

# Confirmation Instruction 2008-09

## Meeting Times and Places

Most class sessions will meet **Sunday from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m.** at church.

Occasional classes will involve Movie Nights, fellowship nights, group service projects, or field trips. These schedules will be communicated at least a week in advance. These might occur on Wednesday nights or on the weekend.

## Requirements

The main purposes of this instruction are to provide students with a solid foundation in Lutheran beliefs, to prepare students to take on an adult role in their congregations and to live faithfully as Christians in a complex world. As we do that, we will share fun and fellowship along the way. The following requirements apply to all students:

- **Regular attendance** throughout the school year at confirmation classes and Sunday and midweek worship services.
- **Between-class work** is designed to help students make connections between their class work and the rest of their lives.
- **Worship notes** – 20 forms turned in between September and April plus 4 from the additional service of Lent and Holy Week. Worship notes are designed to encourage attentive listening and making connections between the lessons/sermon and the individual's life.
- **Service projects** – 8 service projects between September and April. We are called to love our neighbor in our actions as well as our words; service projects help to establish habits of looking out for the welfare of others. Try to think congregation, community, and global.
- **Memorization** – Students will learn the key building blocks of our faith, the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles' Creed. Together, we will study the Sacraments. Students will be able to describe in their own words the meaning of each commandment, petition, sacrament, and article.

## Faith Statements

Students in their last year of instruction, who are planning to affirm their baptism in the fall of 2009, will prepare a faith statement and present it to their congregation on a Sunday morning during worship. The faith statement is designed to do two things:

- Students will have an opportunity to think about their own faith and how it has been formed in their lives. They will be encouraged to make connections between the Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacraments, and their own life in school, family, church, and community.

- Delivering the faith statement to their congregation provides a safe place to practice skills of being able to talk about “faith stuff” with others.

Faith statements are never static; an individual’s faith nearly always evolves throughout their life. This faith statement is designed to be a snapshot at a particular point in time.

## Service Projects

Eight service projects are required throughout the year. Two of the projects will be done jointly as group projects, so that we may share and reflect on the experience. Here are some guidelines for the remainder of the projects:

- Service projects cannot be done for pay, or for “credit” towards any other program (such as 4-H, Luther League, or a school class).
- Each service project should involve about 3-4 hours of work; depending on the project, this may be done all at once or at more than one time.
- Service projects should draw our attention outward beyond our normal circle of family and congregation. Therefore, no more than one project can be done for a family member and no more than two projects can be done for the congregation.

Here are some examples of service projects that you might consider:

- Visit someone who is homebound or in a care facility. Several short visits are best, rather than one “marathon” visit. You might talk with them about their family, the farm they grew up on, their schooling, etc. You might help them address Christmas cards, or play cards with them if they enjoy that hobby.
- Send notes or care packages to those in the military (check [www.anysoldier.com](http://www.anysoldier.com) for ideas).
- Help clean our portion of the highway.
- Help with collecting items or money to send to the food shelf, school kits, world hunger, etc.
- You are expected to acolyte on your assigned Sundays. This will not count as a service project.