



August 9, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians of Current & Future Confirmands,

Through the Christian Education process, the church is able to follow through on its commitments made during the Baptism of your child, one of which is to provide for a child's educational growth in the church. In the sacrament of Baptism, parents also made promises:

- Faithfully bring your child to the services of God's house;
- Teach your child the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments;
- Place in your child's hands the Holy Scriptures;
- Provide for their instruction in the Christian faith.

The success of our Christian Education program, especially your child's confirmation experience and his or her faith foundation, relies heavily on solid parental support. As a parent and believer you should want your child to understand fully what faith in God can mean for them in their lives. Also, in this day and age our society often has a negative opinion of the Christian faith and it is our hope that confirmation will supply them with the knowledge and insights to analyze criticism and remain faithful believers.

Helping students become ready to affirm their baptism takes more than simply attending Sunday school. With that in mind, we have a comprehensive program of opportunities that will allow students to explore the promises of baptism and consider their readiness to become responsible, adult members of the church.

The Confirmation program at St. James will be a 2-year program primarily for 7th and 8th graders. Both years of the program will continue the education process of learning the Bible. Students are required to attend Sunday School the 2 years prior to beginning confirmation. Without a strong knowledge of the Bible all other higher education will be weakened if not made irrelevant. You cannot teach faith if they do not understand where faith finds its roots. Throughout both years we will provide intensive instruction in confirmation.

CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS

- **Students are required to attend Sunday School the previous 2 years before entering confirmation.**
- **We expect that students attend Sunday school and church every week.** This is the same expectation we have for all members of our congregation. We expect the confirmand to notify the church office when attendance is not possible.
- **Students are to complete a Sermon Evaluation (form to be provided) 3 times per month from September - June.** The pastor will review and return with responses and discuss with students.
- **Volunteer and Service.** Since volunteering and working with those in need is an excellent way to live out our baptismal faith, **we expect that students will participate in several service activities—2 per year.** This involvement may be an on-going commitment to a project outside of the church. A letter of participation will be required from the leader of the outside group stating your child's involvement. We can also offer a list of several service projects to volunteer for. Our goal is two-fold:
 1. To help students see how providing service to others is an outgrowth of faith.
 2. To help students identify their own God-given gifts.
- **We will also offer several field trips during the 2-year program some of which can count as fulfilling a service requirement.**
- **We expect students to participate in regularly scheduled volunteer duties at church.** Again, this is similar to the expectation that we have of all members. In becoming an adult member of our congregation, we expect the same of our confirmand students.
- **We expect confirmands to attend the Annual meeting or a C-team meeting.** We hope by doing this they will gain perspective on how a congregation works to plan and make decisions. Students should attend one per year.
- **All confirmands** will meet with the pastor for an interview before receiving approval for Confirmation.

Becoming an adult member of the church, like our faith, is a gift – with challenges. We look forward to helping you to follow through on the promises you made to your child at his/her Baptism.

Yours in Christ,

The Faith Formation Team