

Confirmation Journey Prayer Teams

Note From Dick Hardel to Prayer Team Members:

On the basis of the biblical model expressed throughout Scripture and most recent research on faith formation, the Faith Formation Team of _____ has worked diligently to change the former model of confirmation instruction. We are changing from a cerebral focus to an education of the heart in faith formation. The role of the congregation is to strengthen the parents and grandparents to keep the promises they made at the baptism of the child to teach, nurture, practice, and pass on the faith. The home is the primary place for faith formation. So in this new process the pastor / faith formation facilitator will meet with each family (student and parent(s) and even extended family members in their home once per month to check in with how the family is doing in learning on the confirmation journey. The pastor / faith formation facilitator has given each family the lesson plans and a variety of optional learning designs to accomplish the desired outcomes of the confirmation journey according to the level of the student (6th, 7th, 8th grade). The pastor / faith formation facilitator will give the theological overview of each lesson, introduce new resources for the family to use in both learning and practicing the faith, and invite each person to share something new she or he has learned. They will also have opportunities to ask questions about what they are learning and also to practice the Four Key Faith Disciplines (Caring Conversations, Devotions in the Home, Service from faith, and Rituals & Traditions that connect the family to God).

Each student will also be assigned or choose an adult faith mentor, who will walk with her or him on this confirmation journey.

Each student and family will have a prayer team who will pray for the student and for the family. A lead member of the Prayer Team will call the student at least every other week and to ask, "How should we be praying for you this week? What is the focus of your lessons? What is happening in your family for which we can pray?" The lead person might also call the adult faith mentor and also ask, "How should we be praying for the student and also for the faith mentor this week?"

Vision & Desired Outcomes of Confirmation Journey

Vision (a preferred future)

Five years after being confirmed:

We see our young people of _____ Lutheran Church giving spiritual leadership within their faith communities. We see them living their faith daily and confidently sharing their faith in Christ with others. We see that Christ makes a difference in their lives and as they share their faith, they make a difference in the lives of others.

Desired Outcomes

- To be disciples of Jesus Christ, actively engaged in the marks of discipleship: prayer, reading of Scripture, devotions, regular worship, stewardship, mission, and ministry.
- That they know the six chief parts of the Christian faith, as defined in *Luther's Small Catechism*.
- That they know the main stories of God's plan of salvation in the Scriptures.
- That they are equipped to share their faith and pass on the faith.

- To be spiritual leaders within a faith community.
- To support the parents, grandparents, and godparents to keep the promises they made at the student's baptism.

Expectations of Prayer Team

- Attend training event (which might be done separately with individuals or teams).
- Choose team leader to contact student and/or family and faith mentor to determine the focus of the prayers for a given time.
- Meet once per week, or every other week, to pray for the student, family, and faith mentor. (This can be done on the phone, FaceTime, or Skype if needed. Doing the prayer time face-to-face is always preferred. The time can be as short as 5-10 minutes.

Prayer Is (from *Pray, Praise, and Hooray* by Rich Bimler)

- A relationship with God
- A way of knowing that God is with you
- Anything you want to share with your Lord
- Sometimes meaningless words that we throw out to God with the hope of finding meaning
- A desire to share with our God-sized man in hopes of ridding ourselves of our man-sized gods.
- A way God comes down to us and brings us back to our God
- Direct Distance and Speed Dialing to our Father in Heaven
- A chance to know that God really cares even despite of our behaviors and failures
- Like love—it must be expressed in action and not only in words
- A God's-eye view if us
- A way not to get something, but rather to be with Someone
- Knowing that you will never be alone in this world
- Relating God to a situation and then seeing God's power and love
- A way not to change God but to let God change us.

The training event for the Prayer Teams will be on _____ date _____ at _____ location _____
at _____ time _____.

Christ makes life exciting,

Signature of Pastor or Facilitator