



BETHEL CONFIRMATION
STUDENT HANDBOOK
2016-2017

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WHAT IS CONFIRMATION ALL ABOUT?

Confirmation is a strategy of faith formation based on the color orange.

It starts with two individual influences in a child's life:



Alone, these two work hard to ensure that every child has a

**BETTER
FUTURE**

But when they're COMBINED, the home and church will have a

**GREATER
IMPACT**

And that is... our ORANGE strategy. Simple.

Confirmation at Bethel is rooted in three core values, which are expressed in three ways:

1. CORE GROUPS - Discovery of Who God Created Me to Be
2. CONNECTING - Wonder for Who God Is & Passion for Loving Others
3. CLASSES - How I Fit into God's Story

CORE GROUPS: DISCOVERY OF WHO GOD CREATED ME TO BE

The heart of our confirmation ministry, this monthly Core Groups gathering is for middle school youth, along with Small Group Leaders, for pizza, games, large group teaching, and small group Bible study and discussion by grade level. The goal of these monthly gatherings will be to create relevant small group communities – a safe place to explore hard questions and wonderings of faith.

Participate in 30 “Core Group” experiences (10 per year) throughout confirmation.

2nd Sundays @ 6-7:30pm - Meet in Borgwardt Hall

Monthly Themes:

September: Parent, Student, Leader Kickoff!

October: “Wired”

We are wired for connection with God, self, and others.

Matthew 22: The Greatest Commandment

November: “Power Play”

Relationships = power.

How we use that power matters.

The Apostle Paul

December: Overflow”

We are called to be compassionate and share our stuff. Matthew 6: Where your treasure is, your heart will be also

January: “Stepping Up”

How do we deal with life’s challenges?

Book of Joshua

February: “Stepping Up” continued

March: “Me”

How do we deal with disappointment?

Parables of Jesus

April: “We Are Young”

We can make a difference

Book of Timothy

May: “Real Talk”

How do I talk to God?

Understanding the Lord’s Prayer

June: CoreGroups Wrap Up @ 10-11am

3rd Sundays @ 10-11am - meet in Youth Lounge/Games Room

3rd Sundays will be a follow up to 2nd Sunday themes. It will be a time to discover your identity as children of God through small groups, play, creativity, and community, based on the theme from the previous Sunday evening. Not required, but an experiment this year as we navigate a new model and incorporate our previous model of confirmation. Come on 2nd Sunday nights and/or 3rd Sunday mornings!

Dates are:

October 16

November 20

December 18

January 15

February 19

March 19

April 16 – Easter – NO Core Groups today

May 21

CONNECTING: WONDER FOR WHO GOD IS & PASSION FOR LOVING OTHERS

It is the intent of our confirmation ministry to help youth feel connected to their faith and church community during confirmation and beyond. By connecting with God's story, finding their place in it, and seeing the story of faith played out in a larger community, we hope that young people take opportunities to grow in faith and connectedness to God, self, and others.

Rush Hour/Other Service Hours

Please complete 30 throughout confirmation journey by participating in Rush Hour and/or serving in church or the community. Record online: www.bethelmadison.org/confirmationservicehours or sign in at Rush Hour events.

Complete service hours by participating in "Rush Hour" on the 1st Sunday of the month!

Various service projects @ 10-11am - meet in Youth Lounge (Games Room)

Oct. 2: Acolyte Training/Fleece hat making for homeless ministry

Nov. 6: Care packages for college students

Dec. 4: Food Pantry soap/deodorant collection and Food Pantry tour

January 1: no Rush Hour today!

Feb. 5: Souper-Bowl of Caring

Mar. 5: Core Group Give & Grow Projects (see below)

Apr. 2: Core Group Give & Grow Projects

May 7: Card making for ill and shut-ins

Retreats at Bethel Horizons

We offer two retreats each year at Bethel Horizons. Retreats are wonderful opportunities to gather in community, discover and be surprised by God, and have a lot of fun! In the fall of 9th grade, students are invited to our annual retreat just for them as they prepare for the Rite of Confirmation.

Participate in 3 weekend retreats in 6-8th grade & in 9th Grade Fall Retreat.

Students are always welcome to attend more if desired.

Fall Retreat: September 23-24, 2016

Spring Retreat: April 21-22, 2016

Week-Long Mission Trip

Participate in one week-long experience, typically summer after 8th grade.

CONNECTING: WONDER FOR WHO GOD IS & PASSION FOR LOVING OTHERS (cont'd)

Worship Reports

Complete 45 throughout confirmation journey by writing your first and last name on the front of your worship bulletin, and have an adult sign (preferably not your parent – be brave and ask another adult you know!).

Acolyting in Worship

Acolyting is a way of serving our congregation in worship. Acolytes are in 6-8th grade. The schedule is created approximately 3 times per year, and you will receive an email requesting your preferences for dates and service times.

Fall acolyte trainings will take place on (attend only 1):

Sunday, October 2 @ 10-11am in the sanctuary or October 9 @ 5:30pm in the Sanctuary.

For all of the above, visit www.bethelmadison.org/confirmation for info and links to sign up.

Bethel Youth Music Ensemble

The Bethel Youth Music Ensemble (BYME) is a vocal and instrumental music ministry group, open to all Bethel members in 6th-12th grades. Amy Hartsough and Tony Ward will serve as co-directors with the goal of youth being the driving force behind leading our congregations in song. As with all our ensembles, there's no audition; just a desire to put what God gave you to good use.

Singers and instrumentalists are needed and welcome.

BYME will lead sung worship in the Sanctuary and Pentecost Room four times this year.

