usually listed in the worship folder.
3. **OUTLINE OF MAIN POINTS** A sermon usually contains between two and five main points. A brief explanation of these points is to be included in each report.
4. **LAW:** Each sermon will deal with a specific shortcoming of mankind's sinful condition. The task is to determine what sin/sins are being identified and what the consequence of sin is. This is known as the Law or the Law Statement which **Shows our Sin**, much as a **Mirror** shows us what we physically look like.
5. The **GOSPEL** message, on the other hand, demonstrates what Jesus Christ has done for us. By His birth, life, death, resurrection, and promise to return, He offers the forgiveness of sins, and the hope of eternal life. The task is to identify how the Gospel message **Shows the Savior**.
6. After realizing that forgiveness is offered only through the Gospel, it is the duty of each Christian to inquire **WHAT IS BEING ASKED OF ME?** Looking into the Word of God, the task is to find out how our heavenly Father seeks to gently **Guide** our life.
7. **OPINION OF SERVICE** Please take the time to indicate your thoughts about the entire worship service: Theme, Hymns, other Music, and yes, the sermon too. What did you learn? Did you enjoy the worship service? Why or why not?
8. **QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, OR SUGGESTIONS** This is a place to put questions you have concerning something said in the sermon or worship practices. List anything you may not have understood as well as any concerns or suggestions you may have.

The Sermon/Worship-Service Report Itself:

1. Is to be handed in at the **next scheduled confirmation class session** which follows the Service on which the report is made.
2. Two (2) such reports are due each month (*Total of 16 required for the year – 8 per semester*). Advent & Lenten Services as well as any other special service such as Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, Ascension Day, or a wedding or a funeral etc... may also be used to fulfill this requirement.
3. Is to be written out on the 8 1/2" x 11" SERMON/WORSHIP REPORT form **even when an outline is provided in the service folder**. Attach the outline to the back of a filled out form.
4. Worship at another congregation due to a student being out of town, or under other circumstances is acceptable. Simply attach the worship folder to the back of a filled out form as always requested. However, the majority of the reports are to be on **St. Matthew Lutheran Church**.
5. If you have any questions, at any time, please ask: Office: 847-438-7709
Pastor Kinne: 224-360-2629 or Pastor Blonski: 909-373-7936

✠ To GOD Alone Be All Glory ✠