

August 12, 2011

Dear Moms & Dads and Confirmation Class Members,

What a great privilege and responsibility it is for us to partner with parents like you in the Christian Education of your son/daughter. We consider it a tremendous honor to get to know your son/daughter better and to share and discuss with him/her during our Youth Confirmation Retreats matters of eternal importance... matters of the soul... matters of the heart.

Attached are a number of important documents – the 2011-2012 Confirmation Information Packet with all the dates and times for this year's Confirmation Retreats and the Registration Form.

Please look them over and respond accordingly. Thank you.

Remember, you can access these items on our church website www.hotshepherd.org – Go to the **GET CONNECTED** tab and click on **Youth Ministry** page and scroll to the bottom and click on **Youth Confirmation**.

Remember, also, to bring along to the Confirmation Retreats the following important items:

1. **Your God-given faith and your personal desire to allow God's Spirit to grow that faith.**
2. **Your insight, wisdom, and willingness to help others.**
3. **Your Confirmation materials: your Bible, your blue or burgundy Catechism – those beginning their first year of Confirmation will get your materials at your first retreat.**

Speaking of Retreats – We want to highlight something unique about our September 23-24 and January 20-21 Retreats at church that offer the unit on the **Lord's Supper/Holy Communion**. This class will prepare the student for receiving the Lord's Supper. *This course is recommended for sixth grade and all those older who are not yet confirmed and who desire Early First Communion.*



Early First Communion Note: The Rite of Early First Communion

Heart of the Shepherd Lutheran Church joins with approximately 1200 other congregations in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod to offer Early First Communion to those youth – sixth grade and older, who have not yet been confirmed, but have received careful instruction in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. *Those who complete this Unit of Study successfully and whose parent(s) and pastors affirm that they are ready to receive the Lord's Supper, are invited and welcome to come to the Lord's Table for Holy Communion.*

Again, we consider it a great privilege and responsibility to partner with you in the Christian Education of your son/daughter and look forward to growing closer to our Lord together and to one another. If you have any questions, please contact one of us or stop by the Church Office. Enjoy the rest this week...we'll see YOU in Sunday School and worship.

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