

## 7/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation – Wednesday Class

2011-2012

### Required Materials

Luther's Small Catechism (2005) burgundy cover  
New International Version (NIV) Bible  
Notebook  
Paper  
Pencils/pens

### Rationale

Confirmation is a time of spiritual growth in the life of the students. This means that they will come into a closer, more meaningful relationship with their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Each year of study in school and home has led them to this point. Now is the time for them to take all that they have learned and begin to process it into their own personal lives. They will learn what it means to be 1) a Christian, and 2) a Lutheran. In confirmation class they will come to know that it is important to know Jesus personally as their Savior. They will also learn that it is important to feed their faith regularly through worship, study and prayer.

Confirmation Sunday will be April 22, 2012 with public questioning taking place in the Saturday evening service, April 21.

We will cover the Small Catechism. This book is the basic teaching tool of the Lutheran Church. The main area of study will be an introduction to the Christian faith, Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer and basic Church history with a focus on Lutheran history. We are on a 2 year cycle of study (the 2<sup>nd</sup> year covering the Baptism, Office of Keys and Confession, Lord's Supper and Old/New Testament history.)

Through the year, the students will be asked to put their faith into practice. At those times, they will learn that faith in Jesus Christ is not mere "head" knowledge but is "heart" knowledge as well. They will learn that they need to be practicing their faith day after day, not only in preparation for confirmation but through out the rest of their lives.

### Requirements

Each student is required to complete any and all assignments given in class. Memory work is also assigned and each student is expected to know this memory work. The memory schedule will be given at the beginning of each quarter.

Students are expected to complete 2 sermon summaries a month (Sept-April). This means that they will need to be worship at least twice a month. The expectation is that they will be worshipping regularly with their families anyway. Worship is a very important part of the confirmation experience. A copy of the summaries are available.

The students will be asked to do various things through out the year (i.e. worksheets, looking up Bible passages and explaining their meaning, reading articles, writing short papers, etc.). There will be nothing unusually difficult. The students are expected to complete all assignments in the time given.

## **Grading**

The grading scale is according to the St. Paul's School handbook. If the student does his/her work, does the memory work, and completes the sermon summaries, there should be no problem receiving a good grade in this class. If the student refuses to do the work, does a poor job on memory work, he/she will receive a poor grade.

Each memory passage is worth 5 points. If the student is able to get through the passage with 1 or less helps, he/she will receive all 5 points. If there are 2 helps, 4 points; 3 helps, 3 points; 4 helps, 2 points; 5 helps, 1 point. I expect the student to know the memory work when they come into class, not trying to learn it when they arrive in the classroom.

## **Sermon summaries**

The sermon summaries are to be done monthly according to this schedule:

Sept. summaries due on Oct. 5

Oct. summaries due on Nov. 2

Nov. summaries due on Dec. 7

Dec. summaries due on Jan. 4

Jan. summaries due on Feb. 1

Feb. summaries due on March 7

March summaries due on April 11

April summaries due on May 2

While this is the due date, the summaries can be handed as soon as they are completed so that they do not get lost. It is best to hand them in either following the service when they are completed or on the Wednesday after they have been completed. It is also best to complete the summaries early in the month. Work on the sermon summaries the 1<sup>st</sup> 2 services you attend each month and then you won't have any problem getting them completed.

The sermon summaries should be completed here at St. Paul's. These sermon summaries may be done on any worship service: Sunday, Saturday, Sunday evening, Wednesday evening. You need to do 2 sermon summaries a month.

Each summary is worth 25 points for a total of 50 points a month. These do affect the grade each quarter so it is important for the student to complete 2 a month. If the summaries are not turned in on time, they will be penalized 1 point a day that they are late (from the day when they are due).

## **Confirmation Retreat**

We will be going to the Southern Illinois District Junior High Retreat as part of the confirmation program. This will take place Oct. 8 (Saturday, 4:00 p.m.) – Oct. 10 (Monday 10:30 a.m.) at Camp Wartburg. All St. Paul's youth are required to attend this as part of the confirmation experience. Only in extreme cases will exceptions be made.

## **Attendance**

The students are expected to be in class every Wednesday. If they are not going to make the class, the student should get a hold of Pastor Schuessler to let him know. You can call the church office (667-6681), his cell phone (618-553-3133) or email him ([revmitchel@yahoo.com](mailto:revmitchel@yahoo.com)). As we meet only once a week, we will be covering a lot of material and to miss a week causes the student to fall behind.