

WELCOME TO CONFIRMATION: DINNER + LEARNING!

First, I would like to thank you for being a part of First Lutheran Church. We are glad you are here! Confirmation learning, as we have come to understand it, is traditionally a time when young people continue growing as disciples by



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building on the Christian foundations they have been given and on what the Holy Spirit has already been doing in their lives since baptism.

First Lutheran's Confirmation learning, what we call "Dinner+Learning," is two years of conversational learning, faith formation and relationship building with students and their parents beginning in the student's 7th grade year. Here at First Lutheran, we have opened the confirmation learning opportunity to other adults who are interested, as well. These adults include those who grew up in a Christian tradition, other than Lutheran, and missed the "confirmation" experience, or those that went through "catechism" as youth, but mostly remember the negative parts of the experience.

For students, they get to meet other caring adults and see these adults as mentors who are passionate and want to continue learning about their faith. They also find that adults continue to struggle with faith issues well past the typical confirmation age.

For adults, this time of learning is important as we believe that disciples learn throughout their whole life, making us all lifelong learners together. Therefore, your faith formation through learning is a communal effort and means we grow in our faith together as a community of disciples.

This program allows us to be more about building relationships with other disciples, sharing and growing in faith together, rather than just learning Lutheran teachings. Participants will be learning new pieces or revisiting previously learned concepts together and life experiences will serve as a lens through which you will experience this learning.

We are grateful that you have decided to join us for this adventure in learning. We look forward to journeying with you and hearing from you as we go.

SUMMARY

We gather the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 6-7:15 pm at First Lutheran Church with middle schoolers, their parents, and other adults for dinner and confirmation sessions with the Pastor and Youth and Family Ministry Director.

GOAL & OBJECTIVES

By the end of Confirmation, Dinner+Learning, participants will have:

- Deepened their relationship through conversations around issues and topics of faith from a Lutheran perspective;
- Shared meals together and with other confirmation families, building relationships between students, parents and other adults;
- Explored various aspects of discipleship and begin to articulate their beliefs;
- Made connections between faith, discipleship, church and everyday life.

CONFIRMATION OVERVIEW

- *Methodology:* We use a method of asking questions and telling stories to dive into the material and explore its meaning to us today. Dinner+Learning assignments and information are housed on a website. You receive the web address during the orientation session. Most of the assignments are submitted electronically through Google Forms. We walk through the website together during the first orientation session held each year mid to late August.

- *Discussion:* Adults that are not parents of students are encouraged to discuss the reflection questions at the time of their convenience with another adult, so long as the conversation takes place before the scheduled monthly confirmation family meals.

MONTHLY CONFIRMATION FAMILY DINNER + LEARNING

- About twenty sessions of “Dinner + Learning” (two a month) from August to May, from 6:00-7:15 pm, are required of confirmation students and at least one parent. Adult learners are encouraged to attend both sessions as well, but are not required to do so if schedule conflicts occur. Due to the mid-week worship during Advent and Lent, the schedule is modified slightly. A schedule of sessions is provided at the orientation meeting mentioned above.

- Monthly Confirmation Family Dinner + Learning includes: eating and getting to know other Dinner+Learning families, questions, comments, observations, insights from the material covered at home, learning/processing for the evening with activities and gathering together for a closing prayer.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

- Regular worship attendance in community
- Attend monthly sessions
- Complete the assignments
- Pray regularly for classmates
- Participate in evaluations when requested

MISSED DINNER+LEARNING GATHERINGS

Since the course materials are housed on the website any missed class information is expected to be reviewed before the next gathering.