



*Affirming Baptism  
&  
Making Disciples*

Our Savior's  
Lutheran Church  
Grades 6-9  
2023-2024

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# Welcome!

Life is always changing. We know that, especially in light of the past few years! Still, 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 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. We seek to make disciples of our young people, disciples ready to make a difference in a hurting, broken world. So, in a sense, our program itself becomes an exercise in living out our baptism.

This year we transition – small groups will no longer be used. Also, over the next year the 9<sup>th</sup> grade material will be incorporated into the 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum, with 8<sup>th</sup> graders being confirmed.

Changes, but the gifts of God and our calling remain the same – grounded in Jesus and the Holy Spirit, we live out our baptism as faithful disciples!

# 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!

Over the past years, however, we have also discovered the opportunity of worshipping 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 “worshipping together” as one way families can remain strong and connected.

7-9<sup>th</sup> graders are to complete “worship notes” for each service. **20 worship notes are expected** from September to the end of May. 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.

**Finally, we ask our 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to participate more deeply in worship by serving as worship assistants, lighting candles and assisting with Holy Communion. We also encourage families to sign up to usher – it's not that hard!**

# After School Program

All kids are welcome to “after school” on Wednesdays. Come and hang out right after school is done, around 3 PM. Loosely structured activities, fellowship with other kids, and time for homework are all a part of “after school.” Dinner is included at 5:30, followed by class time for 6-7<sup>th</sup> graders at 6 PM.

Parents take one week to provide the meal. Guidance is available on good menu items, quantities, etc. It’s a great time to connect with the kids of this congregation, and best of all – *clean-up of eating space and dishes is NOT your responsibility!*

Kids who participate in “after school” sign in upon arriving. For security and safety reasons, after they sign in they are required to remain in the building or outside on the church grounds.

There is no “after school” on early release Wednesdays (October 11, February 7, May 8). No dinner is served, and we begin with classes at 6 PM.

Although 7<sup>th</sup> graders generally have class, there are a few Wednesdays when they do not have class. Nonetheless, they are always welcome to “after school” and dinner!

## Learning for Grade 6

6<sup>th</sup> graders meet Wednesdays from 6-7 PM, beginning September 13. Over the course of the year they survey the Biblical stories, from creation in Genesis to the creation of the church community in Acts. Along the way they hear of God’s call to be disciples, the revelation of God’s love through Jesus, and the power God gives

us to be faithful. Students are asked to bring their Bibles weekly. If a student doesn't have a Bible, we can help with that!

Classes are taught by Corey Sjoquist, who brings a wealth of experience in teaching this class, an energy to the classroom, and a deep love for God's people. He is a great example of discipleship in action. In this class students learn the stories and reflect on what they mean for us today, building a foundation for the next years in confirmation, and for a lifetime to come.

## Learning for Grade 7

Grade 7 includes a variety of learning experiences, including classroom and out of classroom activities. Course work for grade 7 consists of 13 core sessions, and five individual electives. Parental assistance will be needed during the course of the year, so please plan to be available some Wednesdays to make this all work!

- **Core courses cover foundational aspects of our life of faith.** Core courses meet 13 times, and attendance is expected of all students.
- **A “Servant Leadership” project.** An opportunity to live out our discipleship, and reflect on what it means to us.
- **Each student takes five electives** – each elective night students choose one of the two classes offered. *Unless noted, there is a limit of 6 in each elective course.*
- **Class sessions run from 6-7 PM on Wednesday evenings, unless otherwise noted.**
- **The Food Pantry Scavenger Hunt** is September 13. In smaller groups we go out with the 8<sup>th</sup> graders into the

community to gather donations for the food pantry – can your group get the biggest haul?

- **“Here We Come a Caroling”** is just what it says – December 20 we head out into the community to carol and share the joy of Christmas, with the 8<sup>th</sup> graders!

