**St. James and St. Peter Lutheran Church Confirmation Schedule**

Confirmation 2023-2024: Bible Year | Confirmation 2024-2025: Catechism Year

**Wednesdays at St. James Allison from 6:30pm-7:30pm**

Sept. 13: Information night! Parents attend

Sept. 20: Marty Lu + Acolyte Training - Students must attend!

Sept. 27: Canon

Oct. 4: Genesis

***Optional* Oct. 6th-7th Friday–Saturday – Jr. High Lock-in UNI Wellness/Recreation Center**

Oct. 11: Exodus

Oct. 18: Law

Oct. 25: Judges/History

*Oct. 29: 9th Grade Confirmation, 9:00 am Worship*

*Oct. 31: Halloween Trunk or Treat and Trick-or-Treat for Food Pantry at respective churches*

Nov. 1: Babylonian Captivity

Nov. 8: Prophets

Nov. 15: Psalms/Wisdom

Nov. 22: No confirmation: Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 29: Plan Christmas Eve w/ Luther League *at respective churches*

Dec. 6: Job/Lament

Dec. 13: White Elephant Christmas Party 🎉 (Bring a wrapped gift - free/under $10)

Dec. 20: Christmas Eve service practice (All St. James Youth, 7-12th grade)

*Dec. 24: Christmas Eve service: Assist with service at respective churches*

Dec. 27: No confirmation: Christmas Break

 *Homework for 8th graders: Begin choosing a confirmation verse*

 *Homework for ALL: Find a Lent Mentor by Jan. 7*

Jan. 3: The Rise of Rome

Jan. 10: The New Testament

Jan. 17: Comparing the Gospels

Jan. 24: Comparing the Gospels

Jan. 31: Comparing the Gospels/”Ask the Pastor” Night

Feb. 7: Worship Plan/Practice - *Meet at respective churches* - Must Attend!

Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday - Lent Mentor Meeting - *Invite your mentor!* - Both must attend!

Feb. 22: Lent Mentors

Feb. 28: Lent Mentors

Mar. 6: Lent Mentors

Mar. 13: No Lent Mentors, Spring Break

Mar. 20: Lent Mentors

Mar. 28-31: No formal Lent Mentors (Meet sometime during HOLY WEEK)

Mar. 28: Maundy Thursday + First Communion Night

Mar. 29: St. James Youth LEAD WORSHIP - Good Friday

Apr. 3: Acts (+ Write mentor thank-you notes)

Apr. 10: Paul and the Early Church

Apr. 17: Paul’s Theology

Apr. 24: Letters

*Homework for 8th graders: Finalize confirmation verse*

May 1: “Ask the Pastor” Night and *Confirmation Olympics*

May 8: End of Year Par-tay! 🎉 *and Service Project*

*Summer break! 🌞*

Sept. 4, 2024: 9th grade meeting at 6:30pm

Sept. 11, 2024: Confirmation begins again 😀

Confirmation Curriculum

When infants and children are brought to be baptized, parents and sponsors make faith promises for them. "You are entrusted with responsibilities, "to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace." -Service of Holy Baptism

In the service of Affirmation of Baptism, confirmands “confirm” / “affirm” these baptismal promises for themselves, saying, "In faith, I turn to Christ."

Our confirmation curriculum is a *two-year rotation* for 7th and 8th graders. It is based on the Small Catechism (Apostles’ Creed, Ten Commandments, and Lord’s Prayer), the Lutheran Sacraments (Holy Baptism and Holy Communion), Lutheran Church History, and the Bible (Old and New Testament). This curriculum prepares middle-school students to publicly affirm the promises made at the time of their baptism. It is a process of gaining a deeper understanding of God’s love, our relationship with God, God’s people, and God’s creation.

*In 2023-2024, we will focus on the Bible. In 2024-2025, we will focus on the small catechism, Lutheran church history, and sacraments. My hope for confirmation is that it is a fun place for students to seek deeper understanding about the church, the Bible, and God, while asking questions and stewarding the mysteries of God (1 Cor. 4:1).*

Confirmation Night Format

Wednesday Nights from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

The weekly confirmation program is made up of a mixture of large group lessons, small group discussions and activities, and learning through games, service, and projects.

Each confirmation session will be divided into a large group and a small group session. We begin our evening together with fellowship, have large group learning, then move into small group time. Small group time is designed to give youth a chance to discuss how the topic applies to their life and how it shapes their faith.

