



# Middle School Confirmation 101

## THE PURPOSE

Confirmation is a fun, interactive, faith development process that happens over two years during middle school. The goals of Confirmation classes are two-fold: head knowledge and heart application. It is expected that during these two years of commitment, a student will trust in Christ as their Lord and Savior. Hephatha will provide the Rite of Confirmation upon successful completion of the program on Palm Sunday. The Rite of Confirmation is not a graduation, but a new beginning to declare a life of following Jesus. For most confirmation students, this is a two-year process happening in their 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade years.

## THE PARENT PARTNERSHIP

It begins with you. The responsibility of your child's spiritual growth is foremost in your hands. Research tells us that parents are the #1 faith influence in the lives of their kids. The church is here to come alongside you, love your children, and teach them more about Christ. One of the best ways you can grow with your teen during these two years is by regularly completing weekly Family Time assignments with your child. While we know families are busy, it is important to set aside time each week to grow spiritually with your family. We look forward to partnering with you in this process!

## THE PROGRAM DESIGN

At Hephatha Lutheran Church we want Confirmation to be a time of growth and fun. We know not every student learns in the same way, therefore, each Wednesday will include times of worship, reflection, small group discussion, large group teaching, interactive experiences, and visuals. The hope is that the lesson will be "caught" in several different ways to enhance the learning experience. Each of the two years is different as we focus on different aspects of the Christian faith. Examples of some of the lessons that will be taught are the Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Communion, Baptism, a basic survey of the Old and New Testaments, the Creeds, and the Church. Furthermore, students will learn about being a healthy God-fearing and God-honoring citizen in society. In addition to the Wednesday classes, we also have several other components that help add to the Confirmation experience. These include relationship building, and service projects. Why? Because we believe that Confirmation is not simply knowing *about* the faith, but it's about *experiencing* the faith. We've found that teens actually grow in huge ways when they are given practical ways of applying their faith to what they've learned during class.

## CONFIRMATION EXPECTATIONS

After two years of Confirmation class, a student becomes eligible to be publicly confirmed in their faith. This occurs on Palm Sunday each year. There are several expectations we require in order to complete the confirmation process. The expectations are to serve, grow, and worship. The purpose of these is to help give opportunities to grow and get a taste of the Christian life so one will be better equipped once they have confirmed their faith.

### ❖ SERVE:

- **Service Hours**-16 hours per year

The Service hours are designed to encourage the students to use their gifts and serve in the local church and community. We'd love to see them serving by doing things they love. Service hours are expected to be turned in by March 14, 2018.

### ACOLYTE DUTY:

Acolyting provides an important opportunity for the youth to serve and assist in worship services. An acolyte lights the candles, collects the empty communion cups, and is available to assist the pastor in other ways as he needs them during the service. This important role is needed at all three services. The students will be assigned different services throughout the year to serve as acolytes.

**CHURCH:** 8 hours must be serving in the church

Examples: greeting, workday cleanup, VBS crew leader, helping in the office, playing an instrument for a service, and assist with Children's Church.

**COMMUNITY:** 8 hours must be serving in the community

Examples: trash clean-up, mission trip, food bank, spending time at a retirement home, and the Do Something events.

## ❖ **WORSHIP:**

Worship is so important in the life of a Christian. The worship service is where we come together to give praise to God, be encouraged, and challenged by God's Word and lean on one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. It is expected that children will participate in regular worship. It is expected to be in worship 1-2 times a month apart from their acolyte duty.

## ❖ **GROW:**

- Attend Confirmation Class on Wednesdays.

- Bring your Bible, Catechism, Confirmation Notebook, and a pen each week to class.

- Complete your weekly Confirmation Family Time. These assignments are designed to bring the lesson into the home so you, as a parent, can help to lead your family in spiritual discussion. You'll spend about 15-20 minutes each week working on you're the Family Time. You'll have an opportunity to know what your kids are learning in the classes and share your thoughts. Most Family Times are interactive in nature and can be used with the whole family. The Family Time assignment needs to be turned in each week when the student checks into class.

- **Video Shoot**

Each student will need to come to a special filming session were they will talk about what Confirmation means to them, their relationship with Jesus, and discuss their Confirmation verse.

- **Interview** with one of our elders (Second year students only).

The interview lasts approximately 15 minutes in length and is one of the most important steps of the Confirmation process. The purpose is to test basic faith and come up with a plan to implement and continue their faith after Confirmation.

## **THE CONFIRMATION CLASS STRUCTURE**

Each afternoon the class will follow the same basic structure:

- Worship
- Large Group Teaching Time
- Individual Reflection and Journal Time
- Small Group Experiential Activity and Discussion
- Prayer with Groups
- Wrap up and Announcements

## **RESOURCES**

Required Books

- The Bible – A study Bible is recommended but not required. NIV and ESV translations will be used in class.
- *Luther's Small Catechism* – 2005 edition (will be provided for each student that registers).
- Confirmation notebook
- *The Case for Christ Student Edition* by Lee Strobel (will be provided for each student that registers).

## **CONTACT INFO**

- Contact the church office at 714-637-0887 ext. 155 or contact Pastor Arthur Andrews at 714-637-0887 ext. 151, or Timothy Potthoff at 714-637-0887 ext. 157.