

Welcome to Confirmation at St. Paul!

Whether you are a new 6th grade student, or returning for your second or third year in our Confirmation program, we welcome you for the 2009-2010 school year!

This 3-year program for Middle School students is designed to:

- help students build relationships with each other, significant adults in the congregation, and the pastors.
- connect church and home through take-home learning options, family conversations, and occasional parent meetings.
- teach students basics of faith through instruction in Old Testament, New Testament, and Luther's *Small Catechism*.
- equip students to make an informed decision to make Affirmation of Baptism in the spring of their 8th grade year.
- encourage students to develop faithful habits such as daily devotions, family rituals and traditions, and acts of service.

Confirmation classes use a combination of large group instruction, small group discussion, and interactive, hands-on learning. In addition, families are asked to use family devotionals or resources to help further the learning at home. **Weekly worship, Sunday School, congregational service projects, and summer camp are also important components of the learning experience.** Details for the program will be available at a parent meeting in the fall.

Please make a note of the dates and events in this brochure. Your involvement in the summer programs and in the fall Milestone Event help to lay a solid foundation for the relationships that will form in small groups through the school-year.



375 Lothrop
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48230

Sharing God's grace through Christ, we love, pray, rejoice and serve

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN

Confirmation at St. Paul 2009-2010



St. Paul Lutheran Church

www.stpaulgp.org

Our Mission: Sharing God's grace
through Christ, we love, pray,
rejoice, and serve.

About Our Curriculum

We plan our lessons using *Here We Stand* from Augsburg Fortress. Each week, our lesson time will include an interactive learning component, a brief teaching time presented by the pastor, and a time for small group discussion and prayer. As time allows, object lessons, skits, media illustrations, and other learning activities will be included.

The material is taught on a 3-year rotation:

- Year A: Old Testament Topics
- Year B: New Testament Topics
- Year C: Luther's *Small Catechism*

Students will participate in all 3 units. The year they begin the program determines the order in which the material will be covered.

Small Groups

Each student is assigned to a small group. These groups are lead by caring adults from within our congregation.

The role of a small group guide is to:

- lead small group conversations based on the topic for the evening.
- encourage students to share their joys and concerns, and encourage students to pray for and with each other.
- pray for the students in their small group on a regular basis.

Beginning in the fall of 2009, we also hope to add some "junior guides" from among our high school students.

The role of a junior guide is to:

- serve as a role model for students in the Confirmation program.
- assist the group leader as appropriate.
- help in presenting some of the creative portions of lessons from time to time.

Important Dates and Events for Confirmation Families

Summer Social Events

Saturday, July 18, 2009 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Join us for a middle-school picnic. Plans are underway to host this at a local park. Watch the church newsletter and bulletins for details to come later.

Summer Service Projects

Meaningful Monday, July 20, 2009

Be a part of the planning and presentation for this informal worship service and family service project. Watch for more information about the planning and preparation process in early July.

Confirmation Orientation Meeting

Monday, September 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Parents and students should plan to attend together. More details will be mailed to you in August.

Regular Fall Schedule begins September 21.

Watch for details soon regarding Good News Choir and Joy Bells. Students interested in participating with our middle-school music programs should contact Linda Bauer or Anne Brege.

Chi Rho Parent Meeting

Chi Rho is the youth group component of our middle school ministries. All parents are invited to attend a meeting on **Monday, September 28th at 7:00 p.m.** Members of the youth and family committee will be present to talk about the various places parents can get involved to make our events successful.

Middle School Milestone

Parents and students are invited to attend a special Milestone Event for middle school on **Friday, October 9, 2009 from 7:30-10:00 p.m.** This milestone is designed to encourage a healthy self-image for our students and to equip families for discussions on a variety of middle school issues. Families will celebrate that we are each created in the image of God.

Middle School Lock-In

Friday, October 9 at 10:00 p.m. until Saturday, October 10 at 7:30 a.m.

Following the milestone event, interested students can stay for a night of games, movies, and fun! More details will be available in September. Several parents will be needed to work a shift sometime during the night.

Middle School Sunday School is an important component of the Confirmation program. On Sunday mornings at 10:10 a.m., students will work with adult volunteers to learn about the many spiritual gifts God gives us, to identify their own individual gifts, and to respond to God's call to use their gifts at home, in the congregation, and in the community. Our Monday night program focuses on learning basics of faith. Sunday mornings are the time to apply this learning to every day life in a concrete and active way.

Acolyte Training and Scheduling

During the first few weeks of Confirmation classes, students will be trained during their small group time to serve as acolytes in worship. All students in grades 6-8 are scheduled to serve on a rotating schedule by a volunteer parent. This schedule is distributed by email and is posted on the youth bulletin board. Students usually serve 3-4 times during the course of the year.

Parent Study Group

A group of adults will again gather for scripture, prayer, and discussion on Monday nights during our Confirmation Class time at 7:00 p.m. While the specific material has been selected yet, the group has an inclusive atmosphere and relies heavily on conversational learning. Contact Shelley Reisen for more information.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Important Contact Information

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Please do not hesitate to email or call if you have questions.