

CONFIRMATION CLASS SYLLABUS

2011 – 2012
Ninth Grade Schedule

Course Objectives

1. To understand more fully, through example and experience, what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.
2. To identify the basic questions within ourselves that need to be answered in order to become a disciple of Jesus Christ.
3. To get beyond the elementary mastery of the facts about Jesus, church history, the Bible, etc., and move into the lifestyle, values, and beliefs of Christian living.
4. To see how God is involved in our lives and world.
5. To identify faith development and see directions for continued growth.
6. To be able to make a decision – “yes or no” – to God’s invitation to become Christ’s disciples, and if yes, to receive the Rite of Confirmation.

Course Requirements:

1. Attend Sunday school the first and third Sunday of each month (9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.) starting on October 1, 2011 and ending on May 20, 2012. This requirement only involves 16 classes. Any absences must be made up.
2. Attend two Church Committee meetings during the month of February, March, or April and submit a written summary of observations to the Pastor. Note this Committee schedule:
 - Worship, First Tuesday @ 7:30
 - Mission, Second Tuesday @ 6:30
 - Fund Raising, Second Tuesday @ 7:30
 - Budget and Finance, Third Thursday @ 5:30
 - Property, Fourth Tuesday @ 7:00
 - Christian Education, Fourth Tuesday @ 7:30

Dates and times are subject to change. Please verify by calling the church office before attending.

3. With your mentor, read the entire book of Luke and keep a journal of your thoughts and reflections. You are to meet with your mentor periodically and discuss your reading and journal reflections. Journals are to be turned into the

pastor for review the last Sunday of each month. See below for further instructions.

4. Complete a year long Confirmation Project that best expresses:
 - Your understanding of who God is
 - Who Jesus is
 - Who the Holy Spirit is
 - What relational promise you can make to God at this point in your life
 - How you plan to express all of this in your life and living
 - The use of your personal spiritual gifts

See below for further instructions -

5. Participate in a one-on-one pastoral interview with the Pastor. You can begin to sign up for your interview with Pastor Stevenson on Sunday, April 15, 2012. Interviews must be completed by May 20, 2012.
6. Participate in the Rite of Confirmation, Pentecost Sunday, May 27, 2012 and receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Your Luke Journal

Chapter by chapter, you are to read the entire Gospel According to Luke. As you read each chapter you are to meditate upon the words you read. Do not do this exercise in places where or during times when you will be easily distracted. Do not read in front of the television, while you are listening to music, while you are laying down, etc. As you read, ask yourself this question: "What do I hear God saying to me as I read?" When you hear God say something, write it down.

Many times when we read the Bible we try and dissect it trying to find the deep hidden meanings in the stories and behind the words. Other times we read to listen. This is such an exercise. I want you to experience the voice of God as you read the Gospel According to Luke.

Your mentor will go through the same exercise and periodically the two of you are to sit down and share your respective discoveries.

Your Project

Do not take your project lightly. Ultimately you will present your project to the Consistory. A satisfactory project will display your preparedness to take your Confirmation Vows.

The project need not be burdensome as you set the timing, the venue, and the focus. It should be uniquely yours. It is to be an expression of your faith. Follow your own interests, passions, and creativity. There must be a direct correlation with the project

that you design for yourself and your personal statement of faith. To write a personal statement of faith, follow the instructions below.

Step One: Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

Using the Youth Spiritual Gifts Inventory mailed to you, determine your own spiritual gifts.

God has uniquely gifted me with the abilities to _____

Step Two: The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended in heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in only holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
And the life of the world to come.

After you have *carefully* read the Nicene Creed several times, determine what portions of the creed you can embrace as a personal statement of faith by answering these questions:

I believe God is _____

I believe this is what God does for me _____

I believe this is what God can offer me _____

In response, this is what I believe I can offer back to God _____

I believe Jesus is _____

I believe this is what Jesus does for me _____

I believe this is what Jesus can offer me _____

In response, this is what I believe I can offer back to Jesus _____

I believe the Holy Spirit is _____

I believe this is what the Holy Spirit does for me _____

I believe this is what the Holy Spirit can offer me _____

In response, this is what I believe I can offer back to the Holy Spirit _____

I believe the Church is _____

I believe this is what the Church does for me _____

I believe the Church can offer me _____

In response, this is what I believe I can offer back to the Church _____

Step Three: Confirmation Vows of Faith

1. Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?
2. Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?
3. Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?
4. Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and do justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?
5. Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

After you have carefully read these vows, the promises that you will make the day you are confirmed, out of these vows construct a phrase that best represents the promise that you can make to God at this point in your life.

From these vows, and based upon my personal spiritual gifts and on what I believe to be true about God at this point in my life:

I can promise God that I can _____

Step Four: Confirmation Vow of Participation

1. Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves the community and the world?

After you have carefully read the Vow of Participation, construct a phrase that best represents the promise you can make to the church at this point in your life.

I can promise the church that I will _____

Step Five: Write Your Personal Statement of Faith

Based on what you have done in steps 1 – 4, write your Personal Statement of Faith; a brief paragraph that best describes who you believe God is, Jesus is, the Holy Spirit is, what the Church is, and how you believe God has enabled you to live out a Christian life.

Step Six: Design Your Project

The object of your project is to personally express everything that you have mentioned above. Be as creative as you want to be. Be as personal as you want to be. Get involved in a ministry of the church, of the Lehigh Country Conference of Churches, of New Bethany Ministries, etc. Get involved in a service group/project at your school. If you are in scouts, talk to your scout master about a special project that you can do in your troop; Chaplain, Chaplain Assistant, God and Country, etc. These are just a few examples but the sky is the limit. The only limit that I will place is that your project must connect the Creed, your vows, and your spiritual gifts.

I MUST be able to see a direct correlation between your project and your personal statement of faith.

PROJECT PROPOSALS MUST BEGIN WITH YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT OF FAITH AND BE EMAILED AS A MICROSOFT WORD ATTACHMENT OR PRESENTED TO ME AS A WORD DOCUMENT ON A FLASH DRIVE FOR APPROVAL NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 13, 2011.

Proposals must be specific with a timeline included, *"I will accomplish _____ by _____."*

DO NOT PROCEED WITH YOUR PROJECT UNTIL YOUR PROPOSAL HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE PASTOR.

Step Seven: Design Your Presentation

You will need to present your project to Consistory. Decide how you want to do that; posters, power point, storyboard, oral report, written report, etc.

Step Eight: Make your Presentation

There will be two steps of presentation. Projects must be completed and submitted to me for approval by March 4, 2012 unless special permission has been granted. You must present your project to me for final approval. After you have received final approval from me, you may then present it to the Consistory at either their March 22, April 26, or May 24, 2012 meeting.

Mentors:

Use your mentor. There is an awful lot of work that must go into your project and they are your resource to assist you every step of the way. I will be available to

your mentor myself. Set up schedules to meet with them regularly and find out the best way to be in touch.

Should you have any questions or concerns throughout the Confirmation process, PLEASE contact the Pastor!!

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