



*Affirming Baptism
&
Making Disciples*

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Grade 9
2022-2023

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
General Program Expectations	
Worship Participation	4
Learning for 9th Grade	11
Cost of Confirmation	12
Things You Need to Know	13
Stuff for Parents	13
9th Grade Calendar	16

Over the past few years so much in our world has changed. The pandemic has forced us to live differently, and it has been so very hard for everyone. Yet, with all the changes, there are two things that have remained constant – our calling to be disciples of Jesus, and the embrace of a loving God who renews and restores us.



That is what our baptism is about – living out our calling, while being empowered by God’s promises of grace. Long ago, at the baptism of your child, you entered into a covenant that is built on

the calling and the promise. And in return you promised to share your faith, nurture discipleship, and connect your child with the community of God's people.

The confirmation program at Our Savior's seeks to assist you in your ongoing faithfulness to your promises. We can't take your place – you are the parent! We can, however, support your work and join you in this journey.

Our Savior's confirmation ministry focusses on creating disciples. In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus directs us to baptize...teach...and make disciples. For 2000 years that is what the church has done. And we continue that task in 2022. We seek to make disciples of our young people, disciples ready to make a difference in a hurting, broken world. How we do that has changed over the centuries, but the calling and the presence of God's Holy Spirit, the dynamic of baptism, remains the same.

So, in a sense, our program itself becomes an exercise in living out our baptism! We are, therefore, excited to have you join us in our journey of faithful living as we not only learn about discipleship, but as we live it out in our gathering, exploring, learning, and growing in faith!

General Program Outline

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

Worship is essential to our lives as disciples of Jesus. In worship we take intentional time to bring praise and adoration to the God

who has given us everything. At the same time we receive the blessings of a good and gracious God through Word and Sacrament, given in the midst of the gathered Body of Christ. Can't beat it...and you can't get it anywhere else! Being off by yourself just isn't the same!

During Covid, however, we have also discovered the opportunity of worshiping online, and many have made use of that avenue of worship. Either way, worship is not about us, but about a good and gracious God who gathers us together, in person or virtually, and nourishes us with life!

All of our families are encouraged to worship together. Even secular experts list "worshiping together" as one way families can remain strong and connected.

9th graders are complete "worship notes" for each service. **20 worship notes are expected** from September to Easter. Worship includes Saturday/Sunday, but also special services – Christmas, Lent, etc. If you attend another church, bring a bulletin from the church, signed by the pastor to document your attendance. You can also watch the video and submit a "worship note" online, but online notes will be counted as ½ value. We will give an update periodically, but it is the confirmand's responsibility to keep track of their participation in worship. **We also encourage families to sign up to usher – it's not that hard!**

Learning for Grade 9

9th grade confirmands use a different schedule than the 7-8th graders. The 9th grade year focuses on discipleship, and includes a

number of interactive experiences designed to develop and strengthen discipleship in the confirmand.

Unless otherwise noted classes are Wednesday evenings from 7-8 PM. Some learning will take place in activities outside of class, either with the small group, or confirmands working on their own.

9th graders' learning includes a variety of discipleship experiences:

September – The spiritual gifts God has given you, and how you can use them to make a difference.

October – How does Jesus make a difference in the midst of all the “monsters” we experience in life?

November – Learning to appreciate what other generations share with us, and giving thanks for their presence.

December – Celebrating the gifts – and pondering the gift we are and can be to others. How can I make a difference in the world?

January/February – Learning to be good stewards of our financial resources as we manage our money well and find new ways to make a difference in the world.

See the schedule on page 15 for more details on discipleship training for 9th grades. Parents should note that they will be asked to join the class in early December, and again twice in January/February.

The Cost of Confirmation

Confirmation has a cost! Staff time investment is significant, and we use a variety of resources to make things happen, all of which have a cost. 9th graders also have a cost of \$15 for corsages,

boutonnieres, and a class picture. In general, however, Our Savior's offers our confirmation ministry without charging participants as part of our ministry to the community around us!

So, how do we make it work? Through our regular offerings and gifts that support the ministry of this congregation, we make this discipleship ministry a reality. ***Your support of this congregation's regular ministries is an important part of making a difference in the lives of your children, children around us, and those who will enter this ministry in years to come.***

Finally, don't forget to pray for us! Confirmation is an exciting, exhilarating ministry, but it is also sometimes daunting and even a bit tiring. Pray for leaders, group guides, and for kids too!

Things You Need to Know

- We have worked hard to craft an engaging ministry that raises up disciples. We cannot, however, do it without parents. See page 13 for more on parent's role in this ministry.
- When West Salem schools have a snow day (or no school due to other reasons), or school dismisses early, confirmation will also be canceled that day. When in doubt, call the office!
- We know that electronics, including phones, are a big part of kids' lives, but not in class! Best to leave them home, but if they are here phones and other devices are to be turned off while class is in session. Devices not turned off will be "relocated" until class is ended.

- We expect confirmands to act as children of God. Discipline is not generally an issue, but if it is we will work with parents. Some things will not be tolerated:
 - Alcohol, drugs, and tobacco are not allowed at all.
 - If your child bullies or endangers other students, he/she will be removed.
 - Behavior disrespectful toward adults, or that is destructive of property, is not acceptable.
- If issues arise during the year please come and speak with us – we want what is best for all our confirmands, and we need your participation to make that happen!

Stuff for Parents

1. Show interest in your child's faith development and especially in their work toward affirming their baptism.
2. As pastoral staff, guides, and others in the confirmation ministry, we solicit and treasure your prayers and your insights. We are a team together.
3. Be a good example – you as parents have the greatest impact on the faith and life of your children. Believe it or not, they learn from you!
4. Worship with your child – they need it – and so do you. Studies show that families that worship together have a greater closeness, and work better together especially as kids get older.
5. Pray together as a family – it may be awkward at first, but you will grow into it!



9TH Grade Calendar

September 14	Getting to know the real you
September 21	Still “getting to know the real you”
October 5	You, Monsters, and Jesus
October 12	Preparing for Halloween Party
October 26	Halloween party for younger kids (6-7 PM)
November 2	Appreciating the gift of generations
December 7	Celebrating Advent with the “Hanging of the Greens” – <i>Class following worship, and ending around 8:15 – parents join us</i>
January 4 or 11	Stewardship-A – <i>parents join us</i>
January 25 or February 1	Stewardship-B – <i>parents join us</i>
February 8	So, What Comes Next?
March 1-8-15	Working on confirmation projects
April 12	So, What Comes Next? – Part 2
April 19	How Does That Work?
April 30	Confirmation Sunday