

# **Affirmation of Baptism Faith Formation**



# **WAY** student ministries

**2016-2017**

[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-Lynnwood
- Attend the Fall Retreat (October 21-23, 2016)
- Attend week-long Summer Camp (Week still to be determined, 2017)
- 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-Lynnwood
- Attend the Culture and Faith Retreat (March 17-19, 2017)
- Do 25 hours of service

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

- Attend the NET on Sundays at Trinity-Lynnwood a minimum of 14 times
- Complete the final 25 hours of service (for a total of 75 hours)
- Attend the high school Winter Retreat (January 27-29, 2017)
- See information on page 5 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 at Trinity-Lynnwood, NET which runs from 6-8PM.

## THE 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 75% 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 75 service hours, attend NET a minimum of 14 times and attend the 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 2016 – June 2017.
- Service Specialty: Do an additional 25 hours of service beyond the required 75 hours, for 100 total hours.
- NET Specialty: Attend an additional 20 NETs for a total of 34. (Continued on next page)

Once these are done you contact David Greenlee to set up your final interviews with one of the student ministers and with a pastor 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 2016-2017 year:

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat – Topic: *The Church as Community* at Camp Huston

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat – Topic: *Faith and Culture* at Camp Huston

High School Winter Retreat – 9<sup>th</sup> 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 15 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.

## 2016 - 2017 YEAR CALENDAR

### Orientations

September 19	Affirmation of Faith Orientation for 7th grade students and families at Trinity-Lynnwood at 7 PM; 8th grade families need not attend unless they are beginning the process this year
September 20	Affirmation of Faith Orientation for 9th grade students and families at Trinity-Lynnwood at 7 PM

### Retreats & Camps

October 21-23, 2016	7th Grade Retreat at Camp Huston
January 27-29, 2017	High School Retreat at Camp Brotherhood
March 17-19, 2017	8th Grade Retreat at Warm Beach
To be determined, 2017	Summer Camp at Lutherhaven (Those completing 7th Grade)

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

September 26	January 9, 16, 23 & 30
October 3, 10, 17, & 24	February 6, 13, & 27
No ZOE October 31	No ZOE February 20
November 7, 14, 21, & 28	March 6, 13, 20 & 27
December 5 & 12	No ZOE April 3
No ZOE December 19 & 26	April 10, 17 & 24
No ZOE January 2	May 1 Last ZOE

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

September 11, 18, & 25	February 5 NET Super Bowl Party
October 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30	February 12, 19, & 26
November 6, 13, 20, & 27	March 5, 12, 19, & 26
December 4, 11, & 18	No NET April 2 Spring Break
No NET December 25	April 9, 16, 23 & 30
No NET January 1	May 7, 14 & 21
January 8, 15 & 22	No NET May 28 Memorial Day
No NET 29 Winter Retreat	June 4 & 11





TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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