

# Affirmation of Baptism Faith Formation





**2021-2022**

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

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## **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND ITS PURPOSE**

Preparation for affirming baptism is a time, in keeping with our Lutheran tradition, when we help young people experience the Christian faith through worship, teaching, and building relationships with the faith community, the local church. This often begins in the 7th grade. This time of intentional community and faith formation builds to the service of Affirmation of Baptism and entry into adult membership. Each young person affirms his or her faith in Jesus Christ and their intent for continued service.

Our program is designed to involve youth in exciting and challenging interaction with each other and adults, by speaking to issues that are relevant to their lives while assuring that biblical, distinctively Lutheran, concepts and doctrines are learned.

In order to make this faith forming process both an enjoyable and worthwhile experience, we will seek to:

- ✠ Encourage young people to be in a “head-and-heart” relationship with Jesus Christ, which invites them to affirm their faith
- ✠ Develop relationships that will help
  - Nurture the student’s faith
  - Build relationships among the students by using small groups involving adults, high school mentors, and their peers
- ✠ Balance a healthy emphasis on relationships and experiential learning through community, while applying age-appropriate biblical, catechetical and life application content

Everything in our program, in terms of requirements, recommendations, and curriculum, has been carefully chosen with these goals in mind.

Bible verses and the Baptismal Promise that are the basis of our program can be found on page 4.

*“For surely I know the plans I have for you,  
says the Lord,  
plans for your welfare and not for harm,  
to give you a future with hope.”  
(Jeremiah 29:11)*

*“{Jesus said,} `You search the scriptures  
because you think that in them you have eternal life;  
and it is they that testify on my behalf.”  
(John 5:39)*

*“I am confident of this,  
that the one who began a good work among you  
will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.”  
(Philippians 1:6)*

*“Do your best to present yourself to God  
as one approved by him,  
a worker who has no need to be ashamed,  
rightly explaining the word of truth.”  
(II Timothy 2:15)*

*“As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism,  
you are entrusted with responsibilities:  
to live with them among God's faithful people,  
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in their hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture them in faith and prayer,  
so that your children may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.  
Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?”  
("Holy Baptism", Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 228)*

## OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS BY YEAR

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Attend Weekly ZOE middle school youth nights (75% attendance minimum):  
Monday evenings 7-8:30 PM at Trinity
- Attend the ZOE Community Retreat (October 15-17, 2021)
- Attend week-long Summer Camp (TBA 2022)
- Do 25 hours of service

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Attend Weekly ZOE middle school youth nights (75% attendance minimum):  
Monday evenings 7-8:30 PM at Trinity
- Attend the ZOE Community Retreat (October 15-17, 2021)
- Attend the Culture and Faith Overnighter (March 18-19, 2022)
- Do 25 hours of service

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Attend the NET on Sundays 6-8 PM at Trinity a minimum of 14 times
- Complete the final 25 hours of service (for a total of 75 hours)
- Attend November high school Retreat (November 12-14, 2021)
- Attend the high school Winter Retreat (January 28-30, 2022)
- See information on page 8 & 9 about Worship, Service, or NET Specialties

### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade or when completed

- Final Interview with a pastor and student minister
- Fulfill all service hours
- Fulfill all attendance requirements



## INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT

Over the three-year program, students will:

- ✚ Receive basic instruction in Luther's Small Catechism
- ✚ Receive a Bible overview, and
- ✚ Wrestle with questions of faith and how to live out their faith in daily living

The Core Curriculum will be taught in **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades** through the middle school youth night, called ZOE. A minimum of 75% attendance is required.

In **9<sup>th</sup> grade** the teaching will happen by having students involved in the weekly high school youth night, NET, and retreats.

### ZOE

ZOE is our middle school night of ministry to students in grades 7 & 8. Mondays during the school year students come together with their high school coaches for games, teaching, and small group time. This is also where the Affirmation core curriculum is taught and discussed.

### NET

This is the Sunday evening high school ministry where students grow in faith through fun, small groups and biblical teaching. The teachings deal with issues in the teens' lives and how faith impacts those issues. The NET meets weekly from 6-8 PM. Ninth grade Affirmation students are asked to attend a minimum of 14 of the Sunday evenings. Friends are welcome and encouraged to attend.



## NINTH GRADE GOALS

- ✦ Integrate the incoming high school freshmen into the high school ministry, building relationships among the freshmen and the rest of the high school students
- ✦ Expand students' interaction around faith through small groups
- ✦ Give students new opportunities for faith maturity through service and ministry

The final year of your Affirmation process is to complete the 50 service hours (\*reduced due to Covid), attend NET a minimum of 14 times and attend the November Retreat and Winter Retreat with the high school students, and to complete one of the following specialties:

- Worship Specialty: Attend and track a minimum of 25 worship services attended September 2021 – June 2022.
- Service Specialty: Do an additional 25 hours of service beyond the required 75\* (see above) hours, for 100 total hours.
- NET Specialty: Attend an additional 20 NETs for a total of 34.