## **CORE COURSES**

**The Sacraments** – October 11 & 18, November 8

**The Ten Commandments** – November 29, January 3 & 17

**The Apostle’s Creed** – February 7, April 3 & 17

**Servant Leadership** – October 4, November 1, April 10

**Faithful Art** – January 24

## **ELECTIVE COURSES**

***[www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/confirmation-2/](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/confirmation-2/)***

November 15

***DOING THE WORSHIP THING***

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### **Working the System**

Worship includes some “behind the scenes” work on audio and video. Learn how our new tech system works, and how to operate it. Maybe...you can be one of our “techies!” *Limited to a maximum of 5 participants. This will require a second session.*

### **“Hanging of the Greens”**

Help Pastor Jean plan the Hanging of the Greens for December 6, and then...make it happen! You will meet twice – the second time to help lead worship. But don’t worry – it’s easier than you think! *Requires participation in worship on December 6 at 7 PM.*

### **Water, Water Everywhere...or Not!**

Pretty basic stuff, and in West Salem we have lots of it. But not everyone has it, and what if we have it...and it's not clean? A conversation on how we assure clean access to water for everyone. *Open to any number of participants. Taught by Our Savior's World Hunger team.*

### **Quilting**

No quilting this evening, but if you signed up for the quilting elective this is your "day off!" *Quilting is offered on early release Wednesdays (October 11, February 7, May 8). Enjoy!*

### **Grief and Faith**

Losing a loved one is really tough. But...there is hope...for healing and for life. Find out how to cope with the loss of someone special, and how to help others with their grief. *Taught by Pastor Kris Bjerke-Ulliman, Hospice Chaplain.*

### **Taking Care of Me**

God entrusts us with lots of stuff – including ourselves! Learn about ways to have a healthy you, taking care of your physical self, and being a good steward of God's gifts. *Taught by Naoko Giblin, professor at UW-L.*

### **Christian Symbols**

We use lots of symbols in church. We will learn a bit about symbols, and then venture into the sanctuary to look at the symbols used in our own church building.



## **Psalms – Writing Your Own**

The Psalms are prayers or hymns lifted up to God. We will explore the psalms, and then learn about writing our own psalm.

May 8

GOD’S GOOD CREATION

### **If Only the Leaves Could Talk...Oh Wait, They Can!**

Let’s take a walk in the neighborhood and explore the wonders of an “urban forest.” What are we seeing as the world returns to life after a long winter? And how is this part of God’s renewal of the earth? *Taught by Jim Kerkman, retired forester.*

### **Faithful...Flora...Future...**

Faithful living includes care for the creation around us. Learn about the flora and the ecosystems that have been affected and damaged, and how we can restore them as part of our faithful living. *Taught by Tyler Boudry, Conservation Biologist and Wildlife Technician.*

## **Learning for Grade 8**

*8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmands this year will transition to the new format and in so doing will be a “bridge” of sorts between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade.* That means a bit more work, but one fewer year of instruction. Kids will complete Core classes from the old 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum, move into the old 9<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum, and join on a few occasions with the 7<sup>th</sup> graders for activities.

- **Core courses cover foundational aspects of our life of faith.** Core courses meet 15 times, and attendance is expected of all students.

- **Class sessions run from 7-8 PM on Wednesday evenings, unless otherwise noted.**
- The **Food Pantry Scavenger Hunt** is September 13. In smaller groups we go out with the 7<sup>th</sup> graders **at 6 PM** into the community to gather donations for the food pantry – can your group get the biggest haul?
- **“Here We Come a Caroling”** is just what it says – December 20, **at 6 PM** – we head to carol and share the joy of Christmas, with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders!
- With the 9<sup>th</sup> graders they will put on a **Halloween Party for younger kids on October 25 at 6 PM**. One non-Wednesday session will be needed to prepare for the party.
- During Lent 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders will work on an **art project**, in preparation for Confirmation. We will meet on Wednesday evenings, following Lenten worship, on February 21 & 28, and March 6.
- **Affirmation of Baptism** for 8<sup>th</sup> graders is set for Sunday, April 28, at 10:30 AM.

## **CORE COURSES**

**The Lord’s Prayer** – October 18, November 15, December 13

**The Apostle’s Creed** – January 17 & 31, April 3

**Servant Leadership** – November 1, April 10

**Discipleship** – September 20, October 4 & 11, November 8 & 29,  
January 3 OR 10, January 24 OR February 7

*Note that parents are asked to attend January 3 or 10, AND  
January 24 or February 7.*

# Learning for Grade 9

*This is the last year for 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation, so they will be joining the 8<sup>th</sup> graders at times, but won't be as busy because they've already done some of the work!* Kids will complete Core classes from the old 9<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum.

