

# Confirmation Handbook



## 2011-2012

### FOUR KEYS for daily living<sup>1</sup>

1. Caring Conversations
2. Devotions
3. Service
4. Rituals and Traditions

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<sup>1</sup>The Four Keys were developed by Vibrant Faith Ministries, a non-profit organization that is in a two-year coaching contract with St. John. The intent is to encourage individuals and families to grow deeper into our faith by practicing faith in our homes.

## Why Confirmation?

Confirmation is centered in **baptism**, providing students with two years to “Say Yes!” to the promises made for them in baptism.

The Confirmation Program is intended to bring students into a deeper relationship with God and with others.

## Why Parents and Grandparents?

*“Faith is not just something you recite, but it is woven into an identity.”* Dr. David Anderson from Vibrant Faith Ministries made this remark at a Vibrant Faith Event.

**Parents and grandparents should know they can deepen a student’s experience in Confirmation by weaving faith into a family’s identity:**

- † **worshiping regularly**
- † **practicing faith at home**

Parents and grandparents will be equipped to practice faith at home using the Four Keys.

### **CARING CONVERSATIONS**

Talk together about these question:

- ★ Who has influenced your faith life?
- ★ What you might be excited about as you think about Confirmation.
- ★ Does anything about Confirmation make you nervous?
- ★ Parents and grandparents, what is your prayer for your student as he or she goes through Confirmation?

## **DEVOTIONS**

Students spend time learning through discussion and active participation, guided by **Scripture** and **Luther's Small Catechism**.

Classes are taught by pastors and lay people. Classes can be taken throughout the summer, during the school year, or a combination of both (some classes in the summer and some during the school year). If a student is unable to attend both sessions of a class in the summer, it is strongly advised they sign up for the fall/winter class.

We request that a parent notify the church if their child will be absent for a class. Homework will be provided for the child and parent to complete together and return for class credit.

## **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

### ***Taking Faith Home Sheets***

*We believe when a student worships with an adult who is significant in his or her life, faith becomes deeper and more relevant.*

By not worshipping regularly with a student, parents and grandparents often send a message that they are asking students to learn about something that is not important to them.

The following are requirements to encourage families to grow together in their faith:

Five regular worship notes or radio worship notes.

Five Taking Faith Home check-in sheets.

Two special worship notes from an Ash Wednesday or Holy Week service.

\*Worship notes and Taking Faith Home check-in sheets are located in the narthex and at [www.stjohnelc.org](http://www.stjohnelc.org).

### ***Mentor Groups***

Because faith is formed in relationships, students will be divided into **small groups of 4 - 6 youth** and an adult mentor, (who is a member of St. John). Mentor Groups meet once a month throughout the school year. Meetings are based upon the Four Keys.

A Mentor Group Retreat will also be held once per year early in the school year to help build relationships among Mentor Groups.

## **SERVICE**

God shapes us to serve God and to serve our neighbor.

Seventh graders are required to "serve"(acolyte) during worship services on Sunday morning or Thursday evening. Serving times are scheduled, and students are asked to find their own replacement if needed. The church office should be notified of any changes. Seventh grade students may sign up for additional service options if they wish, however, it is not required.

Eighth graders are asked to become more involved in the ministries of St. John. Parents are encouraged to also be involved, either with their child or by participating in other areas at are of interest. Students will sign up for three service options, listing them by preference ("1" being the first choice). Generally, items listed as the first and second preferences will be given. However, if several students sign up for the same option, it is possible that a third option will be considered.

*8<sup>th</sup> grade students are asked to choose three ministry areas in which to serve.*

### Serving Opportunities for Students:

- \* Help with Church School on Sunday or Wednesday
- \* Help with Vacation Bible School August 8 - 11
- \* Usher
- \* Puppeteer
- \* Bake communion bread
- \* Sing in the senior choir
- \* Play in the handbell choir
- \* Help plan Earth Day Event (April 2012)
- \* Assist in the nursery
- \* Take pictures at events at church

### Serving Opportunities for Adults:

- \* Help at Jr. High overnight events
- \* Help at Sr. High overnight events
- \* Be a Jr. High confirmation mentor
- \* Altar Guild
- \* Lead the puppet group
- \* Visit homebound or hospitalized members

#### WEBSITE:

You will receive a schedule in the mail for your student's ministry areas, but you can also quickly find most schedules on St. John's website if you click on "When Am I Scheduled?"

### **Disciplinary Action**

**Two Steps:** When a disciplinary problem arises, two steps are to be taken by the mentor leader. When the first incident occurs, the mentor leader can refer to the covenant, explaining why his or her action is inappropriate. If the student necessitates disciplinary action a second time, the student will be told his or her parents will be contacted immediately that night and will meet with the pastor, mentor leader and program secretary. After the meeting, any necessary further action will be determined. The intention is to encourage the student to continue to participate in the ministry of the congregation, while at the same time making the parent aware of the challenges created by the student. Mentor leaders are asked to keep Pastor Lisa or Jodeen Myers informed of any discipline problem so they may provide support and ideas for handling the situation.

### ***Confirmation Calendar***

#### Summer Instruction

Classes are held on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm on the following dates:

June 8 & 9 - Ten Commandments  
June 15 & 16 - Apostles' Creed  
July 6 & 7 - Lord's Prayer  
July 13 & 14 - Sacraments

#### Fall Instruction

Classes are held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 - 8:00 pm on the following dates:

These date to be determined in June....

## Mentor Groups

Mentor groups are held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:00 pm on the following dates:

August 31 - Meet your Mentor night!

September 7 ~ October 12 ~ November 16

December 14 - Fun Night!

January 4 ~ February 8 ~ March 21

April 11 ~ April 25

## ***Rehearsal & Rite of Confirmation***

*May 2, 2012*                      *6:30 pm*

A rehearsal, group pictures and a reception will be held for confirmation students and parents.

*May 6, 2012*                      *10:30 am*

Rite of Confirmation for 8<sup>th</sup> graders

## ***Additional Jr High activities***

These are examples of other exciting ways students can be involved in the livelihood of St. John. Watch for these events on the church calendar in the "Messenger" newsletter!

Jr High Sunday School  
Jr High Youth Group  
Youth Quake  
Family Mission trip

## ***Contact Us!***

We hope Confirmation helps to weave faith into your family's identity. Please call or email us if you have concerns about your child's confirmation experience, questions about schedules or worship notes, or if there is anything else you might wonder regarding your student's life of faith.

Pastor Lisa Lewton                      [lewton@stjohnelc.org](mailto:lewton@stjohnelc.org)  
Jodeen Myers (Program Secretary) [myers@stjohnelc.org](mailto:myers@stjohnelc.org)

Jodeen's office Hours: Tuesday : 1-4 pm  
Wednesday: 9am -12pm & 1-4pm  
Friday: 9am - 12pm & 1-4pm

St. John Lutheran Church  
146 6<sup>th</sup> Ave W  
Dickinson, ND 58601

701-225-6747  
Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday: 9am - 12pm & 1-4pm

[www.stjohnelc.org](http://www.stjohnelc.org)

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