

- 2) sincerely desires to grow in a greater understanding of the Christian faith through the study of the Scriptures and *Luther's Small Catechism*;
- 3) is both ready and willing to give evidence of their intention to growth in the Christian faith by regular (weekly) church, Sunday School attendance and youth ministry programming.
- 4) has parent(s) who are also eager to establish strong Christian examples of worship, love, and support for their child(ren)'s Christian growth.
- 5) will continually work in a prayerful partnership with Pastor, Elders, Sunday School Teachers, and other youth leaders and give their assistance as they are able.

POLICY STATEMENT

The following policies have been adopted by Gethsemane Lutheran Church for Grades 6-8 for successful completion of the Confirmation curriculum:

- 1) Regular (weekly) class attendance is required;
- 2) All absences shall be made *IN ADVANCE* of each class session. If not contacted, the absence will be considered "un-excused". (see "Absences" below).
- 3) Students may not have more than *THREE (3)* un-excused absences per year.
- 4) Regular (weekly) worship and Sunday School attendance is expected and required as demonstrations of the intent to grow in faith. Youth group attendance is, for this reason, also strongly encouraged.
- 5) All confirmands shall have a final oral examination before being approved for confirmation. Normally this will be done in the Sunday worship service. The type and style of examination will be decided by the Pastor and in consultation with the Elders and parents.
- 6) Students enrolled in a confirmation program in an area LCMS Day School are not required to attend confirmation at Gethsemane.

SPECIAL NEEDS

It is our intention to minister to students with special needs. Students with such needs (e.g., dyslexia, retardation or other learning handicaps) should consult with

the Pastor who, in consultation with the parent(s) and Elders, will work to develop an appropriate learning program to accommodate such special needs.

CONFIRMATION

The Pastor will recommend confirmation to the Elders only when the following conditions are met:

- 1) Students will demonstrate a working understanding of the Six Chief Parts of the *Small Catechism*;
- 2) Students will demonstrate a basic understanding of the Scripture and be able to recite various Scriptures from memory;
- 3) Students will demonstrate interest in being confirmed by attendance and attention in class, attendance in worship and Sunday School, and faithful intent to adequately prepare their assignments;
- 4) Students not ready to be confirmed at the scheduled time will be confirmed as soon as possible after they have satisfactorily completed all conditions for Confirmation.

OTHER ITEMS

- A. Weekday Confirmation Classes will be held once a week on _____ (Day) from _____ to _____ p.m. and last approximately 1 hour.
- B. Weekly confirmation assignments will be printed and distributed to each student.
- C. Tests and Quizzes will be given. Tests will normally have at least TWO weeks advance notice. Quizzes may or may not be announced in advance. Grading, though based on actual percentage scores, will be on a "Pass/Fail" basis.
- D. Sermon Reports will be required for all confirmands, grades 7-8. Parents are strongly urged to discuss and help their youth prepare these *PRIOR* to class via family discussion of sermon content, etc.
- E. Confirmation activities/parties may be scheduled at various times through the year. Parents are requested to offer their help, if at all possible, to support these special events.

- G. Progress Reports and evaluations of each student in Confirmation will be given formally or informally at least 3 times per year. If a child is experiencing difficulties, it may be more often.
- H. Confirmation will meet only on those days on which Rochester Public Schools also conduct classes. If weather is extremely hazardous, please call the church and indicate your child's absence. If possible, messages indicating cancellation will be placed on the answering machine.
- I. Absences: Parents or confirmands should contact the church ASAP in advance an absence. In some cases, confirmation may be suspended and rescheduled when there are insufficient students to conduct classes. Make-up times will be set by the Pastor.
- J. Make-up Work is required of all students. It is the responsibility of the STUDENT to get the weekly assignment well in advance of the next class. In case of extenuating circumstances, alternate arrangements may be made. A written excuse signed by a parent or guardian is required for all "Excused Absences".
- K. Class materials may be provided by the congregation. Replacement materials, however, are the responsibility of the student. Students shall also provide a spiral notebook and pen for note taking and a NIV Bible in addition to their class materials.
- L. Any questions or concerns regarding any aspect of the confirmation program shall be directed immediately to the teacher. If satisfactory resolution is not attained, the parents should set up an appointment with the Pastor.

CONCLUSION

The Pastor and teacher(s), on behalf of the Elders and Gethsemane Lutheran Congregation, are glad that you have become a part of our confirmation ministry. Certainly we are anxious that you share our zeal in putting Christ in the lives of our youth in a greater and ever-increasing manner. We, for our part, are determined to make Gethsemane's Junior Confirmation Ministry the best it can be. With your support and God's blessings, it will be.

May God bless us as we continue to *GROW* and be built up unto Him who has called us into joyful discipleship with Him!

Rev. Thomas F. Fischer,
Pastor

✠GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH ✠

JUNIOR CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

**An Introduction and Overview
of Our Christian Education Program
For Seventh And Eighth Grade Youth**

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RATIONALE

Jesus, in Matthew 28:18-20 instructed the church to...

"Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you..."

Thus, though Scripture nowhere specifically commands confirmation, yet Christ Himself has commanded and urged His Church to baptize, educate and disciple all His people.

ELIGIBILITY

Gethsemane's Junior Confirmation Ministry is for all youth, grades 7-8. In some circumstances, individuals older than eighth grade may also be enrolled. Individuals enrolled need not be baptized members of Gethsemane. However, they may become members of this congregation after having been baptized and successfully completing our Junior Confirmation Program.

PRESUPPOSITIONS

Upon enrolling, all youth and their parents demonstrate their desire to have Christ become an even more integral and important part of their family's life.

Thus, it is taken as given that everyone enrolled in our Junior Confirmation Ministry...

1) truly desires to grow in his/her faith and love for their Lord Jesus Christ;