Once these are done you contact David Greenlee to set up your final interview with one of the pastors and then set a date for affirming your faith. There is no “class affirmation” but individual or a group of students can choose to do it together as they finish the requirements. You have as much time as you need to get done with all the requirements.



## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Worship is central to the life of Christians. We encourage students to attend the worship services with their families each Sunday.

We know that Sundays have many competing attentions, but we believe that worshipping with friends, family, and strangers is an integral part of faith formation. We also encourage you to consider doing some of your service hours through involvement in worship and related areas.

## RETREATS & SUMMER CAMP

Retreats and camps are a vital aspect of the discipleship process, providing youth with the chance to grow spiritually and relationally and helping them apply what they are learning. The following retreats and camps are planned for the 2021-2022 year:

ZOE Community Retreat – Topic: *The Church as Community* (7th & 8th grades)

November High School *Faith and Culture* Retreat

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Overnighter – Topic: *Faith and Culture* at Trinity

High School Winter Retreat – 9th grade students are asked to attend as part of the discipleship process

Middle School Summer Camp – at Camp Lutherhaven in Idaho



## SERVICE HOURS

During each of the three years, Affirmation students need to do 25 hours of service (75 hours to complete the process). The purpose of service hours is to encourage students to apply their faith in ways that serve the church and others in the community.

Throughout the year, there will be opportunities for service. There will be specially planned service events that students (and often their parents, too) can do. The website will usually contain details of those events ([www.waystudentministries.org](http://www.waystudentministries.org)). The following list includes specific and general types of service that can be done to earn service hours:

- Be an acolyte, usher, nursery attendant, etc. - 1 hour per worship service
- Help with Vacation Bible School - Maximum of 12 hours
- Assist with Sunday Morning Children's Ministry - Maximum of 15 hours
- Minister at a nursing home - per hour basis
- Participate in a church workday - per hour basis
- Participate in a community service - per hour basis
- Go on a Mission trip (9th graders only) - Maximum of 15 hours

Students may also create their own service project, but **must** get approval from David, prior to the event. **No more than 15 hours** of a student's yearly hours can be done doing any one type of service.

Hours can not be counted when a student does a project that **pays**, earns a **badge** or provides more than the satisfaction of the experience. Hours cannot be given for coaching or assisting with a sports program unless it is ministry-based or working with under-privileged children. Hours do not count for service within one's family. Extra hours earned in one year may be carried over to the next year.

To get credit for service hours, each student will report their service hours on their yearly process form. Parents are encouraged to track and report service hours and be involved in as many of the hours of service with their student as possible. This is the best modeling, and makes service a family affair.

## 2021 - 2022 YEAR CALENDAR

### Orientation

September 20, 2021 Affirmation of Faith Orientation for 7th grade students and families at Trinity at 7 PM; 8th grade & 9th grade families need not attend unless they are beginning the process this year

### Retreats & Camps

October 15-17, 2021 ZOE Community Retreat at Camp Huston (7th & 8th grade)  
November 12-14, 2021 High School Faith & Culture Retreat at Camp Huston  
January 28-30 2021 High School Winter Retreat at Camp Casey  
March 18-19, 2022 8th Grade Overnighter at Trinity  
July 2022 Summer Camp at Lutherhaven (Those completing 7th Grade)

**ZOE** for middle school students, Monday evenings, 7-8:30 PM at Trinity

September 27	February 7, 14, 28
October 4, 11, 19, 25	No ZOE February 21
November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Presidents Day
December 6, 13	March 7, 14, 21, 28
No ZOE December 20, 27	No ZOE April 4
Winter Break	Spring Break
January 3, 10, 24, 31	April 11, 18, 25
No ZOE January 17	May 2 Last ZOE
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	

**NET** for high school students, Sunday evenings, 6-8 PM at Trinity

September 12, 19, 26	February 5 NET Super Bowl Party
October 3, 10, 17, 24	February 13, 20, 27
November 7, 14, 21, 28	March 6, 13, 20, 27
December 5, 12	No NET April 3 Spring Break
No NET December 19, 26	April 10, 24
Winter Break	No NET April 17 Easter
January 2, 9, 16, 23	May 1, 8, 15, 22
No NET January 30	No NET May 29
Winter Retreat	Memorial Day Weekend
	June 5, 12 Last NET





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