

Dear Parents of Confirmation Students,

My name is Kate Barnes, and I'm the new Director of Christian Education for Children and Youth Ministry at Messiah. I'm excited to get to know you and your family throughout the coming year, and I'd like to invite your child to join us for this upcoming year of Confirmation instruction. Confirmation classes are offered for students in **5th through 8th grade** and provide an opportunity for students to grow in their faith, build meaningful relationships, and deepen their understanding of God's Word.

The goal of Confirmation is not only to help students grow in their knowledge of God's Word, but also to build a firm foundation for continued growth. Throughout this four-year journey, students will explore Scripture, learn the teachings of the Lutheran faith, and grow alongside one another in a supportive Christian community. Upon completing the four-year Confirmation program, students will be invited to publicly affirm their faith during the Rite of Confirmation, which is celebrated in the fall of their ninth-grade year.

Confirmation instruction takes place on Wednesday evening from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. Pizza and pop are available for purchase each Wednesday night at 5:45 pm in the Family Life Center before confirmation begins. There will be a **Mandatory Confirmation Meeting on Wednesday, September 9th at 6:30 p.m.** This is for all incoming 5th-8th grade students and parents. We will take time to go over the structure of confirmation, review the program goals, and talk about expectations.

Registration for Confirmation will be posted on Realm. Please complete the Registration Form, Waiver form/Photo Release, Parent and Student Covenant, and look at the Confirmation Handbook. The cost of confirmation this year is \$40.00 per child. No child will be turned away for financial reasons; please talk with me (Kate) if you need financial assistance. Pay online on Realm or make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church. The completed forms and fees are due on September 16th. All students will need a NIV/ESV Bible 7th and 8th graders will need Luther's Small Catechism 2017 edition.

Opportunities for parent participation and serving opportunities are outlined on the registration form. Please give prayerful consideration to how you can help. One area that we could use help with is pizza serving from 5:45 to 6:15 p.m. Please let us know if you are able to serve in this role.

Thank you for taking the time to review the materials in the handbook and on the forms. If you have any questions or concerns regarding confirmation, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to partnering with you in the faith development of your child.

Kate Barnes

Director of Christian Education

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