

2019-2020 Confirmation Expectations

We are so glad you/your confirmation student will be joining us this year for confirmation. We know and understand that church is one of the many things the youth do in their lives. There certainly are going to be times when confirmation students will not be able to attend confirmation because of the amount of school work is just too large, sports practices overlap or youth are sick. Overall, our hope and expectation is that the confirmation students will come to confirmation every time they are able. We do offer Confirmation on Sunday mornings as well from 9:30-10:30am after each learning event. The lesson on the Sunday will be from the Wednesday before.

Attendance - We hope the confirmation students can make it to every confirmation event. Being present is only one part of being at confirmation; we expect the confirmation students to listen and participate. Cell phones are not allow to be used during confirmation. At each learning event, the confirmation students will be given a take home packet, which includes an overview of the what they learned that night and material for the family to do Faith5 at home each night. It is our hope that each family, even if it is one parent and the confirmation student, will partake in the Faith5 practice each night at home. If the confirmation student was not able to attend confirmation that week, please go online and download the handout from the confirmation page on our website (<http://www.stphilip-co.org/confirmation/>) and review it sometime during the week or during the Faith5 time. If a confirmation student cannot make it to confirmation, please contact Pastor Brad Doty and let him know at bdoty@stphilip-co.org.

Faith5 - This is one of the best ways you can get your family together and connect every night. Faith5 keeps your family communicating each night as you grow in your understanding of yourself and God. What you do is go through a simple five-step process; try it out for six weeks and see how amazing it is. Start by gathering your family together, have everyone drop what they're doing, turn off the television, put down the mail or homework and set the cell phones aside. Then take turns going through these five simple steps:

1. SHARE highs & lows for the day
2. READ and highlight a verse of scripture in your Bible (the confirmation handout each week will have scripture readings for each night)
3. TALK about how the verse relates to your life or your highs & lows
4. Pray for your highs & lows, for your family, and for the world
5. BLESS one another (the confirmation handout will have a blessing for the wee as well)

I am not going to pretend like this is easy; you have to be intentional every night to get together and do Faith5. This will allow you to grow in your relationship with each other as a family. This will allow everyone to be open and honest to hear and share things that otherwise may not have been shared; especially since the usual answer to "how was your day" is "fine" or "good." Some families find it hard to gather at night, so if it doesn't work at night then try at dinner or start it on the drive home from school.

Servant Events - Each year we have around five opportunities for the confirmation students to do service projects or be involved in a service project. About half of them are on Wednesday evenings and the other half are on other days besides Wednesdays. The events that are on Wednesdays will be done as small groups, the small groups the confirmation students are in. Every confirmation student is expected to attend these events; especially, since they are on regular confirmation nights. The intention is for the confirmation students to see and learn how we as Christians are called to help those in need and how we respond to our faith. The servant events on other days besides Wednesdays are events (Halloween Party, Confirmation Dinner, and Crop Walk). The Halloween Party and Crop Walk are optional, but the confirmation students are highly encouraged to attend to help at these fun events. The Confirmation Dinner is a mandatory event where the confirmation students will be helping to set-up, serve and clean-up at the 9th Grade Confirmation Dinner, so if the confirmation student cannot be there, please contact Pastor Brad at bdoty@stphilip-co.org.

Mentors - During the Wednesdays of Advent and Lent we begin with a meal as usual, but instead of having our normal schedule of larger group learning, small group time and worship, the confirmation students will be meeting with adults from the congregation who can be mentors in the faith for the confirmation students. From 6:30-7:00pm the adults and confirmation students will have the opportunity to get to know each other, talk about their faith and how they practice their faith. There will be a Faith5 format handout for them to use as well. Everyone will be meeting in open spaces, so no adults will be alone with the confirmation students.

Service to the Church - All confirmation students are required to do some sort of service to the church at least ten (10) hours during the confirmation/school year. The intention of these hours are for confirmation students to get involved in the church and to explore new area to be involved. Service to the church can include, but is not limited to: acolyting, ushering, lectoring (reading the lessons in worship), serving communion, running the sound board, setting up or cleaning up an event, serving at a property clean-up day, etc. The confirmation servant events, will be about 5 hours, can be counted as service to the church hours: Halloween Party, Confirmation Dinner, Crop Walk or small group service projects. If you would like to sign-up to serve in an area that you don't know how to sign-up for, like lectoring, please contact Pastor Brad.

Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp - Confirmation Retreat – New this year we are having a weekend retreat up at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp, another one of our camps in the Rocky Mountain Synod. Sky Ranch is located up North in Larimer, CO. The weekend retreat is called Coyote Howl and will be from Friday, September 27 - Sunday, September 29. Confirmation students are not required to go, but are highly encouraged to attend. The cost is \$100 and scholarships are available if needed.

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp - Confirmation Camp - Each year, the confirmation students have the opportunity to attend summer camp at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp. Confirmation camp a fun and meaningful experience for students. We will be going to camp June 21-27, 2020. St. Philip values it's children and youth; therefore 1/3 of the cost of camp is covered by the church. Students also have the opportunity to do fundraising to help defray a portion of the cost, the goal is to fundraise 1/3 of the trip. Therefore, the goal is for the families to only have to pay for 1/3 of the cost of camp (~\$145). Confirmation students are not required to attend confirmation camp, but are highly encouraged to do so because they have so much fun and often want to go back the next year! The deadline to register for Confirmation Camp is December 15, 2019.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Brad at bdoty@stphilip-co.org.