Our evening together ends at 7:30pm. Parents are always welcome to attend any or all parts of our confirmation nights.

Mentoring/Lenten Worship

Mentoring helps build meaningful relationships between adults and youth, where both can grow and learn spiritually from each other. Mentoring sessions are designed to give students another adult in their life who will pray for them and share in their faith development.

Each student will be responsible for finding their own mentor by January 7, 2024. They should be a member that is active in their congregation. You may not choose a family member. Students pairing up with one mentor may be an option. Please talk to Pastor Rebecca if you need help.

There will be a Student/Mentor meeting on Ash Wednesday following worship: **Wednesday, February 14, 2024**. The mentoring sessions will take place during the season of Lent: February 14, 2023 - March 27, 2023. Students and families will attend midweek Lenten worship services and students will meet with their mentors after worship each Wednesday. Students and mentors will have a question/prompt sheet after service that will help spark conversation. These forms won’t need to be turned in, but may help guide conversation.

8th Grade Expectations

Bible Verse: Students will choose a Bible verse that has personal meaning to them.

9th Grade Retreat: Youth have a short day retreat during the late summer before their 9th grade year to discuss the promises that they will make during the service of Affirmation of Baptism and what to expect in high school. Date TBD.

Affirmation of Baptism Service will be Sunday, October 27, 2024.

**Confirmation Covenant**

*Confirmand and parents please review, sign and return this covenant*

Student name:

Current Grade:

Birthday:

Cell phone number:

Favorite drink (Gatorade, Sprite, etc.):

Favorite candy (Twix, Skittles, etc.):

Favorite snack (Goldfish, Cheez-Its, etc.):

Dietary Restrictions/Allergies (No peanuts, etc.):

Activities (Football, basketball, choir, piano, etc.):

To the best of my ability, I intend to grow in faith through:

**Attending:** I will attend our regular meetings on Wednesday nights, and other dates TBD, making them a priority. I will attend 70% of classes and worship services and I will write at least *16 sermon notes* (Affirmation Sunday, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Easter count x2.) “Bonus points” can be arranged with Pastor Rebecca (attending other services, etc. may count towards sermon notes.)

**Worshiping:** I will regularly attend worship at St. James and participate in worship as acolyte, lector, cantor, taking sermon notes, etc., as opportunities arise.

**Growing Spiritually:** I will read my Bible, pray, and take advantage of chances to grow spiritually. I will make an effort to participate in our confirmation class by asking and answering questions.

**Christian Relationships and Respect for Others:** I will seek to build up the body of Christ by the way I talk with and talk about others. I will seek to let maturity, grace and forgiveness be my guide in dealing with conflict. I will respect myself, others, and church property, knowing if I damage something I may need to replace it. I will respect the confidentiality of things shared by my peers during class.

**Serving:** I will participate in service projects we take on during the year as part of our class. I

will serve as an acolyte and show up for my assigned worship dates.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Confirmand signature)

**Parent Affirmation**

I have read the covenant above and I intend to support my child on their confirmation journey by supporting their participation in the program. To the best of my ability I will do this through: praying for them, transportation, asking questions, participating in any family aspects of the program that develop, strive to make Wednesday evenings and Sunday morning worship a priority in the life of our family. NOTE: Adults are welcome at class at any time. Please let Pastor Rebecca know if you would like to join us!

I give permission for my child to participate in all confirmation activities, including service projects and other activities TBD. I understand every effort will be made to contact me in case of an emergency: In case my child needs immediate medical attention, I authorize medical personnel or St. James Lutheran staff and volunteers to secure any medical treatment deemed necessary for my child.

I give permission for potential photos of my child, taken during confirmation activities, to be uploaded to St. James Facebook/Instagram page and/or website.

 (All adults who will be involved in the support of this young person are asked to sign below.)

Name(s):

Address:

Email(s):

Cell(s):

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**Small Group Leaders - Confirmation Covenant**

*Mentors please review, sign and return this covenant*

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

As a confirmation small group leader and mentor, I will…

-show up for my students and attend worship with them

-ask good questions, pray for them, encourage them, love them, and seek opportunities to support them and their activities

-lead small group time and help Pastor Rebecca lead/teach class when she is unavailable

-help remind students about upcoming class/worship/activities

-listen to my students and keep the information shared during confirmation between our small group, unless I am ever in doubt (tell Pastor Rebecca) or to protect the safety of the student or someone else

 (Mentor Signature)