

June 13, 2017

Dear Parents,

You are receiving this letter because you have a confirmation-aged child. Confirmation is a critical time in a young adult's life when they make a mature adult commitment to take ownership of their Christian faith.

This coming year, Advent is excited to be partnering in confirmation with St. Michael Lutheran Church. Partnering with St. Michael will give us a larger group of youth with whom to form relationships and journey together. Pastor Adrienne Meier and I will co-teach the course.

Together we will be using the *Confirm not Conform (CnC)* Curriculum, which is focused on helping young people ask tough questions and search out the answers. *CnC* lets youth take real responsibility for understanding their faith and its power so that they see the church and faith as something that truly belongs to them. *CnC* culminates with a choice in which youth may decide to go forward with the rite of confirmation or not.

Like learning a sport or musical instrument, growing in faith is a formative process which takes practice and time. To do this work, families and youth are asked to make a commitment to a two-year process. Best practices in the Episcopal Church and other denominations indicate that youth remain most connected to the church and their confirmation journey when engaged in a structured, multi-year process of faith development.

We encourage you to talk with your young person and sign them up for our confirmation class. The class will open in the fall to youth in 7-9th grades (if you have an older youth who is interested, please talk with Greg).

Confirmation will occur after the class ends (class ends in spring of 2019). Because regular participation is key to this formative process, the experience is structured with several commitments. Participants are asked to review, and should agree with, the commitments upon entering the class. Attached to this letter you will find a list of the class commitments and dates for 2017/2018. Please review these as part of your decision. I will also be contacting you personally over the coming weeks to check in about any questions you might have.

When you are ready to commit, please go to the following website to sign your child up: <http://adventyg.weebly.com/sign-up.html>. The deadline to sign up is August 20. If you have any questions or would like to talk more, please do not hesitate to call me.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Gregory M. Wilson,
Associate for Youth and Family Ministry

Combined Confirmation: Episcopal Church of the Advent and St. Michael Lutheran Church

What is confirmation? Confirmation is the decision by young adults to take responsibility for the promises made on their behalf at baptism. It is a mature choice to live as Christians, seek understandings of faith, and be active in a church community.

Ages: Confirmation will be open to 7th grade youth at St. Michael's and open to any youth in 7-9th grades from Advent. Classes will take place between September and May.

Timeframe: Fall and spring, 2017-2019. Confirmation service follows.

Commitment:

- Participate in Commitment Sunday at your home church (9/24/17)
- 20 Sessions using *Confirm Not Conform*. Classes will be offered over two years. Occasional homework will be assigned. Students must make 16 of the 20 sessions (missing no more than 1 in any given fall or spring). Students must make-up missed classes with homework or attend the make-up class (counts toward one missed class).
 - o Classes will be offered on 1-2 Sunday nights/month from 6-8PM (dinner at 5:45).
 - o Class time will begin with combined games with HS Youth Group and end with worship.
 - o Location: St. Michael in the fall and Advent in the Winter/Spring.
- Participate in one service project each season.
- Participate in 2 of the 4 field trips to other places of worship offered over the course of two years.
- Attend 50% of Sunday morning church services during the year.
- Attend required services (Ash Wednesday and two Holy Week services, not including Palm Sunday).
- Regularly participate in another ministry of the church (Sunday School, choir, acolyte, etc...)
- Participate in the fall two-night CnC retreat (10/13-15). Cost TBA. Aid available.
- One service project will be developed by youth during the program.
- Participate in the summer mission trip between years one and two (2018).
- Participate in the confirmation service and two rehearsals (different ceremonies/rehearsals for each church).
- **Youth will be given the choice at the end of the two year class as to whether they would like to get confirmed or not.**

Optional Non- Confirmation Offerings – With HS Youth Group

- Social Events
- Youth Group Trips
- Good Neighbors or other mission trip (depending upon age)
- Lutheran National Gathering
- Episcopal Youth Event
- Regional denominational event (ex: PYE or diocesan events)