- **Core courses cover foundational aspects of our life of faith.** Core courses meet eight times, and attendance is expected of all students.
- **Class sessions run from 7-8 PM on Wednesday evenings, unless otherwise noted.**
- **“Here We Come a Caroling”** is just what it says – December 20, **at 6 PM** – we head out to carol and share the joy of Christmas, with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders!
- With the 8<sup>th</sup> graders they will put on a **Halloween Party for younger kids on October 25 at 6 PM.** One non-Wednesday session will be needed to prepare for the party.
- During Lent 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders will work on an **art project**, in preparation for Confirmation. We will meet on Wednesday evenings, following Lenten worship, on February 21 & 28, and March 6.
- **Affirmation of Baptism** for 9<sup>th</sup> graders is set for Sunday, April 14, at 10:30 AM.

## CORE COURSES

**Discipleship** – September 13 & 27, October 11, November 8 & 29, December 13, January 3 OR 10, January 24 OR February 7

*Note that parents are asked to attend January 3 or 10, AND January 24 or February 7.*

# 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. 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 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, instructors, 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.
  - Bullying will lead to removal.
  - Behavior disrespectful toward adults, or 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, 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!



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Calendar

Date	Event
September 13	Scavenger hunt for food pantry
September 20	Connecting with mentors
September 27	NO CLASS
October 4	Servant Leadership Intro/Acolyte training
October 11	Core – Sacraments 1
October 18	Core – Sacraments 2
October 25	NO CLASS
November 1	Core – Servant leadership 1
November 8	Core – Sacraments 3
November 15	Elective
November 22	<i>Thanksgiving worship</i>
November 29	Core – Ten commandment 1
December 6	NO CLASS
December 13	Elective
December 20	Caroling
December 27	<i>Christmas Break</i>
January 3	Core – Ten Commandments 2
January 10	Elective
January 17	Core – Ten Commandments 3
January 24	Core – “Faithful Art”
January 31	NO CLASS
February 7	Core – Apostle’s Creed 1
Feb 14-March 27	<i>Lent and Holy Week worship</i>
April 3	Core – Apostle’s Creed 2
April 10	Servant Leadership 2
April 17	Core – Apostle’s Creed 3
April 24	NO CLASS
May 1	Elective
May 8	Elective

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Calendar

Date	Event
September 13**	Scavenger hunt for food pantry
September 20	Core – Spiritual Gifts 1
September 27	NO CLASS
October 4	Core – Spiritual Gifts 2
October 11	Core – Jesus, Monsters and Me
October 18	Prep for party; Core – LP/1
October 24**	Prep for party
October 25**	Halloween Party
November 1	Servant leadership 1
November 8	Core – Generations
November 15	Core – Prayer 2
November 22	<i>Thanksgiving worship</i>
November 29	Core – Family values
December 6	<i>Hanging of the Greens</i>
December 13	Core – Prayer 3
December 20**	Caroling
December 27	<i>Christmas Break</i>
January 3	Core – Finance 1
January 10	Core – Finance 1
January 17	Core – Apostle's Creed 1
January 24	Core – Finance 2
January 31	Core – Apostle's Creed 2
February 7	Core – Finance 2
Feb 14-March 27	<i>Lent and Holy Week worship</i>
April 3	Core – Apostle's Creed 3
April 10	Servant Leadership 2
April 17	Closing stuff
April 28**	Affirmation of Baptism (10:30 AM)

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Calendar

Date	Event
September 13	Core – Spiritual Gifts 1
September 20	NO CLASS
September 27	Core – Spiritual Gifts 2
October 4	NO CLASS
October 11	Core – Jesus, Monsters and Me
October 18	Prep for party (30 min)
October 24**	Prep for party
October 25**	Halloween Party
November 1	NO CLASS
November 8	Core - Generations
November 15	NO CLASS
November 22	<i>Thanksgiving worship</i>
November 29	Core – Family values
December 6	<i>Hanging of the Greens</i>
December 13	Core – Discipleship
December 20**	Caroling
December 27	<i>Christmas Break</i>
January 3	Core – Finance 1
January 10	Core – Finance 1
January 17	NO CLASS
January 24	Core – Finance 2
January 31	NO CLASS
February 7	Core – Finance 2
Feb 14-March 27	<i>Lent and Holy Week worship</i>
April 3	NO CLASS
April 10	Closing stuff
April 14**	Affirmation of Baptism (10:30 AM)