

Heart of the Shepherd Lutheran Church

2011-2012 Confirmation Information

INTRODUCTION

Confirmation for our youth in sixth grade and older can be an incredible time of growth, belonging, community, spiritual awakening, and a major and important rite of passage into adulthood. We are excited to partner with your family as we endeavor to make this experience all it can be. It is our hope that by offering, during various months of the year, Friday – Saturday Retreats, in which the confirmands can choose their units of study, we can provide more flexibility and options in reaching this important milestone.

Parents, remember, you are encouraged to join your son/daughter for part or all of these retreats. We pray that you as parents will daily talk about God and His importance in our lives with your youth, pray for them and with them, be a godly, Christian model for them, and together take advantage of the Sunday, 9:15am Christian Growth Classes and/or the 5:45pm Wednesday Dinner and 6:30pm W.O.W. – Whatever on Wednesday Worship or gathering in the Barn and/or our 8am or 10:30am Sunday Worship Celebrations. Your Lord and your pastors desire all of us to be regular in our family worship and in the study of God's Word.

It is a great privilege and responsibility to partner with you in the Christian Education of your son/daughter and we look forward to growing closer to our Lord together and to one another. If you have any questions about Youth Confirmation, please contact one of us – Pastor John or Pastor Galen – or call/email the Church Office (517-552-7218 or info@hotshepherd.org).

THANK YOU!

Pastor Galen
Cell: 517-918-1378
E-mail: galen@hotshepherd.org

Pastor John
Cell: 586-872-4310
E-mail: john@hotshepherd.org

CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Students must complete seven Units of Study
2. Attend the Confirmation Retreat on May 4 & 5 – more info to come
3. Demonstrate healthy worship attendance
4. Attend a small group/Bible study outside of Confirmation
5. Serve in a ministry area within the church and/or community

UNITS OF STUDY - Lord's Supper, Baptism, Law and Gospel, Prayer, The Creed, Spiritual Fitness, and Bible Overview

These units will be offered various times during the months of September thru May. Students can complete them at their own pace and are encouraged to retake the classes as often as they would like. **Students must register in advance.** Class times are on selected Friday nights from 6:00pm - 8:00pm and Saturdays from 10:00am - 2:00pm. Friday snack and Saturday breakfast snack and lunch will be provided (Volunteers appreciated: see Registration Form).

1. **CONFIRMATION RETREATS**

The Retreats are all about relationship building, affirming God's love and our response to that love, prayer, belonging, and drawing closer to Christ and others as we learn to live together as His Family of God here are Heart of the Shepherd.

3. **HEALTHY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

Part of the confirmation experience centers on our Confirmation youth being active in worship and communion attendance. Students that exhibit poor attendance before confirmation are encouraged to demonstrate a more active worship habit before being received as confirmed members.

4. **SMALL GROUPS**

We believe that small group participation provides the best environment for individuals to receive personal encouragement, growth and support. We desire that every member will be in a small group Bible Study. One way to meet this requirement is by regular attendance at the Sunday morning educational hour from 9:15-10:15AM and/or the 6:30pm W.O.W – Whatever on Wednesday get together following the 5:45pm dinner. Students can meet this requirement by taking part in any other Bible study or small group that's offered – check the News for the Flock for those Bible Study opportunities.

5. **AREA OF MINISTRY/SERVICE**

It is our intention that each student would know they can plug in to a specific ministry at church. These areas of service will help insure the student doesn't drop off of the church's "radar screen" upon completion of Confirmation instruction. Selecting an area of ministry will also insure that each student has an adult overseeing these ministries who can enter into these young people's lives in a mentoring/supporting role. Service areas/projects can be divided between church and community, so start thinking about what you can do and whom you can serve, remembering the words of your Lord: *Whatever you do to the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you do it unto Me.*

CONFIRMATION RETREATS – Friday (6pm- 8pm) and Saturday (10am-2pm)

September 23-24	Lord's Supper – Apostles' Creed
November 18-19	Prayer – Spiritual Fitness
January 20-21	Baptism – Law & Gospel – Lord's Supper
February 17-18	Spiritual Fitness – Apostles' Creed
March 16-17	Law & Gospel – Prayer
May 4-5	Baptism – Bible Overview – Confirmation Preparation
Sunday, May 20	10:30am Youth Confirmation Sunday

CONFIRMATION UNITS OF STUDY

Lord's Supper/Holy Communion – Study of One of Our Two Sacraments

This class will prepare the student for receiving the Lord's Supper. Topics include the role of faith over logic, the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament, comparisons between the Passover/Seder meal and the Lord's Supper. We will examine what is received, what it does, why it is needed and when to receive (or not receive) 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 – see note below.

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 pastor 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.*



Baptism – Study of One of Our Two Sacraments

Understanding that the Sacraments – Baptism and Holy Communion, are based on the promises of God in His Holy Word rather than on one's good works, form the core components of this Baptism Unit. Students will learn what criteria are necessary to make something a sacrament, the meaning/purpose/power of Baptism, the foundational biblical promises regarding Baptism, and the need/honor/privilege to respond to God's promises and commands.

This course is recommended for sixth or seventh grade.

Law and Gospel - A Study of the Ten Commandments

A proper understanding of Law and Gospel is foundational to Lutheran theology. Students will learn and apply these principles in exercises that will demonstrate an understanding and lead to practical application in sharing the Gospel. Students will take an in depth look at both tables of the law (10 Commandments) and examine the three uses of the law.

This course is recommended for sixth or seventh grade.

Prayer- A Study of the Lord's Prayer

Prayer is examined using Christ's model prayer - The Lord's Prayer. Topics include what prayer is, prayer misconceptions, the right attitude of prayer, God's will, God's Kingdom, God's provision and God's protection. Students will also experience a personal time of prayer, using a method to enrich and focus their prayer life.

This course is recommended 8th grade retreat

The Creed- A Study of What I Believe and Why

The Apostles' Creed, a statement of what Christians believe, serves as the center of this Unit. We will examine the roles of God the Father, God the Son as both Man and God, and the role of God the Holy Spirit. Each student will understand what the Christian church believes regarding the

Holy Trinity and through this Unit prayerfully deepen his/her understanding of what they personally believe about God and why.

This course is especially recommended for 8th grade students

Spiritual Fitness - Staying Healthy in an Unhealthy World

This course deals with facing and overcoming the challenges and distractions young Christians encounter in today's society by focusing on the spiritual exercises/disciplines of Worship, Bible Study, Prayer-quiet time, Giving of our God-given gifts (time-talents-treasure), Service, Witnessing, and Fellowship.

This course is recommended for 8th grade students

Bible Overview – The Biblical Foundations of What We Believe/Teach/Confess

During this course, students will learn what we believe/confess/teach about the Holy Scriptures. They will study and discuss an overview of major events and teachings that occur in the Bible from Genesis and Creation to Revelation and Christ's Return and how all of Scripture points to Jesus Christ. The focus of this course is for students to understand that the Bible is not a rule book, but rather, God's story...HIStory of salvation through Jesus Christ and how it relates to their earthly lives today and connects them to eternal life.