Rehearsals will be twice monthly, on the 2nd & 3rd Sunday evenings, 5:00-6:00pm beginning September 18. This convenient and relatively low-impact commitment was designed to accommodate our youth's busy lives while making music ministry a deeply meaningful part of their faith journey.

Receive 2 class credits for participation (per year).

CLASSES: HOW I FIT INTO GOD'S STORY

Classes are offered as an opportunity for an in-depth examination of how we fit into God's story. Classes will have a particular emphasis on the Bible, faith practices and Lutheran foundations, or the role of society and culture in faith. You need not complete a certain number of classes in each category, as they will match (for the most part) our Core Group monthly themes which will cover all three emphases throughout the year.

Each class is 2 hours, please plan to attend both 1-hour classes unless otherwise noted. Please participate in 20 classes (40 hours) throughout your confirmation experience.

Generally offered 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 10-11am (a few other days/dates offered as well).

Sign up online: bethel-madison.org/confirmationclasses

Fall 2016 Classes:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| September 25
@ 10-11am | LWR School Kit packing & sorting
<i>Sort, count, and package school supplies for Lutheran World Relief.</i> | Leader: Elisabeth Himmelman |
| October 9 & 23
@ 10-11am | Option 1: Where's God in All the Gossip?
<i>What does the Bible say about how we talk to and about each other?</i> | Leader: Kym Davick |
| | Option 2: Christian Symbols of our Faith
<i>Explore the symbols, signs, and artwork of our faith throughout the church building.</i> | Leader: Lisa Huber |
| WEDNESDAY, Nov. 2
@ 5:45-8:15pm | Confirmation Extravaganza - Synod Event @ Bethel
Cost: \$5
<i>This annual event is for all confirmation age youth in churches in our synod. This years' theme, "Nailed It," is all about the role the Reformation plays in our Lutheran faith. Hands-on learning and worship with 800 youth from our area congregations!</i> | |
| November 13 only
@ 10am-12pm | Right or Wrong, Who Decides?
<i>Explore what the Bible says about how to decide between right and wrong.</i> | Leader: Pastor John |
| SATURDAY, Dec. 3
@ 11am-1pm | Foods of the Bible
Cost: \$5. <i>Explore what types of foods were eaten and why in Bible times. Lunch will be prepared and consumed by participants.</i> | Leaders: John & Jacqui Shanda |
| December 11 only
@ 10am-12pm | The Birth & Early Life of Jesus
<i>Why does Jesus' birth matter today?</i> | Leader: Jeff Bittner |

Spring Class sign ups will be available via email and web by December 1.

Questions to Elisabeth@bethel-madison.org

Bethel Lutheran Church Release and Medical Consent Form

Please return for 2016-2017. We will keep one form on file for all activities.

Name of Participant (please print) _____

Name of Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) _____

Liability Release Agreement: I(we) understand that there are inherent risks involved in any event, and I(we) hereby release Bethel Lutheran Church, its staff and volunteers from any and all liability due to any injury, loss or damage to person or property that may occur during the course of our involvement with Bethel Lutheran Church, 312 Wisconsin Avenue, Madison, WI 53703. (608-257-3577)

Transportation Home Agreement: I(we) understand that any behavior unbecoming of Christian youth is grounds for the restriction or dismissal from the youth activity. If the participant named above is dismissed from the youth event, I(we) will be responsible for transportation home.

Medical Release Agreement: I(we), the undersigned, am(are) the parent(s) or guardian(s) having legal custody of the above named participant, a minor. I(we) give our consent for him(her) to attend various youth event(s) operated by Bethel Lutheran Church of Madison, WI. In the event that he(she) is injured while attending an event, and requires the attention of a doctor, I(we) consent to any reasonable medical treatment deemed necessary by a licensed physician. In the event treatment is called for, which a physician and/or hospital personnel refuses to administer without our consent, I(we) hereby authorize _____, the lead adult of the group, or a member of Bethel Lutheran Church staff to give such consent for us if I(we) cannot immediately be reached by phone at one of the numbers listed below, or if because of an emergency, there is not time or opportunity to make a phone call. In the event it becomes necessary for that person to give consent for me(us), I(we) agree to hold such person free and harmless of any claims, demands or suits for damages arising from the giving of such consent so long as the treatment is administered by or under the supervision of a licensed physician. I(we) also acknowledge that I(we) will be ultimately responsible for the cost of any medical care should the cost of that care not be reimbursed by the health insurance carrier. Further, I(we) affirm that the health insurance information provided below is accurate as of this date and will, to the best of my(our) knowledge, still be in force for the participant named above.

Student Full Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Cell Phone _____ Family Email Address _____

Date of last Tetanus Shot _____ Known Allergies _____

Does participant carry medication on their person? (if none, so state; if yes, specify what it is)

Current Medications or Health Conditions _____

_____ (use additional space as needed).

Emergency Contact Information

1. _____

Relationship to participant _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

2. _____

Relationship to participant _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Insurance Information – if this section is left blank, it implies the participant is uninsured, and all necessary medical expense will be the responsibility of the undersigned. Bethel Lutheran Church event leaders will be only the party of conveyance.

Name of health insurance company _____

Health insurance policy number _____

Phone/address of health insurance company _____

Policy holder's phone number _____

Family Physician _____ Phone _____

Participation at a Bethel Lutheran Church event is contingent upon compliance with all the policies stated on the previous page: Liability Release, Transport Home, and Medical Release.

Parent/Guardian (1) (Print) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian (2) (Print) _____

Signature _____ Date _____