

Preparations for Faith Affirmation Day 2016

“Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?”

(From Affirmation of Baptism, p. 237, Evangelical Lutheran Worship)

Your Faith Affirmation Day, when you publicly affirm the promises made for you at your baptism, is tentatively scheduled for Reformation Sunday, **October 30, 2016**.

This day will be the beginning of a new stage of learning and growth!

Below are the specific items to be completed in order to participate in a public Affirmation of Faith at Christ Lutheran. *<please keep this copy available as you journey through the year ahead!*

SML & F.I.R.E./Y.E.S.! –during your 10th Grade year, Faith Affirmation Journeymen will participate with other Youth when they meet for Sunday Morning Live and/or on Wednesdays for “F.I.R.E./YES!” an average of at least 4 times a month.

Worship Reflections – a total of 5 Worship Reflection Sheets must be completed during Sunday worship over your 10th Grade year.

Servant Projects – a total of 2 Servant Projects of at least one hour each must be completed during your 10th Grade year. Each student is responsible for participating in an organized servant project or planning one for yourself or for a small group. There are forms in the bins with the Worship Reflection Sheets in the church office hallway to complete and turn in.

Memory Work – See the “Deacon Meeting” info below.

Mentor Sessions – You will have an orientation and first Mentor Session on **Wednesday, September 2, 7:00 pm** in the Lakeside Room. You will schedule further meetings with your mentor during the school year and **complete all of the sessions by March 31**.

Faith Story – This will tell the story of your spiritual journey: where you’ve been, where you are now, and what you envision in the future. You will share your story with one of our deacons.

Your story is to be at least **2-3 pages long (14 pt. font or less, double spaced, 1” margins)**.

NOTE: You will take notes during each session with your Mentor. Include stories, examples, and ideas to be used in your overall story. Work together to identify and record these points. Your mentor will help you make an outline for your story using the following Categories:

BEGINNINGS:

1. What are some of your earliest memories of becoming aware of God?. How did you think and feel about God? What experiences, persons, and/or events helped you grow in your understanding and relationship with God?

UNDERSTANDINGS:

2. How do you currently understand God, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Include something about the work of all 3 members of the Trinity, what each has done and is doing for the world and for you. Include teachings from Sunday School, Faith Affirmation Journey Classes, things said in the Catechism, and Bible verses which express your convictions.

BEING:

3. a. Write about the nature of your Christian life at this time. How does your faith influence your values and priorities, decisions and attitudes about school, job, family, and other relationships?
- b. If someone asked you “Why are you a Christian?” how would you respond?
- c. What is your experience with prayer? What kind of answers do you receive? What do you want your prayer and faith study life to be like? How is serving related to your faith?

BECOMING:

4. Include your reflection on some of the following questions.
 - a. How has your faith been changing, and how is it changing you?
 - b. How will you continue to engage in worship, in relating with fellow believers and others, and in serving the needs of God’s people in the future?
 - c. How can you use your God-given abilities and possessions to glorify God?

Your story should include a mix of stories and recollections, your thoughts and those of others, Bible and Catechism quotes (including your Affirmation Day verse) that say what you believe about God and how that makes your life different. Remember to **WRITE NOTES** to include in your story during **EACH MENTOR SESSION**, and work out your **OUTLINE** with your Mentor!

**Your Story should be emailed (*preferably*) to
pastorjim3@gmail.com, or handed in to Pastor Jim by May 31.**

You will have a **1st Deacon meeting** shortly after that to review it. You may be given suggestions for improving it. After making improvements, you will have a **2nd Deacon meeting** which will include:

- 1) **Reviewing your story**
- 2) **Reciting the Lord’s Prayer, Apostles’ Creed, and 10 Commandments from memory**
- 3) **Reciting 3 Bible verses of your choosing that are meaningful for you, 1 of which you will recite from memory during your Confirmation Service.**

These 2 Meetings should be completed by July 31.

The final paper will be submitted to Pastor Jim by August 15.

Confirmation Stoles & Gowns – One or more **Parent volunteers** are needed to arrange materials and a time for you to make personal stoles, and to oversee the fitting of gowns. Parent(s): please contact Pastor Jim if you are able to help with this (pastorjim3@gmail.com).

Confirmation Pictures – a photographer may be chosen by the class to take photos from which prints will be available for order. Students will meet at the church in head-to-toe confirmation attire on **Wednesday, October 26 at 7:00 pm** for their photo session.