

here we stand

6th – 8th Grade Confirmation Orientation
August 31, 2011
6:30 – 7:20



Welcome



Opening Prayer



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Schedule/Calendar



Schedule:

On most Wednesdays we will meet from 6:30 – 8:00 in Wold Hall. We will begin with worship. We will have a large group teaching time moving into small groups and close in large group. On the first Wednesday of every month from September 2011 – May 2012 (excluding during Lent) we will participate in an event with several other area churches which will alternate locations. We will do our best to keep to the same timeframe. These events will either be fellowship or service focused.



Calendar:

Please see attached calendar for specific dates, topics, and events.

Please note our first one as it occurs the first week of school:

*Kick It Kick Off: Hip Hop artist Agape will be at one of our Wildfire churches to help jumpstart our fall activities. Open to all youth. Cost covered in registration fee.

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Expectations



It is expected that all confirmation students ...

- *will diligently strive to seek the Lord
- *will respect and love one another as children of God
- *will attend all scheduled classes and events unless excused prior to the event → especially Wildfire events
 - *All Wildfire events are mandatory and must be made-up with a service project in the event of an absence
- *will regularly attend worship and 957
- *will complete 20 worship journal entries per year
- *will complete assignments as noted in class
- *will arrange with Pastor Jill an alternative if unable to complete requirements



It is expected that all confirmation parents ...

- *will diligently strive to seek the Lord
- *will respect and love one another as children of God
- *will regularly attend worship
- *will support and encourage their children
- *will take responsibility for the success of the program by volunteering according to leadership needs.

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Costs



The cost for educational materials and every required event described in this packet will be covered by the \$65 per student registration fee. Most required events will take place during regular Confirmation hours. Other fellowship events like ValleyScare and Moonlight Madness are highly encouraged yet optional and will usually have extra cost associated with them.

Ultimate Reward (Goal) – Philippians 3:10-11



So why do we strive and suffer and accept the costs of the Confirmation program? We do this because we believe that what Jesus has to offer us is far more precious than anything we can offer in return. We know that our lives cost Jesus his life and out of our love for him and our desire to get close to him, we will study and grow in our faith together.

As Paul wrote to the believers in Philippi,

"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead."

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Opportunities for Adults



To Serve ...

Worship/Music Team – work with P. Jill to plan worship time

Large Group Presenters – share a personal take on week's theme

Small Group Leaders – lead a group of 6-8 for in-depth study and connection

Sunday Morning Leaders – lead our students in 957 programming

Drivers/Chaperones – get us where we're going

*These are available on a week-by-week or event-by-event basis. Only for small group leaders would we prefer a more consistent commitment. While we value your presence, we want you to have time to take advantage of learning opportunities as well. Please choose at least 3 opportunities/weeks to serve this year.

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What is Wildfire?



In 2009, a group of six churches started talking about how we could re-imagine Confirmation. We six churches believe that developing fellowship with other believers is critical for faith development. Equally important is education and serving our neighbors. We wanted to offer opportunities for spiritual growth in each of these areas on a scale that none of us could handle on our own. We banded together and formed what we call Wildfire.

Our main gatherings will be the first Wednesday of each month during the Confirmation year, excluding Lent. We will pool our resources to provide concerts, service projects, and learning opportunities that encourage spiritual growth in a larger community. We will take turns hosting events. We will also plan a retreat together that will be on a weekend where we can get out of our familiar surroundings.

The six churches involved include:

St. James

Elim

3978 W Broadway Ave
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

Faith Lilac-Way

5530 42nd Ave. N.
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

First Lutheran Church of Crystal

7708 62nd Ave. N.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

Holy Nativity

3900 Winnetka Ave. N.
New Hope, MN 55427

House of Hope

4800 Boone Ave. N.
New Hope, MN 55345

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Confirmation Covenant



We at St. James feel honored to begin the process of bringing you into the adult membership of our congregation. We take very seriously the blessing and the responsibility of calling ourselves "Christian" and "Lutheran". We are excited to walk with you into the confirmation of your faith, the affirmation of your baptism, and to see what God is going to do through you.

Keep in mind that nobody "requires" this of you. It is a choice you and your parents are making to grow in your spiritual development. This is an exciting time not only for you but for your fellow classmates and adult leaders. Thank you for inviting us into your journey.

In order to use our time together as meaningfully as possible, it is important that we agree to certain criteria that will benefit individuals as well as the group. The following criteria will guide our confirmation program:

- Students and family will seek to grow closer to Christ.
- Students and family will worship together weekly with the Body of Christ.
- Family will bring students to Sunday education opportunities (9:57).
- Students will attend every scheduled Wednesday event.
- Students will complete and submit 20 worship journal entries yearly.
- Students will begin to assume certain leadership roles in the congregation including but not limited to: help in worship, help in the education of other students, help in the greater ministry of the congregation.
- In the event that an absence is necessary, contact will be made with Pastor Jill prior to the absence and an alternative will be agreed upon.
- A family member will volunteer in areas of need for the Confirmation program at least 3 times per year.
- In every way, we will strive to build up one another in Christ.

