

Eligibility: All youth who are members of St. Mark's are eligible for Confirmation, at the discretion of the Pastor and Christian Education committee. The typical, and recommended, age is 7th and 8th grade.

Teaching method: Over the two years, various methods of teaching will be employed to give each student the best opportunity to connect with their learning style. Classes will be taught by the Pastor, along with other members. Examples of teaching methods are:

- Classroom - lecture and conversation
- Mentors - passing on learning from one generation to another
- Experiential - service, program, and worship participation, retreats, camping, projects
- Multi-media - use of DVDs, books, Internet resources
 - View one of a list of movies/documentaries (or suggest your own idea). Write at least 500 words about your reaction to it.
 - Story of the 12 Apostles
 - Gospel of John
 - Jesus Christ Superstar
 - Godspell
 - The Bible
 - Son of God
 - Luther
 - Life of Peter
 - Life of Paul
 - Isaiah
 - Heaven Is For Real
 - Identify one religious website that you like and use. Describe how you use it in 250 words.
- Home study - work with family on a variety of home study options
 - Students will be able to do certain lessons at home using print and electronic media. Students will be expected to do more work than the classroom expectations, in exchange for the flexibility of home study.

Expectations: Confirmands and their families are expected to take the program seriously. Yet, modern families lead active lives and occasionally a student's participation is interrupted by other events. The following expectations will balance the law and gospel, in the Lutheran tradition.

- Confirmation will begin on Sunday, September 13. The final meeting will be on Sunday, May 15, the Day of Pentecost, which is the day of Affirmation of Baptism.
- Classes will be held on Sundays during the Sunday School time.
- Attend 80% of the worship services during the two year time frame, when the Affirmation process is in session.
- 6 sermon impressions each year.
- 2 community service activities each year - alone or with a group.
 - Scout, athletic, or other clubs count towards this.
- Attend 2 different committee meetings each year.
- Assist in Worship, in some way, 3 times each year.
- Develop a relationship with a congregation mentor.

Accountability: Each student will be provided with a worksheet to track their progress on the expectations. We are accountable to each other for the success of the program. Students and families are expected to live up to the expectations of Confirmation. Likewise, the adults that are involved, beginning with the Pastor, are also expected to bring their best work and attitude. Below are the ways in which we will hold each other accountable:

- Each student may have 1 unexcused absence from a class or program each year.
- Each student may have 2 excused absences, with a written explanation, each year.
- Students may have 3 home school dates each year.
- After these two absences, or a pattern of poor engagement, the following process will occur:
 - Meet with the Pastor to discuss the circumstances

- Make up work as necessary
- Then, meet with Pastor, Mentor, and Parents to discuss progress
- After this, the Pastor, student, parents, and Mentor will meet with the Christian Education committee to determine the next steps.
- Finally, after consultation, the student will be asked to interrupt or to leave the process.
- The Pastor and adults will be responsible to the students and parents. The Pastor and the program will be reviewed through survey at the turn of the calendar year and the end of the instruction year. Results will be reviewed by the Christian Education committee and used to better the performance and offerings of the program.

Mentors: Since the early church, an important part of education has been pairing each student with a spiritual elder for teaching and role model leadership. Each student will choose a mentor from those who have volunteered, been trained, and have an up-to-date child clearance. Mentors and students will:

- Get to know each other through formal and informal conversations, such as worship, church events, and service projects.
- Work together on aspects of the program - homework, service, church participation, visits, or committee meetings.
- Mentors will share guidance about the life of faith, their historical experiences with church, and advice about life in general.
- Students will do the same.
- At the end of each year the mentor and student will co-author a two page report about their experience together.
- All participants will observe the Safe Child Policy of St. Mark's.

YEAR ONE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Details</u>
9/7/14	Creation/Imago Dei	Where we're from, who we are Genesis, Ch. 1 & 2
9/14/14	Adam & Eve/Noah	Obedience, God's Action, Covenant Genesis 2-4, 6-9
9/21/14	Bible Formation (I)	Why a bible, who made it? Translations
9/28/14	Gospel Writers	Synoptics, Timelines, Context Matt/Mark/Luke - openings, cross
10/5/14	Gospel Writers	Themes, Writer Bios All gospels, birth, ministry, cross, raised
10/12/14	Jesus	Mark & Luke Birth story, OT prophecies Messianic births, prophecy, gospels
10/19/14	Jesus	Proclaim the Kingdom, Mission Insistence on kingdom, God's reign Many Gospel instances of "kingdom".
10/26/14	Jesus	Miracles - Healing, Resurrection, Food Early stories, miracle tradition, no mention in Bible, Acts - "signs & wonders". <u>Field Trip.</u>
11/2/14	Jesus	Death/Resurrection, Passion Story How did Gospels address this? What

		impact on the disciples, Paul?
11/9/14	Prophets (I)	Isaiah, Jeremiah Overview, key themes
11/16/14	Prophets (I)	Ezekiel, Daniel Overview, key themes
11/23/14	Timothy/Philemon	Confrontation with the Gospel How do you choose? Sacred/Secular 1 & 2 Timothy, Philemon
11/30/14	Deborah/Ruth/Naomi	Women in Power Judges 4-5, Book of Ruth
12/7/14	Paul	Who is he? Why letters? Roots, historical letter tradition
12/14/14	Paul	Themes, Challenges Justification by grace, build community Romans, Corinthians
12/21/14	Paul (I)	Missionary Journeys Review maps, relate to today's maps <u>Website review due.</u>
1/4/15	Luther (V)	Context, Pre-Reformation
1/11/15	Luther (V)	Teacher, Lutherans as educators Experience at Wittenberg, History of Lutheran Schools
1/18/15	Lutheran Theology	Justification, Catechisms

