

Dear Family of 6/7/8 Confirmation Kids,

I am very excited to welcome you and your child back to Trinity for another year of Confirmation Faith Formation! We have some exciting opportunities being added to our 6/7/8 Faith Formation year, and because I know it's the time of year when families begin to be inundated with back-to-school, back-to-sports, and back-to-church information, I will keep this as short and to-the-point as possible.

Registration and More Information on Our Website

Because you may not have time right now to go through the mountains of information available to you for school, sports, music, and church activities, I will refer you to more information, schedules and registration at trinitylc.org. We will also be looking closely at all things 6/7/8 Confirmation at our required Orientation sessions, Sept. 18 or 29.

Research, Growth, and Partnership

This past year, the Trinity Children, Youth, and Family Staff evaluated current practices, researched best practices, and visited vibrant churches. We reviewed the recommendations of the Trinity Faith & Family 2020 Team. We visited with many of our parents, and, of course, we prayed for God's guidance as we compiled all our work and aligned what bubbled to the surface with Baptism Promises, Trinity's new Mission Statement and Core Values. We have some key messages you can look at in detail on the Middle School section of trinitylc.org. Here are a few highlights:

- Lutheran tradition and various research studies continue to show that parents and caregivers are the “pastors” of their families. Our goal is to equip, walk alongside, and empower them to be the primary influencers of their family's faith. We want to *partner with*, not *replace*.
- Research supports the statement “faith is caught more than taught” and *cross-generational* faith formation (connecting the youngest baby to the oldest grandparent) has the most lasting impact on lifelong faith engagement.
- As a church, we don't want to do more programs – we want to cultivate deeper faith experiences (think *milestones*—the Confirmation journey is one) that impact and sustain for a lifetime. We want to keep the kid and the family connected *after* Confirmation day.
- Worshipping together as a family (those in your house and with the whole Christian community) is an *essential* part of being the Church.

A Few Dates to Know

Our Wednesday nights continue to begin with a family dinner at 5:30 PM, followed by our sessions together in the Worship Center from 6 – 7:30 PM (Current Family Worship moves to the end of each night, starting at 7:05 PM). Some important dates:

- **Wednesday, October 2:** 6/7/8: First session of the year
- **Friday, November 8-9:** 6/7/8 Confirmation Overnight at Camp St. Croix
- **Wednesday, Dec. 11:** Final gathering before Christmas break (off Dec. 18 and 25)
- **Wednesday, January 15, 2020:** First session back after Christmas break (off Jan. 1 and 8)
- **Wednesday, April 29, 2020:** 6/7/8: Final session for the year
- **Sunday, October 25, 2020:** Confirmation Day for current 8th graders (more info to come)

What's the Same as Last Year?

- 6/7/8 Small Groups, meeting most Wednesdays in the Worship Center, led by Monty Lysne
- 9th grade Small Groups, meeting most Wednesdays in the Garden Room, led by Pastor Peter (for the final year as we complete our transition)
- Special Service or Social small group events, planned by the individual small groups will take place occasionally each month
- Dinner most Wednesdays in the Garden Room from 5:30 PM – 6 PM

What's New in 2019-2020?

- Parent orientation sessions are *mandatory*, and two options will be offered: Wednesday, Sept. 18 from 6 – 7:30 PM or Sunday, Sept. 29 from 1 – 2:30 PM
- “All In” sessions, focused on various family faith formation and real-world topics to be a part of the schedule on various days during the year. All ages are encouraged to attend these events.
- We're focusing more intentionally on aligning Trinity's Mission Statement and Core Values as well as the Baptismal Promises into the 6/7/8 Confirmation process
- Confirmation Binder introduced: a binder to help focus growth and collect various required sheets/forms to be kept over the entire Confirmation journey
- Confirmation overnight for 6/7/8, November 8-9 at Camp St. Croix in Hudson, WI. (TBA)
- Each Wednesday “Current” worship is now at the end of the night, not the beginning, starting at 7:05 PM and ending at 7:30 PM. So, stop in a bit early to pick up your child, and join in a short worship service together
- Worship Reflections: attend 6 worship services each year (at Trinity or somewhere else) and complete a short reflection form on each
- Complete two service events each year with your small group, and fill out a reflection sheet on each
- Birth – 5th grade Faith Formation moves from Wednesday evenings to Sunday mornings, so only 6/7/8 and 9 will be at church on Wednesdays

Don't Worry!

We know that being a Middle Schooler (and the parent of a Middle Schooler) can be an overwhelming, stressful journey with demands from multiple areas. As a parent of twin 8th grade girls, I definitely understand this. Everything coming at you may seem overwhelming at first, but we hope you will see what we are proposing and expecting of families is measured, relevant, and focused on providing the most faithful faith formation experience possible.

I truly love being around your kids, our fantastic Small Group Guides, and the energy everyone brings to church each Wednesday, and can't wait to fire it all up again this fall! As always, if you have any questions or comments, please connect with me via email at mlysne@trinitylc.org, text at 651-400-0303, or call my direct line at church, 651-323-1324.

Blessings,

Monty Lysne
Coordinator, Middle School Faith Formation