If you agree to do your very best to support the program and strive to accomplish our ultimate goal together, please sign this covenant.

Student signature

Date

Parent/Guardian signature

Date

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Adult Volunteer Form



Yes! I want to help students at St. James grow in their faith. I am interested in helping out in the following areas:

_____ Worship/Music Team – work with Brian and P. Jill to plan worship time

_____ Large Group Presenter – share a personal take on week's theme

_____ Small Group Leader – lead a group of 6-8 for in-depth study and connection

_____ Sunday Morning Leaders – lead our students in 957 programming

_____ Drivers/Chaperones – get us where we're going

Name:

Best Way to Reach Me:

_____ Completed Protect our Children Training

St. James Lutheran Church
Medical Information & Consent Form
September 2011– September 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In keeping with St. James' Protect Our Children policy, it is necessary for us to have a signed Consent Form and Medical Information Form on file for each youth in grade 6 or older. This enables us to give older children and teen-agers greater independence than our policy permits younger children. Of course, we will still use discretion in planning youth activities and do everything in our power to keep your child safe and healthy. Please read the following carefully, sign and date. Then turn this sheet over and fill out the Medical Information Form completely.

CONSENT FOR ON-SITE ACTIVITIES

I, the undersigned parent/guardian of _____, a minor, consent to his/her participation in activities at St. James Lutheran Church. This includes regularly scheduled Youth & Family Ministry activities, such as Sunday School, Bible studies, music rehearsals, and Confirmation classes, as well as non-scheduled activities, meetings, projects and events. I recognize that on occasion he/she might be alone with a staff member or adult volunteer, or in a group of youth under the supervision of one staff member or adult volunteer, and fully accept any attendant risks. I further agree to hold St. James, its employees and representatives blameless from any liability that might relate to the transportation of my child to or from St. James by myself or some other driver, or from my child choosing to walk or bike to or from St. James.

CONSENT FOR OFF-SITE ACTIVITIES

I authorize my child's participation in off-site activities as part of regular Youth & Family Ministry programming at St. James Lutheran Church. This includes permission for him/her to be transported to and from off-site activities in the company of other youth in a vehicle driven by an adult employee or volunteer. With the understanding that St. James' staff and volunteers will do everything in their power to keep my child safe from harm, I recognize that off-site activities might represent the risk of accidental injury or death to the participant, and agree to hold St. James, its employees and representatives blameless from all liability pursuant to situations beyond their control that do not result from negligence. In the case of emergency, if I cannot be contacted, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by St. James Lutheran Church to hospitalize, secure treatment for and order injection, anesthesia or surgery for my child. Finally, I agree to hold St. James, its employees and representatives blameless from any and all liability resulting from inappropriate conduct by the participant.

CONSENT FOR PHOTO PUBLICATIONS

Finally, I understand that unless I provide separate written notice, photos taken of my child at St. James Lutheran Church or at off-site church activities may be used for church-approved publications, including the church web-site. I further understand that St. James Lutheran Church will NOT publish my child's name in conjunction with photos in any St. James publication without obtaining my written authorization in advance.

CONSENT FOR PRAYERMARKS

A new ministry St. James will be starting this fall will be to match individual children in our programs with an adult who will pray for them on a regular basis. To keep the child foremost on their prayer list, we will make Prayermarks. A Prayermark is like a bookmark with a child's picture, first name, and age on it that a person can place in their Bible or on their fridge. Participation is completely voluntary. All participating adults must complete a background check and Protect Our Children training.

____ *I agree to allow St. James to match your child with an adult member of the congregation in this way.*

____ *Please do not include my child in this program.*

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

_____ *Date:* _____

Medical Information

Participant:

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____, MN Zip: _____

Age: _____ Birth date: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____, MN Zip: _____

Alternate Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship to Child: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship to Child: _____

Health Care Provider: _____

Insurance ID#: _____ Group #: _____

List any food, drug, or other allergies that your child has:

List any activity restrictions and/or medications that your child is on:

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

**St. James Lutheran Church
Confirmation Registration Form
2011-2012
Grades 6-8**

Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____ Age: _____ School: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Baptism: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Other: _____

Is there anything I should know about your child that would enhance their learning experience?

(i.e. learning disabilities, strong visual learner, etc.)

Sign up email addresses to receive critical information and updates.

Whose Account Email address

Parent/guardian:

Student:

There is a \$65 registration fee to cover both Sunday and Wednesday components of Confirmation. If your family would like to request a scholarship, please contact Pastor Jill

(763-537-3653 or jbergman@stjamesincrystal.org)

Paid _____ Check # _____