		Romans, Small/Large Catechism Book of Concord <u>Field Trip.</u>
1/25/15	Lutheran Theology	Grace and why it matters Explain how grace and cross works Book of Concord
2/1/15	Lutheran Theology	Law & Gospel 1st & 2nd use of the law Book of Concord
2/8/15	Lutheran Theology	Vocation and Response Who we are called to be, imago dei Right response, cheap grace Bonhoeffer
2/15/15		Wild Card, Questions, Review
2/22/15	Social Ministry	Bible mandates, what we do, why Context of help in the 1st century Social gospel movements
3/1/15	Values/Character (V)	How does Bible guide life? Is the Bible absolute? Interpretive? Pastoral Epistles
3/8/15	Values/Character (V)	Morals or Moralism? Us v. Them 10 Commands v. Greatest Command.
3/15/15	Values/Character (V)	Choices according to faith, Original Sin How much do you control? Holy Spirit

3/22/15	Spirituality (I)	Why pray? Biblical prayer Modern prayer, modern research Relationship & Conversation HOMEWORK: Faith Biography
3/29/15	Spirituality	Faith Biography Write your faith bio, share it What are the key elements
4/5/15	Worship	Bible examples, Ancient roots
4/12/15	Worship	Lutheran Worship - Old & New
4/19/15	Evangelism	Meaning, What do we invite to? Matthew 27
4/26/15	Evangelism	Relational, What doesn't work Aggressive/attack Evangelism <u>Field Trip.</u>
5/3/15	Stewardship	Care for what we're given, Gen 1:26-27 Dominion <u>Movie Review Due.</u>
5/10/15	Stewardship	Time Talent Treasure, Vocation What is your call?
5/17/15	Stewardship	Your responsibility What are you stewarding?
5/24/15	Church Year	Seasons and Colors
5/31/15	Church Furniture	Walk around the church

YEAR TWO - *Bring your "Collaborate" Bible with you each Sunday.*

9/13/15	Introduction Youth Group	Review Syllabus, Discuss Strengths 5:30-8:00 pm
9/16/15	Food Pack Service	St. Andrew's Episcopal (5:30-7:30)
9/20/15	Peter Youth Group	Gospels, Acts, personality 5:30-8:00 pm
9/27/15	John the Baptist	Origins, relation to Jesus, prophesy
10/4/15	No Class Youth Group	Worship at Messiah, 9:00 am 5:30-8:00 pm, Pack College Boxes
10/11/15	Micah	Prophecy, justice
10/18/15	Mary Youth Group	Mother of Jesus, kids, place in history Veneration 5:30-8:00 pm
10/25/15	Thomas Safe Trick or Treat	Doubter or reasonable? Place in history 4:00-8:00 pm
11/1/15	Elijah Youth Group	Prophet, appearances, return 5:30-8:00 pm
11/8/15	David	Early, king, God's punishment, return God's use of humanity
11/15/15	Zaccheaus Youth Group	Brief encounter, outsider 5:30-8:00 pm

11/22/15	Nicodemus	Leadership, legalism, Pharisees
11/29/15	Jesus	Historical Jesus, Josephus, context Who is the real person?
12/6/15	Jesus Youth Group	Revolutionary, insurrectionist, dangerous, the Jesus we don't see 5:30-8:00 pm, Caroling
12/13/15	Jesus	Prayer life, up the mountain, time away retreat, power of rest
12/20/15	Jesus Youth Group	Nativity - what do we learn from the accepted story 5:30-8:00 pm
12/31/15	Deposit due for Mission Trip	
1/3/16	Luther	Pope, Trial, Revolutionary
1/10/15	Luther	Samples of Writings, Catechisms
1/17/16	Lutheran Theology	Sacramental Theology - Baptism/Comm
1/22-24	Retreat	Bear Creek Camp, \$30
1/24/16	Lutheran Theology	Ecclesiology - What is the church? Who is the church?
1/31/16	Lutheran Theology	Social Statements - show examples. Why social statements? Democracy.
2/7/16	Lutheran Theology	Sensitive social issues

2/14/16	Bible Formation	Translations - why? Who's right?
2/21/16	Ecumenism	ELCA agreements and partnerships
2/26/16	Hunger Fast	Overnight at St. Mark's
2/28/16	Values/Character	Answering hard questions. DVDs
3/6/16	Values/Character	Morals or Moralism? DVDs
3/13/16	Values/Character	Choices according to values
3/20/16	Spirituality	Types of prayer, around the world
3/27/16	Spirituality	Pastoral Care - who, how, when?
4/3/16	Worship	Sacraments, music - what is appropriate
4/10/16	Worship	Lutheran hymns and history
4/17/16	Evangelism	Relational, what works. Who can be evangelized?
4/24/16	Evangelism	Recent research about Evangelism
5/1/16	Stewardship	Property - why do churches have it?
5/8/16	Stewardship	Right Response to gifts, vocation
5/15/16	Stewardship	Time, Talent, Treasure, your gifts

* All program details are subject to change.